

# Wilder says Bush is playing politics with civil rights

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RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder on Saturday accused President Bush of playing politics with the issues of civil rights and gun control.

"He is continuing to make the plea that the Civil Rights Bill is a quota bill," Wilder told about 400 people at a luncheon sponsored by the Legislative Black Caucus. "Now he knows better than that."

Bush and congressional Democrats have squabbled for months over the bill, which is aimed at nullifying some recent Supreme Court rulings on job discrimination. Bush has said the bill will lead to quotas for minority hiring.

Blacks, Wilder said, remember "the backs of the movie theatres and the buses to which we were assigned like diseased animals. Our nation has

## Plea

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will soon be out again and back in their neighborhood to do the same thing again.

Branch, who did not return the *Chronicle's* phone call about this story, has said in another published report that she did not think the Oldham case would be heard that day when she told Mrs. Imes to go home.

Branch said at that time she was dealing with another very difficult sexual-abuse case that she had to give it the most attention. She said she was eager to dispose of jail case to ease the overcrowding at the local jail. She said she chose "to look after the other victims in that other very difficult case."

But Crump said her niece and Mrs. Imes' son were not given the same consideration. "Why should our children be made to feel that what happened to them doesn't matter, but what happens to a child in Clemmons means something more," Crump asked?

Crump said she has known Oldham since she and her husband moved into the community 16 years ago. She said Oldham's parents, both dead now, were fine people. But she said Oldham had been in an out jail during that period of time. She wonders why the information about Oldham's past criminal history was not made available after the investigating officer in the case gave all of that information to Branch.

That record includes convictions for crime against nature involving a little boy, assault on a female, fraud, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

"I mean this man actually showed my child a video of a 14 year-old girl having sex with a dog. Everything surrounding this case we were not able to tell," Imes said.

She said it was her son who told her about the alleged rape of Crump's niece. And she said she later found out that Oldham had threatened to harm them if anybody told what happened or what had been going on. What also concerns Imes and Crump is that they said found out there were 11 other children in their neighborhood that may have been victimized by Oldham. But they said the parents didn't want their children involved.

Imes said considering how the case was handled she can understand why now. Asked if she was bitter about the justice system she said, "What justice system there is no justice system. Can you imagine us sitting down a 12 year-old boy and a 13 year-old girl and telling them that it was just to bad about what happened to them because nobody cares."

"My niece has been victimized twice, once by him (Oldham) and once by the system," said Mrs. Crump. "I don't know what can be done about it, but I want the public to know that, they are always talking about bringing these child abusers to justice and when you report it, what do the courts do? They take it lightly. They pick their cases and the one's that get the most publicity are the one's that get handled."

The plea arrangement to relieve overcrowding at the county jail apparently did not achieve what Branch intended because as of presstime Oldham was still in the Forsyth Jail waiting to be transferred to prison.

come too far in the last three decades to acquiesce to those who want to turn back the clocks in 1992," he said.

He also criticized Bush for threatening to veto the Brady Bill, which would require a seven-day waiting period before a handgun could be purchased. Wilder said Democrats next year "can hold George Bush accountable for his callous willingness to play politics with a piece of legislation that is literally a matter of life-and-death for thousands of Americans each year."

Wilder, the first black ever to be elected governor, said he represented a first, but that more blacks would follow him into high office. "Yes, on the horizon, we see that day, and it's not that distant on the horizon, when North Carolina will answer the call; when substance and qualifications of the candidate will overcome the most cynical and distorted of opposition claims and commercials," Wilder said.

The governor made no reference to his present political feud with U.S. Sen. Charles S. Robb, D-Va.

Robb has admitted that he went to a hotel room with a former Miss Virginia while serving as governor, but has denied that he had sex with her. Robb recently admitted destroying an apparently illegal tape recording of a Wilder phone conversation in which the governor reportedly gloated that Robb's political career was in tatters.

Both Robb and Wilder have indicated an interest in national politics, but some Democrats worry that the feud has damaged their chances.

Wilder said Washington could learn from Virginia's example of fiscal management. The state responded to a projected \$2.2 billion shortfall next year by cutting back spending and avoiding a tax increase. Wilder said federal officials could do much the same in handling the federal deficit.

"It's these 'Washington insiders' who have mismanaged the taxpayers' money," Wilder said. "You know the fat's there. The Republicans know it's there."



Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder

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