

Army, NAACP Task Forces Meet to Discuss Racism Issue

CHARLOTTE (AP)

Army and NAACP representatives reached some common ground when they met privately Friday to discuss their separate investigations into the racial climate at Fort Bragg, the NAACP said.

One area in which they did not agree was a request by the NAACP task force to gain access to Fort Bragg, which is North Carolina's largest military installation.

"We got no promises," said Kelly Alexander Jr., president of the state NAACP and a member of the task force that investigated the issue. "On some points we agreed to disagree."

Still, the 2 1/2-hour meeting at a Charlotte hotel was helpful, Alexander said.

"From my perspective, today's meeting was extremely successful," he said. "Someone once said a journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step."

The NAACP next week will renew its request to visit the base, he said.

Last week, a task force from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People released an 18-page report that concluded that there were serious race-related problems at all of the state's military bases.

At the time, NAACP officials

said the only base where they were not given full access was at Fort Bragg. Army officials said they were conducting their own investigation.

Both investigations began after three Fort Bragg soldiers were charged with killing two black Fayetteville residents last December. Two of the soldiers were described by police as racist skinheads.

While the Army's probe has looked at the entire service branch, the NAACP has focused on North Carolina's military bases. The results of the Army investigation are due sometime this month.

None of the Army's task force members attended Fri-

day's news conference by the NAACP.

On Wednesday, Army Secretary Togo West Jr. confirmed that the task forces would meet. "The Army is interested in the NAACP's findings and will consider their views," he said.

The secretary's comments and the scheduled meeting followed a harsh assessment of military leaders at Fort Bragg by NAACP task force members.

"The NAACP is not on a military bashing expedition," Alexander said Friday. "Let's not let the military become somebody's playground for incubating racism."

Afro-Centrists Seek Control of \$2.4 Million Federal Grant

DENVER (AP)

A group of black northeast Denver residents is trying to gain control of a \$2.4 million federal grant for Park Hill elementary schools and establish "Afro-centric" schools for black children.

The group of about 40 people, affiliated with the Denver Million Man March Coalition Inc. Education Committee, took over a meeting of the Park Hill Mini-District management team Monday and demanded control of the money.

The group's leaders said black students will never learn under a white-designed curriculum. They said the schools must become "Afro-centric" and teach African culture and

history "on a daily basis."

"Literacy will not be a priority where our children are concerned," group leader Yusef Dakari told the mixed-race management team meeting at Hallett Elementary School.

"When they learn to love themselves and their culture, they will be eager to read and write."

During the confrontation, Dakari said black children lack identity because they were stripped of their culture and their language beginning in the 16th century, when slave traders abducted them from the west coast of Africa.

"You can be with us or against us," Dakari said, looking directly at the black principals. "There ain't no in-

between. There's no straddling the fence."

Management team members, including other black parents and four black principals, appeared stunned by the intensity of the onslaught.

Dakari was joined by Tonya Lemmons. "The management team as you know it is no more. We are the management team," she said. "We are not asking you to step back. You will step back, in one way or another."

The U.S. Department of Education gave the mini-district the money last fall to develop a cluster of seven integrated magnet or theme elementary schools to boost parental involvement and achievement among minority

children.

The two sides will meet again Monday at Hallett.

Denver School Board President Aaron Gray on Tuesday declined comment until he had more information. Superintendent Irv Moskowitz didn't return phone calls by The Denver Post.

Project Exodus: Now, it's Black Flight in Districts

WACO, TEXAS (AP)

When Lester and Coque Gibson's son failed the state's basic skills test eight years ago, they were dismayed. Last year, when their 16-year-old daughter failed, they were appalled.

The middle-class black couple had always hoped their children would defy the odds and grasp the American dream. But education is the key.

So Gibson demanded an accounting of the school district's test scores. And when he spread the numbers across his desk, he was shocked: Seventy-five percent of the black students and 66 percent of the Hispanic students failed the test in 1995, compared to only 37 percent of the white students.

The school district blames poverty and poor parenting for the failure rates.

Gibson blames institutional racism - teachers, he says, have low expectations of minority children.

"If we're going to get blamed for the education of our kids," Gibson says, "then we may as well take control of their educational destiny and take a shot at it."

And thus began Project Exodus, a movement aimed at breaking away from the Waco Independent School District and forming a new one.

In many ways, the Gibsons are just like other frustrated parents across the country who want

to pull their children out of public schools. But this time, it's not white flight that's breaking up a school district - and, this time, it's not whites being accused of segregation.

In Waco and in other pockets around the country, especially inner cities, black parents are rebelling against a system they say has fostered only failure.

They are taking their kids out of public schools and putting them in church schools and private black academies, which have doubled in number to about 400 over the past 12 years, according to the Institute for Independent Education in Washington, D.C.

In Milwaukee, the inner city's poorest families are using state-funded vouchers to send their children to the schools of their choice.

"It's a reaction to the needless ignoring of the African-American talents," said Joan Davis Ratteray, the institute's president. "Integration for black people has been almost a cruel hoax."

For 25 years, Waco school buses have rumbled across the Brazos River, carrying mostly black children from the east side to the desegregated schools in the mostly white neighborhoods on the west side. Civil rights leaders nationwide fought for this - an end to segregated schools that were separate, but not equal. Integration was supposed to be good for their children, improve their educations and create a better

society.

But now, some believe desegregation has done more harm than good.

And they want their kids back.

On a tour through the ramshackle neighborhoods on the river's west side, Gibson points out the abandoned schools and the storefronts that were boarded up after the children were bused away.

"It was systematic - divide and conquer," said Gibson, a big man with a deep, gravelly voice. He looks out the car window at a barren field that used to be an elementary school. And what happens to the children in their new schools?

Gibson cites his son's experience. Like many other black children, he says, his son was being "tracked" in remedial math classes and was never exposed to the algebra he needed to pass the state test. He rarely had homework. Gibson, the county's sole black commissioner, says that although he can afford to send his two remaining school-age daughters to private schools, he can't turn his back on the families who can't.

So instead of giving up on the public school system altogether, he is proposing to secede from the mother district and form a new one - a district where mostly black children would go to neighborhood schools, where board members would be mostly minorities.

Classified Deadline is Monday at

5:30.

For more information contact the Chronicle at 722-8624.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO HOMEOWNERS!

THROUGH APPROVED LENDERS THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNDER TITLE 1 OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING ACT, HAVE MADE AVAILABLE MONIES FOR MILLIONS OF FAMILIES TO MAKE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR HOME. WITHOUT WHOSE HELP IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU'VE OWNED YOUR HOUSE, ETHNIC BACKGROUND, LOCATION, CONDITION, INCOME, AGE AND MARITAL STATUS.

It is the purpose of this program to encourage energy conservation and neighborhood preservation.

ALL TYPES OF HOME IMPROVEMENT:
SIDING, REPLACEMENT WINDOWS, KITCHENS, BATHROOMS, ROOM ADDITIONS, DECKS, REMODELING KITCHENS, ROOFING, SPECIALIZE IN HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING, ELECTRICAL WORK, GARAGES.

Forsyth Mechanical & Construction Co.
2100 Sunnyside Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

Name _____
Phone _____
City _____ State/Zip _____
Type of work needed: _____

CALL US NOW!
748-0994

FMCC is not endorsed or affiliated with HUD or FHA. FMCC is an approved vendor contractor.

FREE CONSULTATION

BIG IDEAS

Get **INSIDE OUT**, the little book with **INSIDE TIPS** for your Afrocentric health and beauty. And check out these **CASH** coupons on the very best brands.

50¢ MANUFACTURER'S COUPON

MoistureMax
Oil Moisturizing Hair Lotion
8 oz. size
\$2.99 LESS 50¢ COUPON YOU PAY CASHIER
***2.49**
WITH COUPON

INSIDE OUT: KMART: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Allegheny Pharmacy will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value: 1/20¢. Pricing may vary by store location. Allegheny Pharmacy #034 Expires 4/13/96.

1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON

Dark & Lovely
No-Lye Creme Relaxer System
Regular or Plus
\$4.99 LESS 1.00 COUPON YOU PAY CASHIER
***3.99**
WITH COUPON

INSIDE OUT: KMART: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Canon Products will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value: 1/20¢. Pricing may vary by store location. Canon Products #026 Expires 4/13/96.

50¢ MANUFACTURER'S COUPON

Blue Velvet
Hair & Scalp Conditioner
12.5 oz. sizes
\$1.49 LESS 50¢ COUPON YOU PAY CASHIER
***99¢**
WITH COUPON

INSIDE OUT: KMART: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Ivaax Corp. will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value: 1/20¢. Pricing may vary by store location. Ivaax Corp. #048 Expires 4/13/96.

1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON

Beautiful Beginnings
No-Lye Children's Relaxer
\$4.49 LESS 1.00 COUPON YOU PAY CASHIER
***3.49**
WITH COUPON

INSIDE OUT: KMART: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Canon Products will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value: 1/20¢. Pricing may vary by store location. Canon Products #028 Expires 4/13/96.

75¢ MANUFACTURER'S COUPON

Sta-Sof-Fro
Oil Sheen & Comb Out Hair Spray
8 oz. size
\$2.39 LESS 75¢ COUPON YOU PAY CASHIER
***1.64**
WITH COUPON

INSIDE OUT: KMART: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Ivaax Corp. will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value: 1/20¢. Pricing may vary by store location. Ivaax Corp. #050 Expires 4/13/96.

1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON

Dark & Natural
Texture Enhancer Kits
\$4.27 LESS 1.00 COUPON YOU PAY CASHIER
***3.27**
WITH COUPON

INSIDE OUT: KMART: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Canon Products will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value: 1/20¢. Pricing may vary by store location. Canon Products #030 Expires 4/13/96.

Today's mart

Everything we do is built around you.

Foster Care & Adoption

Giving A Child A Home And A Future

The Forsyth County Children's Services Department is seeking single adults and couples who are willing to foster and/or adopt children currently in protective custody.

Children in foster care deserve the opportunity to live in stable, loving and secure environments.

Won't you Open Your Door And Give A Child A Future?

Intensive training, support, guidance and reimbursement are provided.

Children's Services
177-2023 Home Care 727-2446

Open Your Door and Give A Child a Future

Contact Children's Services Monday through Friday, 8-5 at
727-2023 (Adoptions); 727-2446 (Foster Home Services).