

Battle-flag battles spread in the South

By Larry Copeland
USA TODAY

ATLANTA — The Mississippi Supreme Court is embroiled in a growing fight over the Confederate battle emblem adorning the state flag.

And unless it is removed, a black state representative promises a boycott of the state this summer that would "do a better job" than the economic boycott imposed on South Carolina for flying the flag over that state's Capitol.

The Mississippi wrangling is merely the South's latest skirmish over the Confederate battle flag, viewed by many blacks as a painful vestige of racism, by many whites as a proud symbol of heritage.

Flag foes and supporters in Georgia and North Carolina are seeing aspects of the battle that started in South Carolina spilling into their states. The Confederate battle flag, which has crossed blue bars and white stars on a red background, is incorporated in the state flags of Georgia and Mississippi.

"The emotion over this flag is not surprising," said Joe Parker, a political scientist at the University of Southern Mississippi. "Southerners have a longer sense of history." Here is the status of flag fights in these Southern states:



State flag: Legislative fight.

Some African-American lawmakers want to use the tactic. They are angry that legislative leaders such as Tuck who do not want the state flag changed have not encouraged debate on the flag. Hinds County Judge Denise Owens ruled Monday that Tuck violated the state constitution by limiting bill reading. A three-judge panel of the state Supreme Court blocked enforcement of Owens' ruling pending further arguments.

Black lawmakers want legislative leaders to appoint a panel that would have schoolchildren statewide participate in a contest to design a new flag. The Confederate emblem was placed in the state flag in 1894.

"I am surprised at the number of people that are upset about that flag," said Rep. Jimmy Thornton, D-Greenville, a leading flag opponent.

Thornton, head of the Washington County branch of the NAACP since 1967, said he is organizing a boycott. "We want to boycott the whole state," he said. "We intend to put Mississippi through a crisis we know they can't stand."

Mississippi

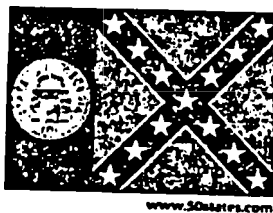
The state Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday in a case involving Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck's ruling on Sunday that senators cannot read bills aloud before final passage. This is a procedural tactic lawmakers use to show displeasure and slow action.

South Carolina

The state House is debating a Senate-approved measure to remove the battle flag from atop the Statehouse and place a similar banner on a Confederate soldiers' memorial on the Capitol grounds.

After months of controversy, the state Senate last month approved a plan to move the flag, which has flown over the Capitol since 1962.

Most South Carolinians, 56%, support the Senate plan, according to poll conducted April 28-30 for three TV stations. However, the Senate compromise has been rejected by the NAACP, which is leading a national boycott of the state.



State flag: Gathering foes.

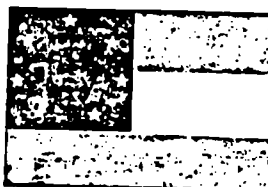
removing the banner.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group founded by Martin Luther King Jr. and now headed by his elder son, started the effort last month.

The Georgia Legislature has not seriously debated the matter since 1993, when then-governor Zell Miller tried unsuccessfully to have the flag changed.

Georgia

In the Peach State, where legislators changed the state flag in 1956 to incorporate the battle emblem, flag foes are trying to drum up support among high-school students for



National Confederate flag

Plans to hoist a Confederate banner over the state Capitol to mark Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies on May 10 are drawing little opposition.

Tad Boggs, spokesman for Democratic Gov. Jim Hunt, said the governor had not received requests to stop flying the flag. He noted that since the start of Hunt's first term in 1977, celebrants have marked the day not with the controversial battle flag but the first national Confederate flag.

North Carolina

Plans to hoist a Confederate banner over the state Capitol to mark Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies on May 10 are drawing little opposition.

S. Carolina Senate OKs bill to lower rebel flag

House to take up pride, race issue

By Leigh Strope
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina state senators yesterday approved a bill to remove the Confederate battle flag from atop the Statehouse dome.

The vote came on the 139th anniversary of the first shots of the Civil War, which were fired at Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor.

"The hour has come as it came with General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia," said Republican Sen. Glenn McConnell, who owns a Confederate memorabilia shop in Charleston.

The bill is up for final approval in the Democratic-controlled Senate this morning. Final approval is usually a procedural matter, and if given the OK, it would then head to the Republican-controlled House.

Gov. Jim Hodges has said the flag should be removed.

"I think it's a great day because a lot of people are sacrificing their special interests in favor of what is best for the people of South Carolina. Ladies and gentlemen, we've been fighting this battle a long time," Democratic Sen. McKinley Washington said of the 36-7 vote.

This is the first flag bill this session to reach the floor in either chamber. Key senators had hammered out an agreement they thought would satisfy flag supporters and opponents.

The bill would remove the banner from the dome and place a similar battle flag behind an existing monument honoring Confederate soldiers on Statehouse grounds. The flag would fly on the north side of the Statehouse from a pole no taller than 20 feet. That element was added to satisfy black lawmakers and other flag opponents who did not want the flag in a prominent position to passers-by.

The bill also would remove the Confederate flags hanging in the

House and Senate chambers, and would protect all monuments, memorials and buildings erected or named in honor of the Confederacy or civil rights movement.

In 1994, the House adjourned without considering a Senate-approved plan to remove the flag. In 1996, Republican Gov. David Beasley proposed a compromise to take down the flag, but was rebuffed by the legislature. In 1998, pro-flag voters adopted the slogan "Keep the Flag, Dump Beasley," and put their support behind Mr. Hodges, a Democrat who pledged not to push the issue — a promise he broke this year.

Supporters of the flag say it represents Southern heritage and honors Confederate war dead, but opponents say it is a racist symbol. In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union after Abraham Lincoln was elected president. During the Civil War, an invading federal army led by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman burned much of downtown Columbia.

In 1962, the state raised the Confederate battle flag in commemoration of the centennial of the war.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — which in 1991 passed a resolution calling the Confederate banner "an odious blight upon the universe" — last year announced a boycott of South Carolina until the flag is removed.

As the legislature debated the flag yesterday, tennis player Serena Williams, who is black, became the biggest sports name to back the NAACP boycott when she withdrew from the Family Circle Cup.

Only the legislature can take down the flag. Earlier yesterday, lawmakers began debating a compromise plan as hundreds of flag supporters lined up to watch.

After last night's vote, not all senators were on board.

"Race relations will not be the same in this state in my lifetime if you take that flag down," said Republican Sen. Harvey Peeler.

Hundreds of supporters with Confederate flags decorating hats, shirts, belts and jewelry lined up to get inside the Senate gallery to watch the debate.

Bill to Remove Flag Advances in S.C.

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C., April 12—South Carolina senators voted 36 to 7 today to remove the Confederate battle flag from atop the Statehouse dome, exactly 139 years after the first shots of the Civil War were fired. Meanwhile, the state House passed a measure to create a holiday honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

South Carolina is the only state that flies the Confederate flag above its state capitol and the NAACP is leading a tourism boycott of the state until the flag is removed.

The bill is up for final approval in the Democratic-controlled Senate Thursday morning. If passed, it would then head to the Republican-controlled House.

The bill would remove the banner from the dome and place a similar battle flag behind an existing monument honoring Confederate soldiers on Statehouse grounds. The flag would fly on the north side of the Statehouse from a pole no taller than 20 feet. That element was added to satisfy black lawmakers and other flag opponents who did not want the flag in a position prominent to pass-

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The Washington Post

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000

S. Carolina Senate Votes to Remove Confederate Flag

A/ By DAVID FIRESTONE

ATLANTA, April 12 — In a breakthrough that seems likely to end a long and racially charged debate, the South Carolina Senate voted today to remove the Confederate battle flag from the Capitol dome and place a smaller version in a less prominent site on the Statehouse grounds.

Just a few hours earlier, the State House of Representatives passed a bill making South Carolina the last state in the Union to enact a holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The King Day bill passed with no real debate in the House on an 82-to-35 vote. Because the Senate had already passed a similar bill, the measure is now almost certain to be enacted after differences on wording are worked out and Gov. Jim Hodges, a Democrat, signs it.

The flag issue has been much more divisive and has convulsed the state's political culture for years, as black and white residents argued over whether the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of slavery and oppression, or of a noble Southern heritage.

But the compromise proposal passed today on a 36-to-7 vote, reflecting months of pressure from business and political leaders and an economic boycott of the state by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Many legislators, both black and white, who swore just weeks ago that they would never approve such a compromise changed their minds today, saying they were acting in the best interests of the state.

The bill requires one last technical vote by the Senate on Thursday, and will then go to the State House of Representatives in a week or two. David Wilkins, the House speaker and a supporter of the flag, has introduced a similar measure there, and many senators said they were confident it would pass in the House.

Although the measure could still unravel, the support for the compromise by hard-line senators on either side of the issue seemed likely to smooth its eventual passage.

Governor Hodges today urged the House to approve the bill.

Under the compromise, which leaders of both sides acknowledged they found distasteful, the rectangular battle flag would be removed from the dome and from the two legislative chambers. A square version of the flag, which was used by the Army of Northern Virginia in the Civil War, would fly on a 20-foot pole next to a 30-foot monument honoring the Confederate dead that stands in front of the Statehouse.

The flag would stand between that building and the monument. Although it would be more prominent to those walking in front of the Statehouse, it would no longer fly in a position of sovereignty, visible through much of Columbia, the state capital.

Reflecting a concern that other Confederate monuments might come under attack, the measure also requires that no Confederate or African-American history monuments on public property throughout the state be removed or altered, and no public area named for any historical figure be changed.

The compromise proposal has been opposed by the N.A.A.C.P., but in the debate over the bill today most of the black legislative leaders who have opposed the flag said they reluctantly decided it was an acceptable way to end the divisiveness.

It may not spell an immediate end to the boycott, but supporters said they hoped the N.A.A.C.P. would eventually come around once they saw that the measure was supported by the black legislative caucus. Six of the seven black senators voted for the measure; one did not vote.

"As much as I love the N.A.A.C.P., I love South Carolina even more," said State Senator Darrell Jackson, a black Democrat from Columbia who has led the anti-flag forces. "I'm doing what's best for the state of South Carolina. Because 25 years

from now, my sons will be rearing their families in this great state. And maybe they will look back and say, 'Thank God for the men and women who had courage to do the right thing, although it wasn't a popular thing.'"

Similarly, the white leader of the flag proponents, State Senator Glenn F. McConnell of Charleston, said that while he loved seeing the flag atop the Statehouse, he had concluded that moving it was the best thing for South Carolina's future.

"We're acting because we all know the reality of where we are," said Mr. McConnell, whose vote carries enormous weight among the flag supporters. "Like General Lee when he was confronted with Appomattox and said, 'There's nothing left for me to do than get terms from General Grant.' It is very difficult, extremely difficult for us on our side to vote to move that flag. And it has been equally difficult for our brethren on the other side."

The Confederate flag was first placed atop the Statehouse dome in 1962 during the centennial observances of the Civil War, and several speakers during the debate noted that today is the 139th anniversary of the day the war began when South Carolina forces fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston. The presence of the flag, which stayed up in the 1960's as a gesture of defiance to the civil rights movement, had engendered a bitter dispute over the origins of the war, exposing vast differences in the perception of history between blacks and many whites.

But eventually, the pressure to move the flag extended well beyond black South Carolinians. Almost every business group and religious organization in the state urged that it come down, both on economic and moral grounds. Mayor Joseph P. Riley of Charleston recently led a widely publicized 120-mile protest march from the seacoast to Columbia. Scores of sports and cultural events, along with many conventions, canceled their plans to come to South Carolina because of the boycott.

The seven senators who voted against the plan were all white, and several bitterly accused their colleagues of selling out. State Senator Harvey S. Peeler Jr., a Republican from Gaffney, warned that race relations in the state would worsen if the flag came down.

But State Senator John E. Courson, a white Republican from Columbia who keeps the Confederate flag in his office near a bust of Gen. Robert E. Lee, said the soldiers monument was the best place to honor the flag, allowing the state to face a less divisive future.

The New York Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000

Flag Compromise Resisted in South Carolina House

By DAVID FIRESTONE

COLUMBIA, S.C., April 13 — Even as the South Carolina Senate gave its overwhelming final approval to a compromise plan that would remove the Confederate battle flag from the State Capitol's dome, the bill ran into heated opposition today from black members of the state's House of Representatives, who said the flag's location in front of the building would be no less an affront to black citizens.

The flag issue has exposed a deep rift between black senators — six of seven voted for the bill — and black House members, who represent smaller districts and tend to be less inclined to compromise. One legislator said that 24 of the 26 black representatives were opposed to this compromise and that many would actually prefer to keep the flag on the dome rather than move it out front. The House is likely to vote in the next two or three weeks on the bill, which cleared the Senate by 36 to 7 on Wednesday and by the same tally in one last, technical vote today.

In addition, the N.A.A.C.P., which is engaged in an economic boycott of the state because of the flag's display, said today that the boycott would continue if it was moved to the front of the Capitol. James Gallman, president of the group's South Carolina chapter, said a flag in front of a public building conveyed the same sense of sovereignty as a flag above it.

Several state officials said privately that they expected the bill to pass the House with the approval of most black members, after some initial resistance intended largely to satisfy the black lawmakers' constituents. The legislation's chances will improve, these officials said, when members realize that it is the only way to get the flag off the dome. In fact, the speaker of the Republican-controlled House, David H. Wilkins, an avid flag supporter, said today that the Senate compromise was the only plan he would allow to pass.

Under that plan, the rectangular Confederate flag would be removed from the dome and from the two legislative chambers. A smaller, square version of the flag, similar to the one carried by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, would be placed on a 20-foot flagpole in front of the Capitol, adjacent to a 33-foot-high

memorial to the state's Confederate soldiers.

Atop the dome, the flag can be seen throughout the city, but it is so high that it is actually hard to see on the Capitol grounds. Its position closer to eye level near the main entrance to the Capitol, several black representatives argued, would make it more prominent to anyone passing by.

"It's right in your face," said Representative J. Todd Rutherford, a black Democrat from Columbia. "Any rally or march or protest at the Statehouse will have to take place directly under that flag. It's not the proper place for it, and I'd rather leave it up on the dome than put it there."

Although one black senator has said he voted for the plan because the flag would be smaller, that argument did not seem to carry much

weight among blacks in the House.

"Would you ask the Jewish community to accept a smaller swastika flag?" said Representative Fletcher N. Smith, a black Democrat from Greenville. "This is the flag of treason against the United States government, and it should not be celebrated or put in any kind of prominent position."

But Darrell Jackson, the Senate's leading black opponent of the flag, said the proposal, distasteful though it was to him, was the best compromise that could be struck.

"At the end of the day, this will pass," said Mr. Jackson, a life member of the N.A.A.C.P. "This gets rid of three flags in positions of sovereignty, and replaces them with one. My colleagues in the House will have to realize they can accept the compromise or maintain the status quo."

And if we adjourn and leave the flag up there on the dome, they will have to answer to themselves and their constituents."

The bill could pass the 124-member House without any black votes, but the majority leader, Representative Richard M. Quinn Jr. of Columbia, said today that the Republicans would not support it without being joined by a substantial number of Democrats.

The issue has festered in South Carolina since legislators first unfurled the flag in 1962 as part of the centennial observance of the Civil War. Later the state kept it flying in defiance of the civil rights movement. This year, after the boycott made it a national issue that reached even into the presidential campaign, lawmakers have been under tremendous pressure from business and political leaders around the state to adopt any kind of compromise that would get the flag off the dome. The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, for example, has said it does not care where the flag goes, as long as it does not fly from the Capitol.

Several House members suggested today that the pressure for a compromise had led the Senate to be too generous to flag supporters, whose standard would be the only one flying in front of the Capitol. (Atop the dome, it flies with both the American flag and the state flag.) But even critics said they could understand such an accommodation, given the fiercely held belief among many white lawmakers that the flag is a noble symbol of their families' Southern heritage.

Representative Curtis B. Inabinett, a black member from the coastal town of Ravenel, noted that he reluctantly voted on Wednesday for a bill creating a state holiday to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., making South Carolina the last state to do so. His reluctance, he said, resulted from a provision, attached by white lawmakers, that would also create a Confederate Memorial holiday.

"That was the hardest vote I ever cast, but it was that or nothing," Mr. Inabinett said. "And if it turns out this is the best we can do on the flag, well, then, I suspect a lot of us will turn around and vote for it."

Flag Fighters See Momentum in South Carolina

By DAVID FIRESTONE

ATLANTA, April 19 — The banner that has convulsed South Carolina flies from a single flagpole. But next door in Georgia — often regarded as the template for a New South state — the symbol of the old Confederacy flies from a thousand poles as the main element in the official state flag, and the movement to change it is gathering strength.

Georgia is one of five states that incorporates Confederate elements into its flag, but it does so more prominently than anywhere else. The red and blue St. Andrew's Cross that was used as the battle symbol of the Confederacy occupies fully two-thirds of the Georgia flag, and visitors to the state often mistake it for the battle flag itself. In 1991, when Clarence Thomas was being confirmed as a Supreme Court justice, several of his antagonists remembered seeing the Confederate flag on his desk in the past, but it turned out to be the flag of his native Georgia.

Mississippi also displays the diagonal cross in the upper left corner of its flag. Alabama, Arkansas and Florida have less recognizable symbols of the Confederacy in their flags.

In both Georgia and Mississippi, there have been several unsuccessful efforts over the decades to change the flag and remove elements that are considered by many black residents to be celebrations of slavery and secession. But the damage inflicted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's boycott of South Carolina — where the Confederate flag flies under the state flag atop the Capitol dome — has heartened flag opponents elsewhere in the South, who believe they now have the momentum to bring about a change.

"This isn't the old redneck, racist Georgia it was in 1956, when the all-male, all-white Legislature decided to desecrate the flag as an act of defiance against the federal government," State Representative Tyrone Brooks, an Atlanta Democrat, who is black, said of the Legislature's decision to add the Confederate symbol to the state flag. "The climate's different now, in part thanks to South Carolina."

Mr. Brooks and other Georgia legislators said they decided not to push the issue in the legislative session that recently ended, fearing that a change would have a more difficult time in an election year. But they will spend the rest of the year building support for a new flag for next year's session, and hope to have the support of Gov. Roy Barnes, a Democrat who says there are not enough votes in the Legislature right now to change the flag. In 1994, Gov. Zell Miller's advocacy of a new flag almost cost him his re-election.

Earlier this month, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called for a tourism boycott of Georgia if lawmakers did not make a change in next year's session. Legislators say they have already begun receiving calls from business and tourism lobbyists, urging them to find their way to a compromise to

protect the state's economy.

In Mississippi, where the flag has borne the Confederate symbol since 1894, there is even less support for changing the flag. On Monday, a lone black legislator, Representative Jimmy Thornton of Greenville, began a procedural protest of the Legislature's refusal to consider a flag bill, demanding that every bill under consideration be read aloud and in full. Although this is the prerogative of any legislator, the full reading has sharply slowed the

Watching intently from Georgia and Mississippi.

progress of the House this week, and has annoyed many of Mr. Thornton's colleagues, who tend to walk out of the chamber when a bill is read.

"I don't mind if they walk out," Mr. Thornton, a Democrat, said. "They all tell me it's political suicide for a white member of the Legislature to vote to change the flag, so I have to do this to shake things up. And we're going to have to have a boycott, to get the business community on it. It will be hard, but it will get done."

Last month, the City Council of

Jackson, the state capital, voted to stop displaying the state flag in the council chambers. A few days later, some legislators began advocating a law that would cut off financing to cities that did not display the flag.

The city of Atlanta has refused to fly the state flag on any municipal buildings since 1990, and some jurisdictions around Georgia have occasionally flown the previous state flag, which lacks the Confederate cross. The Legislature added the Confederate symbol in 1956, less than two years after the Brown v. Board of Education decision rendered school segregation illegal.

Although some former legislators have said the flag was changed in preparation for the centennial of the Civil War in 1961, many historians believe the change was an act of defiance against federal civil rights legislation. Gov. Marvin Griffin, who signed the new flag into law, was a strong proponent of segregation, and often said he was elected to prevent "mixed schools" in Georgia.

A poll by Georgia State University earlier this year said that 56 percent of state residents want to keep the current flag, and Governor Barnes said in a recent interview that the "public isn't ready yet" for a new flag. He said he wanted to begin a dialogue with both sides while working on more important priorities, like education and transportation.

Many white legislators from rural areas like the flag the way it is, but there was a sign of movement recently when a white Republican state senator, Mike Egan of north Atlanta, introduced a bill to change the flag. The bill never made it out of committee, but Mr. Egan, who is retiring after this term, believes that most of his colleagues understand that the time has come for a change.

"I tried to put it in quietly, so it would pass without Al Sharpton coming down," Mr. Egan said. "It's going to be harder now, with everybody demanding it. But everyone knows it's going to happen eventually. Let's do it before the boycott starts."

JAMES E. CLYBURN

6TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Comments:

from Sunday's The State
paper. This lays out the
proposal very well.**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

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Latest flag plan more promising than others

A bipartisan effort to move the Confederate flag from atop the State House appears to be the best plan yet. Sen. John Courson, a Republican, and Sen. Darrell Jackson, a Democrat, have been brokering a resolution that very well could garner support from parties on all sides.

Their proposal would remove the Confederate banner off the dome and out of legislative chambers. Three flags encased in glass would be placed at separate sites on the State House grounds. The flag of the Army of Northern Virginia, a square version of the flag now flying, would be encased at the Confederate Soldier Monument; the Stars and Bars would be placed at the monument to Confederate women; and a flag carried by black Union troops would be placed at an undetermined site.

There are a number of details still to be worked out, but this plan is an attractive one for various reasons.

- The intent is to obtain three authentic Civil War-era flags to display.
- A flag would be placed at the Confederate Soldier Monument, where flag supporters insist one should go. Encasing the flag could win over those who say the soldier monument is too visible a spot to fly a Confederate flag.
- The plan legitimately recognizes history and seeks to pull people together.

It is refreshing to see this plan materialize. It is a plan we believe can eventually receive even broader support than that put forth by Gov. Jim Hodges. Gov. Hodges' plan to place a square version of the flag at the Wade Hampton monument is a viable one that enjoys broad support. It is one we believe could lead to a resolution. However, the Courson-Jackson proposal has more appeal. It's a plan that brings us closer to a final resolution than any other to date.

Gov. Hodges showed solid leadership in putting a workable plan on the table. It has served as a catalyst to get others to work toward something better.

Those on both sides should support this plan — which addresses their concerns — or some similar one. If

itage as well as those who say, legitimately, that heritage must be marked within an appropriate historical context. Those on both sides should support this plan — which addresses their concerns — or some similar one. If they choose to continue to stall and obstruct progress, we can only assume their motives are not as pure as they proclaim.

This proposal will get more and more support as it is discussed. And that is what it needs — broad support from blacks and whites, Republicans and Democrats. Sens. Courson and Jackson should file this bill first thing Tuesday to begin the process.

It's likely that it will be another week before there is significant movement. This is a delicate moment as lawmakers file for re-election, looking over their shoulders to see who might seek to challenge them solely on their stance on the flag issue. In a few days, filing will close and that specter will no longer loom as a stumbling block.

At that point, all lawmakers should turn their attention to the flag and sincerely work toward compromise. They should put aside selfish ambitions, partisanship and narrow interests and put the needs of this state and its people above all else.

It all starts with the Senate. If senators genuinely work toward a resolution they can get the job done. They can set a tone of cooperation and compromise for the House.

Even as they prepare to put forth this proposal, Sens. Courson and Jackson would be wise to include key House members, who are vital partners in this endeavor. Getting some House members on board now would broaden support and build momentum.

Lawmakers, while they should be open and share their concerns, should consider discarding those proposals that have no chance of passing and only serve to confuse debate.

Other than the Hodges proposal, no other plan to date holds the



TOBACCO

Finding alternatives easy task for farmers

■ I am delighted to know that Mace Farms, a small farming operation in Marion County, is, in the opinion of your editorial writer ("State shouldn't give cash to tobacco farmers," March 7), now on a par with Springs Mills. Our loss of 50 percent of assets and income in the last three years is, in your editorial opinion, the same as the textile industry's loss of market share over the last 30 years. I dare say Springs Mills is in a better position to suffer the loss than are we.

I am also pleased to know that your writer has ideas on diversification. We have searched throughout the South, buying trees from Louisiana and sprigs from Florida, in an effort to find a profitable alternative to tobacco. We read and consult with all farm groups and agencies. It will be most welcome for your editorialist to advise us, as we have, to date, been unsuccessful.

Please ask the writer to more carefully examine the facts before "shooting from the hip."

BOB MACE
Gresham

CAL THOMAS

Representatives be wrong in judgment

■ Trevor Bauknight (Letters,

that is exactly what has happened, and the governor is as pleased as anyone. "I am encouraged by it," he said of

the Courson-Jackson plan last week. "I think it is a positive development."

It is especially notable that key senators representing opposite viewpoints have come together to formulate this proposed resolution. The two have been working behind the scenes to get needed additional support and must continue to do so.

This is a plan that should satisfy those who support the flag in the name of her-

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obstruct progress, we only assume
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properly and openly debated. It very well might be amended along the way. If it can be improved, it certainly should be. One of the glories of our system of representative democracy is that the deliberative process tends to improve legislation as all sides are heard from.

This is a plan, however, that even as it stands could bring the healing and unity that South Carolina needs so much.

promise the Courson-Jackson plan does. Like any other piece of legislation, the plan needs to be

March 18) is living in a dream, a clouded one at that. Cal Thomas' article on the "living" Constitution was right on. Yes, the Supreme Court justices are appointed by representatives of the people, but both representatives and Supreme Court justices can be (and often are) very wrong in their judgment.

It is the sort of thinking that Mr. Bauknight exhibits that will eventually lead to the total disruption of what we call a free country. It is well on the way to happening already, precisely because couch potatoes are so comfortable that they will not

Irene Bueno

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To: eric p. liu/opd/eop@eop
cc: anna richter/opd/eop@eop
bcc: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: SC CONFEDERATE FLAG 

I spoke to Rep. Clyburn's staff (Yelberton Watkins)) re: this issue. Rep. Clyburn has endorsed the new compromise proposal (bill has not yet been introduced) by State Senators Jackson (D) and Courson (R) and would like the President to endorse it as well. Rep. Clyburn's staff thought that something could happen soon but unclear about the timing. I asked him what he thought of the President restating his support for removing the flag and that he hopes that this new proposal provides momentum for developing a compromise solution on this difficult issue. He seemed okay with this response. Let me know what you think - speechwriting is looking for some guidance. Thanks.

I will fax you an article that Rep. Clyburn faxed to me that has the most up to date info on this issue.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno

03/28/2000 10:49:01 AM

Record Type: Record

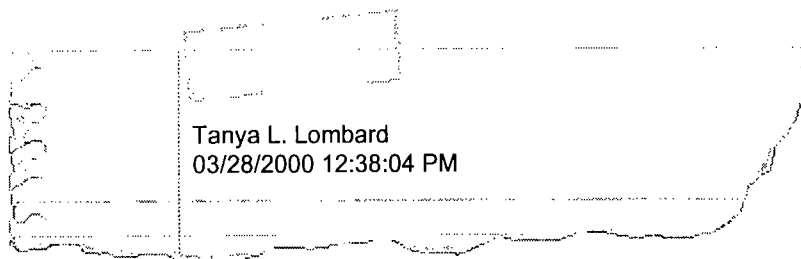
To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: SC CONFEDERATE FLAG

I have learned that there is hope that a deal is being worked between NAACP, Gov. Hodges and other key players perhaps based on a new proposal that was offered last week by two state senators a Democratic flag opponent and a Republican flag proponent to put an authentic Civil War-era confederate and union battle flags outside the state house in a glass encasements. It's unclear if the deal will be worked out before the trip. I will continue to try to get more info.

I also learned that there was a conference call on this issue yesterday to which DPC was not invited to participate. I have asked that we be on future calls. I spoke to political affairs (Tanya) and she thinks for the purposes of the trip the President needs to say he supports removal of the flag and hopes that a compromise can be reached. Speechwriting is looking for guidance from on this issue of us.

Are you okay with political affairs recommended statements by the President?

Please let me know and I will continue to send you more info.



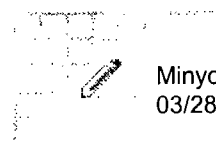
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To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

CC:

Subject: UPDATE ON Flag Proposal and issue.

----- Forwarded by Tanya L. Lombard/WHO/EOP on 03/28/2000 12:38 PM -----



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Steve Ricchetti/WHO/EOP@EOP, Matthew T. Schneider/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: UPDATE ON Flag Proposal and issue.

I spoke with Congressman Clyburn seconds ago and he indicated that while everyone has reached agreement on the Flag proposal, the republicans have asked that they delay the announcement until Monday (I wonder why ::)
So I suspect we should go to PLAN B (was there one)

Clyburn also mentioned that there was a good editorial in yesterday's SC paper the STATE.

let's discuss

Message Sent To:

Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
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To: _____

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Number of Pages: _____ (Including Cover Sheet)

☒ Yelberton Watkins

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_____ Congressman James E. Clyburn

Comments:

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The State

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Published Tuesday, March 28, 2000, in The State.

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NAACP sees hope in flag plan

By **KENNETH A. HARRIS**
Staff Writer

The NAACP says a plan to remove the Confederate flag from atop the State House dome and place authentic Civil War-era flags on the Capitol grounds offers "a road map leading to where we would like to go" in resolving the controversy.

However, James Gallman, president of the S.C. Conference of Branches of the NAACP, stopped short of endorsing the plan crafted by two key senators on opposite sides of the flag controversy.

During an interview Monday, Gallman said the plan offered by Sens. John Courson, R-Richland, and Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, moves the debate toward a solution that brings "finality." The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called for economic sanctions against South Carolina until the flag is removed.

"That's what offers promise: The direction is where we need to be headed to bring finality to it," Gallman said. "We think that it's a starting point. There are some things we would have to look at. There are some questions that need to be answered. If we can get some of the questions answered, we would be willing to sit down and take a look at it."

Jackson, who is black, commended the NAACP for its position and called for flag supporters to come to the bargaining table.

"I think the NAACP is moving in the right direction by saying this proposal is worth considering," Jackson said. "Now, I think it's time for the pro-flag and heritage groups to demonstrate their will to move in the right direction and see if we can meet somewhere in the middle. I think that this proposal is the middle ground."

"I think the ball is now in the court of the heritage groups to see if they can say what the NAACP has said," Jackson said.



see if they can say what the NAACP has said," Jackson said.

Under the Courson-Jackson proposal, flags would be removed from atop the dome and inside the House and Senate chambers. An authentic Army of Northern Virginia flag, a square version of the banner atop the dome, would be encased in glass and displayed at the Confederate Soldier Monument.

**LOOKING FOR
A NEW HOME?**

The plan also seeks to place the first national flag of the Confederacy, also encased in glass, at the monument honoring the women of the Confederacy. Supporters are seeking to place an authentic flag, one that flew in a position of sovereignty over South Carolina, at the monument.

A third flag, that of the First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a group of black Union soldiers, would be displayed in a place of prominence on the State House grounds.

In addition, the plan offers protection for monuments, memorials, markers and street signs honoring the Confederacy as well as those honoring the civil rights movement.

Last week, Gov. Jim Hodges, who also has a flag proposal pending, said the Courson-Jackson plan "could be a breakthrough" if it draws broad support.

The key element of the Courson-Jackson proposal is the soldiers' monument, considered "the holiest of the holiest" by many flag supporters who say it must be part of any resolution.

"You're returning the battle flag that these men fought under to them," said Courson, who is white and author of the 1994 Heritage Act. "By doing that, you're moving it from a sovereignty and political context and placing it in a historical context which, to me, is critical."

Courson, too, has unanswered questions about the efforts to preserve the flags. He has not formally submitted a plan to the Senate for consideration.

Gallman said he needs details of the Courson-Jackson plan to determine if it falls within the "historical context" outlined in the NAACP resolution, approved last July. Since that time, the NAACP has called for placing the flag in the Confederate Relic Room or in a glass case inside the State House.

"I am excited that we're heading in the right direction after months of trying to find a compromise everybody can live with," Jackson said. "I think this is the last best effort to reach a compromise and get something both sides have asked for."

But, Attorney General Charlie Condon said lawmakers should not act under threat of an economic boycott.

"In other words, our state is being coerced to legislate with a gun to its head," Condon said in a statement. "Some leaders are so anxious to resolve the flag controversy that they appear to be willing to ignore the dangerous policy implications that are clearly involved."

Kenneth A. Harris covers state government and the legislature. Contact him at (803) 771-8509 or by e-mail at kharris@thestate.com.

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Irene Bueno
03/28/2000 10:19:34 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP
Subject: SC FLAG ARTICLE

Copyright 2000 The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)
The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)

March 25, 2000, Saturday, SATURDAY EDITION

SECTION: A, Pg. 12

LENGTH: 1193 words

HEADLINE: Encouraging progress on flag

BYLINE: The Post and Courier Editorial Staff

BODY:

The controversy over flying the Confederate flag on the Statehouse dome will never be resolved unless the opposing sides move toward middle ground. Such movement has been made in the last week, offering renewed encouragement to those who favor a fair compromise - polls say that's a solid majority of South Carolinians - to transfer the flag to an appropriate "place of honor."

Gov. Jim Hodges told us he sees a new proposal from Sens. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, and John Courson, R-Columbia, as more evidence that a settlement can be achieved. The governor has said he is not irrevocably tied to his own proposal to place the flag at the Wade Hampton statue on Statehouse grounds, explaining, "If somebody's got a better idea, I'm for it. A solution is what's important."

A solution is important, and the Jackson-Courson proposal could provide a foundation for that solution. The two senators represent two previously divergent viewpoints: Sen. Jackson is a black minister who has been at the forefront of the anti-flag forces in the Legislature. Sen. Courson is a staunch advocate of preserving Confederate heritage.

Their plan would place an authentic square battle flag at the Confederate Soldier's Monument, a flag fought for by black soldiers in the Union army elsewhere on Statehouse grounds, and the First National Flag of the Confederacy (the Stars and Bars) at the Women of the Confederacy Monument on the south side of the Statehouse complex. The flags all would be encased rather than flying on flagpoles.

Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, objects to that final stipulation, telling our reporter: "Encasement is entombment." But the Soldier's Monument placement of the flag, as opposed to the Wade Hampton statue, does appeal to Sen. McConnell, who plans to draft a proposal of his own.

And the NAACP, now conducting an economic boycott of the state over the flag, might accept the Jackson-Courson plan, according to Sen. Jackson. Some leaders of the organization previously have demanded that the flag be moved inside the Statehouse or the Confederate Relic Room.

Further alterations doubtless will be necessary to reach a workable settlement. And any permanent resolution must provide assurances that South Carolina's historic heritage will be protected in the names of parks and other public places honoring Confederate heroes.

But the Legislature appears to be on the right track now, and could be approaching an overdue breakthrough in flag-transfer negotiations. The spirit of compromise on the flag fight is spreading in the General Assembly, and that's good news.

● Eugenia Chough

03/28/2000 09:50:01 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Confederate flag

I'll walk over hard copy, but here's attachment. Clips over past 2 days mostly about Faye, GOP activist who quit GOP and Wyclef Jean canceling his performance in SC. Also, NYT Sunday clip on boycotts as trend. And 3/25 clip about Mfume urging TX not encourage flag.



Confederate Flag LN 032800

Below is blurb from SC local paper on legislative happenings.

Copyright 2000 McClatchy Newspapers Inc.

The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.)

March 26, 2000 Sunday 1ST EDITION

SECTION: STATE; Pg. 4B

LENGTH: 638 words

HEADLINE: Legislative roundup

BODY:

The past week at the South Carolina Statehouse:

CONFEDERATE FLAG - The latest proposal would put authentic, Civil War-era Confederate and Union battle flags outside the Statehouse in glass encasements. It was put together by two state senators from Columbia: John Courson, a Republican and flag supporter, and Darrell Jackson, a Democrat and flag opponent. Hodges, who has his own plan to move the flag from the Statehouse dome to the Wade Hampton monument, said the senators' idea could be a breakthrough.

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Time

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March 27, 2000

SECTION: NOTEBOOK; Pg. 24

LENGTH: 107 words

HEADLINE: The South;
When Lawyers Object On Moral Grounds

BYLINE: Viveca Novak/Washington

BODY:

If South Carolina doesn't do something about its flag problem, the Department of Justice might. No legal action is being considered to remove the Confederate flag from the state's capitol dome (there are probably no grounds), but the department may condone objections by some of its lawyers to attending advanced training courses at DOJ's sparkling new National Advocacy Center in Columbia.

The prospect of a federal boycott, even if informal, would ratchet up pressure on the state--already being shunned by the American Bar Association, the N.A.A.C.P. and other groups--to pull down the slave-era relic.

--By Viveca Novak/Washington

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: MARY ANN CHASTAIN--AP, South Carolina statehouse

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 21, 2000
The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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March 26, 2000, Sunday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 226 words

HEADLINE: N.C. bar group debating S.C. meeting site amid boycott

DATELINE: CHARLOTTE, N.C.

BODY:

Members of the North Carolina Bar Association are trying to stir a debate about whether the group should hold its annual meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C., while a boycott targets the state for flying the Confederate battle flag.

The controversy threatens to divide the 12,000-member voluntary association.

Winston-Salem lawyer Robert "Hoppy" Elliot is leading a petition drive that seeks to move the meeting. The NAACP is leading boycott of South Carolina's tourism industry over the Confederate flag's continuing presence atop the State House.

Elliot's effort started two months ago, when he received a brochure previewing the meeting.

On the cover, he said, was a photograph of actor Gregory Peck playing Atticus Finch, the principled lawyer in "To Kill a Mockingbird" who defends a black man against charges of raping a white woman.

"It really struck me, the paradox," Elliot said of the bar association's decision to meet in South Carolina.

Bar association leaders say the event will go forward as planned in June and that they, too, have principle on their side.

"We have a contract that obligates the North Carolina Bar Association to go forward and hold its annual meeting this summer in Myrtle Beach," said John Jernigan, a Raleigh lawyer who is president of the group. "As lawyers, we feel that we must honor our contracts."

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The Bulletin's Frontrunner

March 27, 2000

LENGTH: 288 words

HEADLINE: Black Activist Quits GOP.

BODY:

Gannet News Service (3/27, Bivins) reported, "A black Republican activist who had been vice chairman of a high-profile GOP effort to recruit minorities says she has left the party because a 'pattern of racial blunders' left her feeling abandoned." Faye Anderson "quit the GOP with no explanation in a terse March 13 letter to Patricia Harrison, co-chairman of the Republican National Committee. Anderson had been vice chairman of the New Majority Council, which the GOP established in 1997 to reach out to minorities." But in her weekly column for politicallyblack.com, a black political Web site, Anderson "said she had switched from being a registered Republican to an independent because she no longer believed that party leaders were serious about inclusiveness." Anderson wrote, "My switch comes in the wake of a pattern of racial blunders that I cannot dismiss as mere 'mistakes.'" Anderson's "cited (Texas Gov. George W) Bush's failure to apologize to blacks for not speaking out against Bob Jones University's ban on interracial dating as one reason for her quitting the party." Anderson also "cited both Bush's and Arizona Sen. John McCain's refusal to denounce the flying of the Confederate battle flag above the South Carolina Statehouse." In addition, Anderson "cited the failure of the Republican-

controlled Congress to support a resolution condemning the Council of Conservative Citizens, a white separatist group." Anderson wrote, "In the spirit of the season, the Republican Party should do some serious spring cleaning because the stench up under the 'big tent' with the likes of the CCC, David Duke, Confederate flag wavers and Bob Jones has become intolerable. Personally, I need some fresh air."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 27, 2000

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March 26, 2000, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 4; Page 4; Column 1; Week in Review Desk

LENGTH: 1018 words

HEADLINE: IDEAS & TRENDS: A Weapon for Consumers;
The Boycott Returns

BYLINE: By STEVEN GREENHOUSE

BODY:

NOT since the 1970's, when grape workers and the anti-apartheid movement were holy causes for millions of Americans, have so many groups embraced the boycott as a weapon.

In the most prominent boycott in years, the N.A.A.C.P. has called on tourists and conventions to shun South Carolina to pressure that state to remove the Confederate flag atop its Capitol. Also facing an N.A.A.C.P. boycott, the Adam's Mark luxury hotel chain agreed last week to pay \$8 million, seek minority customers and give its employees diversity training to get the boycott dropped and to settle race discrimination lawsuits brought by some offended black guests and the Justice Department.

Gay groups have proposed a boycott of Paramount over a planned television show starring Dr. Laura Schlessinger, who has called homosexuals "biological errors" and "sexual deviants." Groups seeking to restore democracy to Burma are sponsoring boycotts against Best Western, Unocal, Suzuki and other companies that do business there. Among the companies that labor unions are boycotting is Kaiser Aluminum, which locked out 2,900 unionized workers 14 months ago. And the Southern Baptist Convention is pressing a boycott against Disney, charging that it is too sympathetic to gays.

"The times may be ripe for more consumer boycotts," said Jeff Faux, executive director of the Economic Policy Institute, a research group in Washington. "We have more of a consumer culture, and people see themselves more as consumers today. While people are participating less in the political process, as consumers they see that one way they can exercise power is by where they spend their money and where they don't."

The boycott takes its name from an economic war waged by Irish farmers in the 1880's against an English land agent, Charles Cunningham Boycott, who refused demands to cut rents during a time of poor crops. Their subsequent refusal to work his land or sell him goods forced him to return to England.

In the late 1880's American farmers were already shunning railroads charging exorbitant rates. In 1885 alone, American labor unions carried out 196 official boycotts.

One boycott that made a profound impression on 20th-century America was the

Montgomery bus boycott, which came after Rosa Parks famously refused to sit in the back of the bus in 1955 because she was black. Since then civil rights activists have repeatedly embraced boycotts. Two months ago, the television networks agreed to increase minority hiring after the N.A.A.C.P. threatened a boycott, charging that few shows featured minority actors.

But sometimes boycotts, which require organization and consumer awareness, fail. Most Americans do not realize that the United Farm Workers' 1984 grape boycott remains in force. Begun when growers refused to sign new union contracts, it has largely failed because the union stopped promoting it when it failed to catch on. Union officials say it remains in effect because lifting the boycott would give a victory to the grape growers. In sharp contrast, the original boycott called by Cesar Chavez in 1967 persuaded millions of Americans to give up grapes and pressured California growers to recognize unionized workers and raise wages.

Boycotts can hurt the very people they intend to help. When anti-sweatshop groups threatened a boycott against apparel from Bangladesh in the mid-1990's because many factories employed child labor, the factories simply fired the children, pushing some into begging and prostitution. Anti-sweatshop groups now generally oppose boycotts.

The N.A.A.C.P.'s president, Kweisi Mfume, said his group never rushes into boycotts. "This is a trigger you don't want to pull until all else has failed," he said. "In the case of South Carolina, after 38 years of negotiating even the N.A.A.C.P. has a limit to its patience." As a result, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce says, more than 100 conventions and other events have been canceled in the state, which has lost at least \$18 million in tourist dollars.

BUT Howard Hunter Jr., the chamber's president, said the boycott might backfire because it has caused some lawmakers to dig in. "One group of legislators," he said, "has used the boycott very effectively for not taking action, saying: 'We're being blackmailed. If we succumb this time, what are they going to ask for next?'" The business community, Mr. Hunter said, has been working to resolve the problem.

LOOKING for less controversial tools than a boycott to pressure Paramount to drop its "Dr. Laura" plans, gay groups have deluged the corporation with calls and e-mail. "Paramount would never host a talk show where someone said such nasty things about blacks or Jews," said John Aravosis, who has organized the stopdrlaura.com Web site.

Companies react to boycotts with either compliance or defiance. After several groups boycotted Pepsi over its Burma ties, the company stopped doing business there. "When customers and consumers contact us, we definitely listen," said David De Cecco, a Pepsi spokesman, who added that the company's action was consistent with American foreign policy.

But Unocal has reacted differently to a boycott over its investment in a natural gas consortium in Burma. "We sympathize with the boycott's goals," said Michael Thatcher, a Unocal spokesman. "We want to see democracy and economic improvement in Myanmar. We feel that the way we're doing it is much more likely to bear positive results than their way, which is to pull out and isolate the country."

During the South Africa boycott, the apartheid regime made similar arguments, saying sanctions were hurting the nation's blacks in particular. But Archbishop Desmond Tutu rejected those arguments, saying: "You get all sorts of people saying all sorts of things about sanctions: That they will hurt the people you are trying to help. Twiddle! It's baloney of the first order! Because you are speaking about people already suffering, and you are saying you are trying to find some way that is a nonviolent strategy for bringing about the change that everybody says they want."

GRAPHIC: Photo: Cesar Chavez, right, with farm workers in 1973. (The New York Times)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 26, 2000

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 27, 2000, Monday, FINAL

SECTION: Entertainment; B8

LENGTH: 133 words

HEADLINE: Where the Confederate flag flies, Jean won't play

DATELINE: CHARLESTON, S.C.

BODY:

Hip-hop artist Wyclef Jean has canceled his performance in Charleston to show support for the NAACP's boycott of South Carolina over the state's decision to continue flying the Confederate flag.

Jean was supposed to perform at a concert sponsored by the College of Charleston Friday, but he dropped out when he found out where the booking was.

Publicist Miguel Baguer said the performer didn't "become aware of the show until Thursday."

"When he realized it, he said, 'Oh my God. I can't do South Carolina because of the NAACP sanctions against South Carolina.' So that's what happened," Baguer said.

The NAACP has urged travelers and entertainers to avoid South Carolina until the state removes the Confederate flag from the Statehouse dome.

The boycott began Jan. 1.

GRAPHIC: P Photo: Wyclef Jean

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 27, 2000

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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March 25, 2000, Saturday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 471 words

HEADLINE: NAACP president speaks in Fort Worth

BYLINE: By SUSAN PARROTT, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: FORT WORTH, Texas

BODY:

Gov. George Bush should remove an image of the Confederate battle flag from the Texas Supreme Court building, the national president of the NAACP said Friday.

But Kweisi Mfume, who has led the NAACP's economic boycott against South Carolina for flying the banner atop the State Capitol, said Bush should push for the removal because it's the morally right thing to do - not because the civil rights group threatens a Texas boycott.

"I would hope the governor does not need the NAACP to appeal to him, but that his heart would appeal to him," Mfume said. "The intolerance the flag represents should not be condoned in any public building."

Mfume spoke at a regional conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Fort Worth.

The NAACP's economic boycott of South Carolina apparently has gained momentum since it began in January. Mfume said 92 organizations have withdrawn from regional and district meetings that were scheduled to be held in the state.

He said South Carolina will set the stage for how other states deal with the flag issue.

"If we are successful in South Carolina, more states will be inclined to do the same thing," Mfume said.

Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas chapter of the NAACP, on Friday reissued his call for Bush to remove the Texas plaque, calling it "a symbol of racism, division, and hatred." Flag supporters say it represents Southern history and heritage.

Bush has said he is studying the request. When the presumptive Republican presidential nominee was asked in South Carolina about that state's use of the battle flag, he said voters there should decide the issue. A spokeswoman for Bush's office did not return phone calls made by The Associated Press on Friday seeking comment.

Bledsoe said that many blacks might not support Bush for president if he does not take action in Texas.

"It's clear if you are trying to reach out for the African American vote, this is a significant issue," he said. "You can't say you are conservative and compassionate on one hand, but on the other hand, stand with people who are racist."

The Texas plaque is located in the entryway to the building housing the state's two top courts - the Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. It includes an image of the battle flag and quotes Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Another plaque includes the seal of the Confederacy.

Mfume also was expected to discuss voter education and census participation during the Southwestern Regional Conference, which ends today. The organization's agenda for 2000 includes combating racism, saving affirmative action and registering about 4 million voters nationally.

Mfume, a former congressman from Maryland who headed the Congressional Black Caucus, took over leadership of the NAACP in 1996.

GRAPHIC: AP Photos

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 26, 2000

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Flag flap cuts into South Carolina tourism

March 23, 2000

Web posted at: 11:36 a.m. EST (1636 GMT)

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) -- The NAACP's economic boycott of South Carolina to force the removal of the Confederate flag flying from the Statehouse has cost the city at least \$3 million in room bookings, a tourism official says.

Also, entertainers are balking at performing at Charleston's Spoleto Festival U.S.A. and at other events in Columbia.

Tom Volz, chief executive of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, says plans for events involving rooms for 20,000 people and 30 organizations have been canceled.

The events include tentative bookings that have been dropped since the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People formally launched sanctions against the state in January.

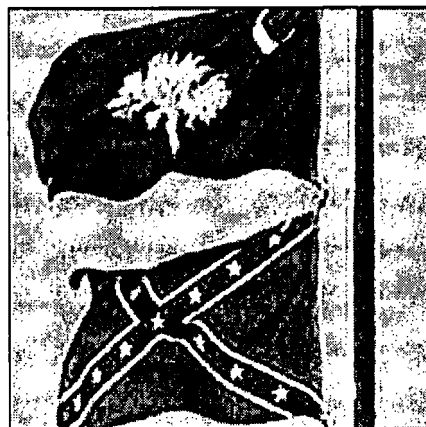
Those events could have had an economic impact of \$6.6 million, Volz says.

"We're not looking to inflate the numbers, and we're not looking to deflate the numbers," Volz says.

The boycott is also affecting other events. Bill T. Jones has withdrawn his dance company from the Spoleto Festival. Other performers, including the O'Jays and Patti LaBelle, have canceled plans to perform at South Carolina venues.

LaBelle canceled a show booked for April 8 at the Carolina Coliseum in Columbia.

Show producer Woody Johnston had planned to replace her with five rhythm and blues acts: the O'Jays, Eric Benet, Gerald LeVert, Brian McKnight and Destiny's Child. Those groups also balked at performing just blocks away from the Statehouse where the Confederate flag flies.



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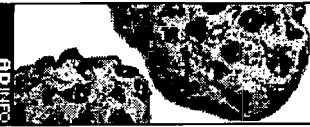
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Confederate flag summit ends deadlocked in South Carolina

January 14, 2000

Web posted at: 7:48 p.m. EST (0048 GMT)

From staff and wire reports

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (CNN) -- African-American leaders and South Carolina officials deadlocked in a summit to discuss removing the Confederate battle flag from the state Capitol.

The impasse comes days before civil rights activists plan a demonstration against the flag to coincide with the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday on Monday.

Gov. Jim Hodges and several state senators, seeking to end a boycott against the state called by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, met Thursday with representatives of the NAACP and the Southern Heritage Coalition, a political activist group in favor of the flag.

The parties made no progress in trying to reach a compromise, said Chris Sullivan of the Southern Heritage Coalition.

Most of the compromise proposals would remove the Confederate battle flag from the Capitol dome and the Senate and House chambers.

One prominent plan would move the flags, fixtures at the Capitol since the 1962 Civil War Centennial, to a Civil War museum or monument.

Hodges described the meeting as frank and amicable. He said the parties would resume meeting next week.

NAACP leaders did not comment after the Thursday summit, which took place less than a week after 6,000 demonstrated in Columbia, the state capital, in favor of keeping the flags where they are.

The NAACP boycott, announced six months ago, did not officially begin until January 1. But tourism officials said 91 conventions and meetings have been canceled as a result of the planned action, costing the state millions of dollars.

VIDEO

CNN's Brian Cabell reports on the continuing discord surrounding the Confederate flag atop the state's Capitol.

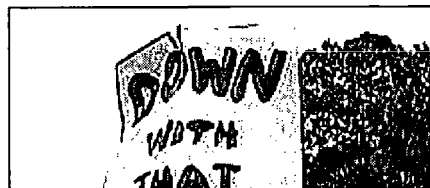
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the state millions of dollars.

Flag supporters, including many legislators, say the flag represents Southern heritage and honors Civil War dead.

The NAACP says the flag is a symbol of racism

The NAACP says the flag is a symbol of racism and must be taken down from the top of the Capitol. The civil rights group plans to hold a rally Monday, the King holiday. Hundreds of Maryland residents plan to take part in the anti- flag activities, said Jerome Stephens of Bus Ride for Pride.

South Carolina is the only state that flies the Confederate flag alongside the U.S. and state flags at its state Capitol. Georgia and Mississippi both use the battle flag insignia on their state flags.

Correspondent Brian Cabell and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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'Harry and Louise' Return, With Health Insurance Plan

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 — Harry and Louise, featured in television commercials that helped kill President Clinton's plan for universal health insurance in 1994, are back.

They still work for the insurance industry, but now, in a new television commercial, they prod Mr. Clinton, Congress and political candidates to do something about the problem of 44 million Americans without health coverage.

"That's huge," Harry says. "An epidemic." And he insists, "We can't leave working families and kids without insurance."

Louise replies that "someone actually has a workable plan," and she praises the plan devised by the Health Insurance Association of America. "It has tax relief for workers and small businesses, and special help for the working poor," she adds.

Charles N. Kahn III, president of the association, said Republican candidates for president had "basically ignored" the issue of the uninsured in recent months. "Republicans are floundering on the issue, to be frank," he said.

But Mr. Kahn said the Republican nominee would have to address the issue because the Democratic candidates for president, former Senator Bill Bradley and Vice President Al Gore, had made health insurance coverage a defining issue in their campaigns.

The number of Americans without insurance continues to increase by about a million a year,

In an election year, a strong lobby seeks to be heard by right and left.

even though the economy is strong and the unemployment rate is at a 30-year low.

The insurance industry's plan would make it easier for people to buy private insurance, with new government subsidies for low-wage workers and new tax credits for small employers. The proposals would amount to a large federal subsidy for the industry, but insurance executives said most of the money would be passed on to doctors, hospitals and others who provide health care. Mr. Kahn said that the industry's plan could cost \$40 billion to \$50 billion a year but that Congress could choose elements of it that would cost much less.

Insurance companies see threats from both left and right. They fear that liberal Democrats will try to supplant private insurers with a government-run program. And they say some conservative Republicans would undermine the employer-based health insurance system by creating tax incentives for people to buy health insurance as individuals, rather than through large groups organized by employers.

Mr. Kahn said the industry was spending \$1 million on newspaper advertisements and television commercials, scheduled to run on CNN nationwide and on some network affiliates in the Washington area in the next 10 days.

The industry spent \$17 million on the original Harry-and-Louise campaign, which featured 14 television commercials from September 1993 to August 1994. In those advertisements, Harry and Louise criticized Mr. Clinton's proposals as complex and bureaucratic.

The same actors appear in the new spots, which were produced by the same company, Goddard Claussen, now a unit of Porter Novelli, which in turn is a unit of the Omnicom Group. Harry and Louise were catapulted to national fame when Hillary Rodham Clinton attacked their sponsor in 1993.

Ben Goddard, who helped conceive the original campaign, said he married Louise Clark, who starred in those commercials, in 1997.

Mr. Kahn denied that his organization was making a radical shift. In 1993 and 1994, he said, the association supported Mr. Clinton's goal of universal insurance coverage and, at that time, even supported proposals to require employers to provide or obtain coverage for employees.

White House officials said Mr. Clinton would again propose tax credits for people providing long-term care to relatives with chronic illnesses and disabilities. But, they said, the credit would be three times as big — \$3,000 a year, instead of the \$1,000 proposed last year.

Clinton Wants Flag Down

By The New York Times

BOSTON, Jan. 18 — During a visit here today, President Clinton weighed in on two contentious issues that have confronted the candidates seeking to succeed him.

Mr. Clinton joined the Democratic candidates, Vice President Al Gore and former Senator Bill Bradley, in calling for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina Capitol. Mr. Clinton's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said.

The flag has been flying atop the Capitol since the early 1960's.

Mr. Lockhart said the president also thought that racial profiling by the police was wrong and ineffective.

In a debate on Monday evening Mr. Bradley urged Mr. Gore to press Mr. Clinton to sign an executive order banning racial profiling. Mr. Lockhart said the president would act after he got the results of a study of the practice that he ordered last year.

Irene Bueno

10/20/99 06:35:25 PM

Record Type: Record

To: eric p. liu/opd/eop@eop
cc: anna richter/opd/eop@eop
bcc: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: NAACP Boycott of SC

I have reviewed the materials that I have on this issue - NAACP resolution, articles and hope to get a copy of the NAACP letter soon.

Based on my initial reading of these materials and discussions, I think there are reasons to reconsider our position on this issue. On the other hand, there are good arguments not to change our position that have already been cited by WH Counsel. However, I think that the President may have some personal views on this issue as well and may want to take more of position.

Therefore, I recommend that we prepare an options memo for the President. Options would include:

- current position = don't take a position.
- support the intent of the boycott that SC should cease using the confederate flag but not honor the boycott since the federal government cannot boycott any particular state.
- support the NAACP boycott.

I also recommend having an meeting with WH folks who have an interest in this issue (Ben, Dawn, us, anyone else you should be in the meeting) to discuss whether we should present an options memo to the President and if so, what options should be contained therein.

I spoke to Kathleen who has spoken to Ben who is interested in revisiting this issue and having such a meeting.

Please advise. Thanks.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno

10/20/99 06:03:02 PM

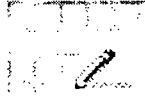
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To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: anna richter/opd/eop@eop
bcc: Records Management@EOP
Subject: Re: NAACP Boycott of SC

I spoke to Dawn and she confirmed our current position (ie no position) because it's a controversial issue and should be better left to the states and the Federal government should not be involved. However, she does not see any legal issues if the President wants to take a position on this issue - it's a policy decision.

I am reviewing some background on the issue and the NAACP resolution and will make a recommendation to you.

Eric P. Liu

 Eric P. Liu
10/20/99 02:49:11 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: NAACP Boycott of SC

What did Counsel tell you today? Looks like Julian Bond/NAACP is sending a letter to POTUS about their call for a tourism boycott of SC. Which means we're likely going to have to have an answer other than no comment.

----- Forwarded by Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP on 10/20/99 02:48 PM -----



Barry J. Toiv

10/19/99 03:11:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Robert B. Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: NAACP Boycott of SC

Ben, following is an excerpt from today's briefing and a couple of e-mails from Elizabeth Newman of my office. We really need guidance on this issue. Should it come from you or DPC?

Q The NAACP is calling for a tourism boycott of South Carolina until the Confederate flag is removed from the State House dome. Will that affect President Clinton's plans to go there, as he has every New Year?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know whether it will affect it since we haven't made a decision on what we're doing at the New Year yet.

Q I understand that you haven't made a decision, but will he take that into account?

MR. LOCKHART: I'll check. I hadn't heard that.

----- Forwarded by Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP on 10/19/99 03:09 PM -----



Elizabeth R. Newman
10/19/99 03:05:41 PM

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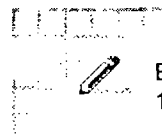
To: Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: NAACP Boycott of SC

here is the e-mail that was sent yesterday. you should know that steve has gotten calls today from several south carolina papers about this as well as south carolina tv. additionally, they are trying to get a hold of our renaissance weekend founder, former mayor of hilton head and current ambassador to the court of st. james for comment.....

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Elizabeth R. Newman
10/18/99 05:58:07 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Robert B. Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP, Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP

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In addition - they ususalaly follow up with a question about whether or not the President would go to Rennaissance weekend in Hilton Head as a result. Obviously, at this point, this is not even on the schedule, but thought you might want full context. thanks

● Eugenia Chough

10/20/99 04:51:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: NAACP Boycott of SC 

Here's background summary on boycott according to press articles (I haven't fact-checked). I'll put hard copy in your box. Please let me know if there's anything I can follow up on (write-up? calls?). Thanks

- 10/16 NAACP national board unanimously approved tourism boycott of SC to begin on 1/1/00 until state stops flying Confederate flag from its Capitol. NAACP requested DOJ to investigate whether official display of symbol infringed upon civil rights of blacks.
- Estimates that black travellers spend \$280M in SC each year.
- Boycott prompted 42 state and national orgs to cancel mtgs or conventions in SC
- NAACP calls flag an "unspoken symbol of resistance to the battle for civil rights and equality." Supporters call flag symbol of Southern heritage, honoring SCians who died in Civil War.
- SC is only state to fly confederate flag. First did so in 1962 to commemorate Civil War. Legislators have sole power to remove it. Business leaders have sued to remove it, and have lost. Governor Hodges is working to find a compromise.
- GA and MS flags incorporate part of confederate design. Q&A below refers to possibility that Arkansas flag may have some Confederate design, also.
- Every year for past 14 years, Clinton's have attended the New Year's Eve Renaissance Weekend (ends on 1/1/01, when boycott officially begins) in Hilton Head, SC. The getaway is a forum to draw upon diverse folks for off the record discussions. Tom Turnipseed, Columbia lawyer, has asked the First Family to boycott. Renaissance Weekend founder Phil Lader has also been asked to move the event outside of SC.
- S.C. NAACP Press Conference is scheduled for Thursday, at start of their convention, which has been moved to Charlotte.
-

Q Does the President think that the Arkansas State flag is a symbol of racism as the New York City Council member said yesterday?

MR. LOCKHART: You know, I've never talked to the President on this subject. I've never heard him express any view like that, though.

Q Are you aware of the story?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not. I had not seen the story. I'd only seen goofy stories about someone from New York being in Arkansas. (Laughter.)

Q It contends one of the stars on the Arkansas flag represents the Confederacy --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, again, I've just never heard any discussion or any objections that the President has raised.

Q Will you take the question?

MR. LOCKHART: Sure I'll ask him about it.
Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno

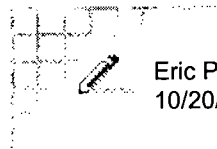
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Record Type: Record

To: Eugenia Chough/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: NAACP Boycott of SC

As we discussed - here's a little bit of background on this issue. You might also check with Kathleen Ahn if she has some info. Thanks!

----- Forwarded by Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP on 10/20/99 03:18 PM -----



Eric P. Liu
10/20/99 02:49:11 PM

Record Type: Record

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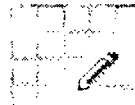
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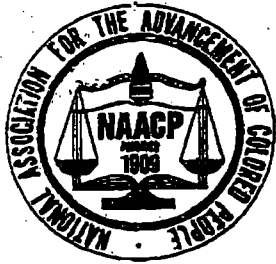
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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October 18, 1999

TO
IRENE

J BOND
and of Directors

BUENO

X65581

Oh ~~6558~~

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to ask you not to attend the annual Renaissance Weekend scheduled for Hilton Head Island unless it is moved to a location out of South Carolina. I have asked Ambassador Lader to cancel or move it.

As you know, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has asked South Carolina not to fly the Confederate standard over the Capitol and to display it in a historical, rather than sovereign context.

It is an offensive badge of slavery and oppression for most South Carolinians and many visitors to the state. The NAACP is asking groups and associations to cancel or move activities planned for South Carolina after January 1, 2000.

Already, the National Governor's Association, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Association of State Democratic Chairs, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Clark-Atlanta University Alumni Association, Black Data Processing Associates, the AME Zion Church Ministers and Lay Association, Penn Center's Annual Heritage Days Celebration, the Omega True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church of God and the National Association of Black Cardiologists have cancelled or moved national meetings formerly scheduled for South Carolina.

Furthermore, the National Urban League, the Improved Benevolent Association of Elks, the African American Leadership Group, the South Carolina Morticians Association, the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the Benedict College Board of Trustees, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the South Carolina

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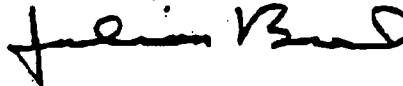
Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

Council of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel, the Georgia Dental Association, the International Association of Black Firefighters, the African-American Episcopal Church, the National Council of Negro Women, the Southeastern Association of Law Librarians, the Smart Set Social Organization, the AME Zion Council of Bishops, the Midlands Pan-Hellenic Greekfest, the SE Chapter of Physicists in Medicine, the South Carolina Conference of NAACP Branches, and Black Methodists for Church Renewal have cancelled or moved regional or local meetings.

Your attendance at Renaissance Weekend activities in the face of widespread, popular opposition to displaying this hateful symbol constitutes an endorsement of loathsome conduct and insensitivity to the awful message it conveys.

Your administration has compiled a strong record of inclusiveness. Surely you do not wish to mar that proud record through association with bigotry and intolerance. I await your reply.

Best wishes,



Julian Bond

Chairman

NAACP National Board of Directors

Emergency Resolution

July 12, 1999

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Whereas, the Confederate States of America came into being by way of secession from and war against the United States of America out of a desire to defend the right of individual states to maintain an economic system based on slave labor, and

Whereas, the Confederate Battle Flag was raised in the States that comprised the defunct Confederate States of America for the supposed celebration of the Centennial of the War Between the States and as an unspoken symbol of resistance to the battle for civil rights and equality in the early 1960's, and

Whereas, the Confederate Battle Flag has been embraced as the primary symbol for the numerous modern-day groups advocating white supremacy, and

Whereas, the placement of the Confederate Battle Flag at the South Carolina State House with the flags of two existing governments, the United States of America and the state of South Carolina, implies sovereignty and allegiance to a non-existent nation, and

Whereas, the Confederate Battle Flag in its present position of display makes a statement of public policy that continues to be an affront to the sensibilities and dignity of a majority of African Americans in the state of South Carolina, and

Whereas, the state of South Carolina possesses a unique linkage of heritage and family which makes South Carolina a prime destination for African-American family reunions, resulting in tourism dollars that benefit the state of South Carolina, an estimated sixty-eight percent (68%) of all African-American family reunions are held in South Carolina, and

Whereas, dollars spent on tourism, conventions and meetings by African Americans, other people of conscience and corporate entities serve to enrich the state of South Carolina, the "Mother State of secession", which continues to fly the banner of secession

Now Be It Therefore Resolved, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its 1999 Annual Convention reaffirms its condemnation of the Confederate Battle Flag being flown over the South Carolina State Capitol and displayed within the South Carolina House and Senate Chambers, and renews its call for the removal and relocation of the Confederate Battle Flag to a place of historical rather than sovereign context

Be it Further Resolved, that all units of the NAACP shall join the South Carolina Conference of Branches in urging all families planning reunions in South Carolina to consider locations outside of the State as reunion sites until such time that the Confederate Battle Flag is removed from positions of sovereignty in the state of South Carolina

Be it Further Resolved, that the National NAACP shall call upon other African-American National organizations, churches, and faith groups, businesses and corporations, and similar national entities of other cultural compositions that embrace freedom and justice to consider locations other than the state of South Carolina as convention or meeting sites, until such time as the Confederate Battle Flag is removed from positions of sovereignty in the state of South Carolina

Be it Finally Resolved, that the National NAACP shall apply these economic sanctions against the state of South Carolina as well as any further measures as appropriate, commencing January 1, 2000, until such time that the Confederate Battle Flag is no longer displayed in positions of sovereignty in the state of South Carolina.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

October 18, 1999

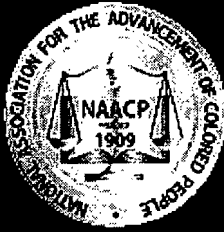
STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

I am deeply angered and disappointed to learn of Senator Helms's intention to block Carol Moseley-Braun's nomination as Ambassador to New Zealand. To exact partisan revenge on Senator Moseley-Braun simply because she stood on principle against the renewal of a patent involving the use of the Confederate flag is outrageous and wrong.

On issue after issue, this Republican Congress is caving into the extreme right-wing -- putting raw, right-wing ideology first, and the national interest last: playing politics with the federal courts, and leaving dozens of vacancies while highly qualified nominees, like Ronnie L. White, are shelved and defeated. Killing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and ending decades of bipartisanship on matters of arms control and national security. Some House Republicans are now working to undermine the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, to punish and prevent crimes of hate -- which passed the Senate by an overwhelming majority in both parties.

The Senate should give Carol Moseley-Braun the up-or-down vote she deserves, so that she may serve as our next Ambassador to New Zealand. I call on Governor Bush, Senators McCain and Hatch, and the other Republican candidates to join in rejecting Senator Helms's disgraceful tactic. It is time to put an end to the politics of personal vindictiveness and divisiveness, and it is time for this Congress to act in the interests of America's working families again.

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Emergency Resolution

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July 12, 1999

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