

National

Wilder Piqued by Clinton's Support For Challenger Robb

RICHMOND (AP) — President Clinton has sent a fund-raising letter on behalf of U.S. Sen. Charles S. Robb, prompting Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder to complain that Robb's vote can be bought.

Clinton's letter reads, "You, as a Virginian, will face a critical choice next year. I hope you will choose to re-elect Chuck Robb to the United States Senate. And I hope you will contribute to his campaign."

The letter, sent out by the Robb campaign last week, also said that Robb, D-Va., has been a strong supporter of Clinton.

"He's helping to shape my economic package and providing valuable input on the health care reform effort," the letter reads. "The tough-minded reputation for fiscal conservatism he built as governor in the early 1980s continues in the 1990s in the votes he cast to control federal spending."

"The political consequences of standing by your convictions can be great, but I have never known Chuck Robb to shrink from a fight. He is a leader with the courage of his convictions," the letter said.

Clinton said Robb worked hard for him during the presidential campaign and has stood by Clinton in the Senate. "I need Chuck there to help me make the changes so critical to our country."

Wilder issued a statement last Friday claiming that the letter is

proof that Robb "has failed Virginia."

"He has traded his vote in the Senate to support an anti-Virginia federal budget in exchange for political help from the president," Wilder's statement said.

Wilder has said he will run against Robb in the 1994 Senate race. The two have been bitter political rivals through the years. Former Marine officer and Iran-Contra figure Oliver North is expected to run on the GOP ticket.

Wilder said there is no telling what other measures harmful to Virginia that Robb might vote for in order to win political or financial support.

"This helps explain why Mr. Robb has supported the punitive and unfair base closings here in Virginia, why he supports a huge and regressive tax on the middle class and small businesses, and why he has supported a budget which has been opposed by other Democrats on grounds it punishes our senior citizens, our cities and our working families to name only a few," Wilder said.

Wilder claimed that "Robb's vote is now for sale; it is up to Virginians to decide whether they can afford the price."

Susan Platt, a campaign spokeswoman for Robb, said Wilder's contention that Robb traded his vote for Clinton's endorsement is "categorically untrue."

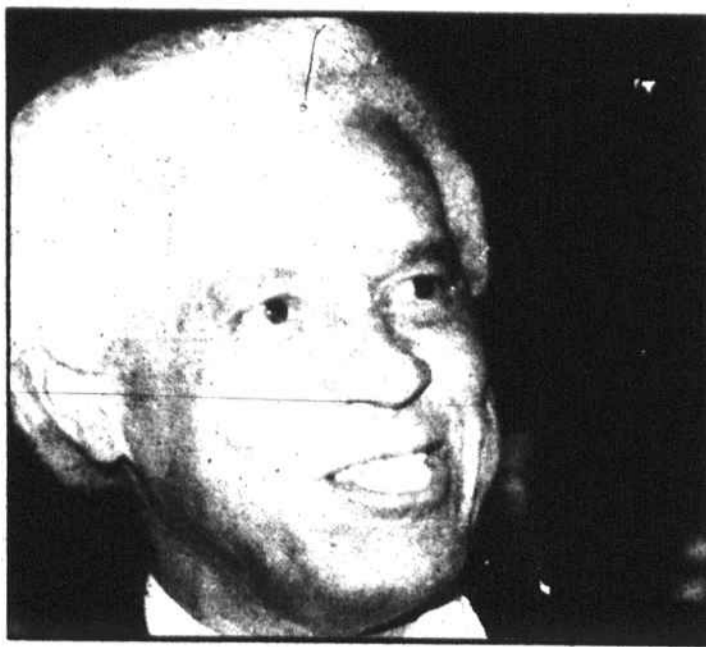
Robb's campaign office issued a statement Friday about the Clinton letter, saying Robb intends "to hold back on a full-court fund-raising effort until after the November statewide elections."

Clinton offered to send the letter "because he recognizes the important role Senator Robb has played in state and national Democratic politics," the statement said.

Former state Democratic chairman Paul Goldman said he received a copy of the letter in the mail Friday. Goldman, a Wilder ally, called the letter "the great Independence Day sellout." Instead of keeping Virginia's interests in mind, Goldman said, "Senator Robb has just said 'Hey, there's a political deal here.' They have his vote and he's going to need theirs."

"Robb has basically said to folks that he's become the senator for Washington and not the senator for Virginia. What we got here is taxation without representation," he said.

Robert A. Holsworth, a political science professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, said it is unusual for a president to enter a primary battle between two elected



Douglas Wilder

Democrats so early.

Holsworth called the letter a "first volley" by Robb, who "can't simply be a punching bag for Wilder in the next few months. Robb will not only have to raise money but defend his record."

Wilder could capitalize on Clinton's letter, which provides Wilder "a ready-made platform" from which to attack Robb as a tax-and-spend Democrat, Holsworth said. With Clinton supporting Robb, Wilder could position himself to run as an independent — at the risk of losing support from other Democrats, Holsworth said.

"The more difficult it is for him to run within the party, the more attractive an independent candidacy seems," Holsworth said. "But he'll have to consider where his money's coming from and the strain it places on his allies who want to remain in the party."

Black Queen Left out Of Yearbook Files Claim

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. (AP) — For the first time, San Leandro High School has a black homecoming queen. But the yearbook failed to carry her homecoming photo, leading to a \$250,000 claim and allegations of racial bias.

In addition to the money, January Cooper, 18, wants the school to reissue the yearbook to include the omitted photo.

"I didn't want to believe it," she said Monday.

Cooper said she "was about to start crying" when she first saw the publication in mid-June. "I left school and came home," she said.

Photographs of homecoming queens have been a standard feature of the "Spirit Week" section of the school annual for at least the past six years. The current publication carried photos of the homecoming king, who was

white, and other nominees for queen.

School officials declined comment, saying the matter has been turned over to school district attorneys. Cooper's claim is a legal precursor to a lawsuit.

However, yearbook staff member Lisa Armstrong said Cooper's picture wasn't the only one that didn't make it into the yearbook's pages. Photos of some faculty members and a group shot of the varsity football team were also left out.

"It could have happened to anyone," she said. She said that for the first time in recent memory the yearbook had no editor-in-chief to take care of production and proofread page layouts before publication.

"Sometimes things get messed up and there's nothing you can do about it," she said.

Optimism High About Agreement To Restore Democracy in Haiti

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Caribbean Community and Common Market leaders say they are optimistic about a United Nations-brokered agreement to restore democracy in Haiti.

"We are cautiously optimistic. We are counting the days between now and Oct. 30. We are hoping that everything will be done to ensure that this agreement is not derailed," Secretary General Edwin Carrington told reporters Sunday night.

After weeklong negotiations at the U.N. in New York, Haiti's Lt. Gen. Raoul Cédras signed an agreement Friday to resign and to allow the return on Oct. 30 of Jean Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown in a Sept. 1991 military coup.

Aristide signed the U.N. plan Saturday after receiving assurances that his safety would be guaranteed in Haiti and that the U.N. would lift its embargo only after his prime



Jean-Bertrand Aristide

minister assumes office. CARICOM leaders have been asked to participate in an international mission in Haiti, as the struggle to return the island to democracy continues.

"The region waits for the implementation of the agreement and is readying itself to participate in a post-agreement Haiti," Carrington said.

NAACP Signs "Fair Share" Agreement with Richardson

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Richardson Sports and the NAACP signed an agreement last week that will provide opportunities for minorities to participate in the operation of Charlotte's prospective professional football franchise.

Principals for both sides gathered at the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce offices, and in summit-like surroundings signed a "Fair Share" agreement. It will commit Richardson Sports to achieving levels of representation for blacks and other minorities in the proposed franchise.

The signing followed a similar ceremony in Baltimore where the NAACP reached an agreement with Flagstar Corp., owned by Spartanburg, S.C., businessman Jerry Richardson. The \$1.01 billion deal covers seven years and is to provide an avenue for minorities to own and operate restaurants in the corporation's stable.

It is Richardson's group that is trying to bring an NFL franchise to Charlotte.

"I hope this agreement today will serve as a model for all of professional sports," said Benjamin Chavis, executive director of the NAACP. "I hope that the agreement we signed earlier today in Baltimore will serve as a model for all of corporate America."

Under terms of the agreement, Richardson Sports and the Carolinas Stadium Corp. will place special emphasis on providing opportunities to minorities in management, advertising and marketing, concessions, purchasing and stadium construction.

The two entities also will work toward a level of between 15 percent and 25 percent minority representation in management and 20 percent in non-management categories.

The groups will review their progress periodically with the NAACP.

Among other goals in the agreement:

- Identify African-American and other minority vendors-suppliers



Jerry Richardson, left, of Richardson Sports and Dr. W.F. Gibson, Chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors, embrace after signing a fair share agreement for minority participation in the Carolinas NFL expansion team during a news conference in Charlotte, N.C. recently. Richardson, also, head of Denny's restaurant chain, is bidding for a NFL team.

ers and maintain a directory.

- Make efforts to do business with African-American and other minority vendors in areas such as security, floral services, groundskeeping and placement services.

- Provide a hotline for companies seeking vendor status.

Further, Chavis committed the association to helping Charlotte secure the franchise. The NFL's expansion committee is expected to make a decision in late October, picking two cities from among five candidates.

"The national NAACP is going to work hard throughout this state, throughout South Carolina, where we have branches in the United States, to send a clear signal to the NFL that we want the franchise here in Charlotte, we want it under Jerry Richardson," he said.

William Gibson, chairman of the NAACP's board of directors, said none of the 28 NFL teams, nor the other four cities seeking a franchise, have talked to the NAACP

regarding the agreement. The cities of Jacksonville, Fla., Memphis, Tenn., Baltimore and St. Louis are also seeking franchises, but Gibson said it is Charlotte that will get the association's attention.

"Yes, we will work because of the fact that it has an opportunity for black Americans," Gibson said.

Richardson said there have been a number of Fair Share agreements signed across the country, although Gibson noted that three of them, with the Atlanta Hawks and Braves, and the Kansas City Chiefs, had hardly been enforced.

"They were weak agreements," Gibson said. "They're on the books, but that's about all."

Richardson said the agreement with his operation will be different.

"Ours is going to work," he said. "We're going to over-deliver."

Kelly Alexander, executive director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County NAACP, said talks leading to the agreement have been under way since 1991, when

Richardson Sports was first introduced to Fair Share.

"Fair Share is civil rights with its face toward the future," Alexander said. "Working with the business community, the NAACP can and will help to deliver material advancement to our constituency in the here and now."

He discounted the idea that the agreement was the result of troubles surrounding Denny's restaurants. Recent federal lawsuits alleged that Denny's indulged in practices that discriminate against blacks. Those allegations included turning away black customers, serving them more slowly than white customers or sometimes requesting payment in advance.

"The Fair Share program is 14 years old, and this is a natural extension of what we have been doing for the last 14 years in economic and community development," Alexander said.

"This is a process, not a response."

Money Coughed Up — Literally

HONOLULU (AP) — A 33-year-old woman literally "coughed up" the evidence when a police officer tried to save her life with a Heimlich Maneuver.

Investigators said the woman was taken into custody after a Waikiki man accused her of taking \$235 from his apartment. While at

The Queen's Medical Center for treatment of injuries suffered in the dispute, the woman began choking and an officer squeezed her body to clear her windpipe.

Out popped the \$235. "And," one detective said, "I'll bet some lawyer is going to say it was an illegal search."

"Laurel Avenue" to Debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — To direct a realistic miniseries about an African-American family, it helps to have the right script and actors and to be an accomplished filmmaker.

It also helps if you're a father. "Being a father is part of it," said Carl Franklin, who directed the two-part HBO production of "Laurel Avenue," the story of an extended working class family in Minneapolis-St. Paul. "Directing is a very paternal-maternal process."

Having two teen-age children affected the way he visualized the younger characters, Franklin said, and also made him a better director.

"There was a time when I would have insisted everything conform to what was in my mind at the beginning," he said of his evolution as a director, following a long acting career. "Directing, like fatherhood, is taking the best of things and allowing them to run and grow."

"Laurel Avenue," a slice-of-life story that takes place during one weekend, premieres July 10-11 on HBO. It stars Mary Alice, Juanita Jennings, Rhonda Stubbins, Vonte Sweet and Mel Winkler.

Franklin cast his son, Marcus, 17, and daughter, Caira, 15, in small roles after auditioning them. Marcus plays a young man named Lamar, and Caira is a cheerleader at a basketball game.

"I decided that the premise of the film is that family love leads to survival," he said. "Then, you can set up your opposition — drugs, sibling rivalry, adolescent rebelliousness, sexuality, responsibility vs. desire, expecting love vs. wanting respect."

"Little things that go on in our own personal lives that are not necessarily headline news are still big to us, and that, I think, is the vein that we're trying to tap into," Franklin said.

"It deals with such a broad spectrum of conditions within one family. Most of the time, in depicting a black family, we generally see them either depicted in a very stark urban environment where conditions are abjectly horrible ... or it's the Cosby show, everything's very pristine. We're hoping to tap into something that has not been mined yet, and that is the universal values of black life."