

Sumter To Appeal Judge's Fine

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The case, Fox said in his order, "was the most extensive, and quite probably costly, litigation this district has ever seen." Fox's 482-page order imposing the sanctions was unprecedented in the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Peter Loewenberg, now an assistant U.S. attorney in Tampa, Fla., said he and other Army lawyers had wanted sanctions imposed as a lesson to those who would file frivolous suits in the hope that a defendant would settle out of court.

"We felt that if people were shown this could happen if you bring frivolous claims, it would not deter people who have good claims, but it would deter those people who want to misuse the system to advance themselves," Loewenberg said.

Loewenberg said that Chambers "may be the most notable black lawyer in the country. He is obviously a very well-known person and a good lawyer. To fine him, from our perspective, is very significant."

Efforts to reach Chambers for comment were unsuccessful.

The case began with two lawsuits filed in 1980 and 1981 in U.S. District Court by six black civilian employees. The workers attacked almost every aspect of Fort Bragg's merit promotion system, alleging that blacks had been passed over for promotions and had been discriminated against in training, job evaluations and discipline. They also claimed that blacks had suffered harassment and retaliation for complaining.

The workers' lawyers asked the judge to certify the suits were a class action, which would have allowed hundreds of other plaintiffs into the case. Fox,

Flag Dispute

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it is a legislative matter," said Abbott. "If the Legislature tells him to take it down, he'll be out there tomorrow taking it down."

Hunt has said previously he felt most Alabamians viewed the flag as part of the state's heritage and did not want it moved.

In 1976, former Gov. George C. Wallace ordered the U.S. flag moved to the top spot on the staff atop the Capitol dome, above the state flag and the Confederate flag. His action came after a black lawmaker filed a suit in 1975 contending the Confederate flag should be removed from atop the staff. The suit later was dismissed by a federal judge.

however, denied class certification in 1983, but allowed 44 additional black workers to join the suit.

In a 1984 trial, Fox heard the claims of six of the plaintiffs after the others, including some who had reached a \$75,000 settlement with the Army, had withdrawn. Eventually, all but one plaintiff dropped claims, and the plaintiffs returned the \$75,000 to the Army after the Army had agreed not to pursue sanctions against all but two of them.

In his order, Fox said allegations of racism by the two plaintiffs -- Sandra Blue, a former dental assistant, and Beulah Mae Harris, a former personnel clerk -- were groundless. He said they had changed their testimony,

had accused superiors of conspiracies that did not exist, had produced no statistical evidence of discrimination and had alleged that whites with inferior qualifications had received promotions without knowing anything about those who had been promoted.

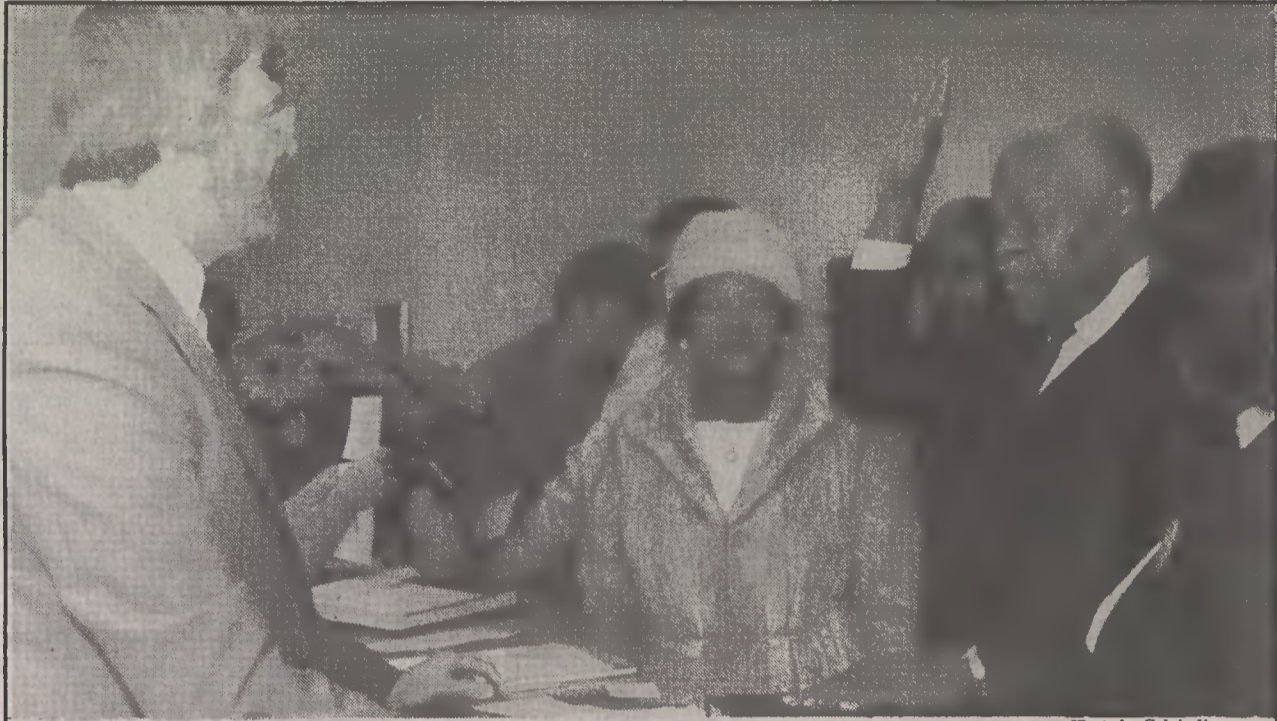
"It is with great reluctance that the court finds it must hold that to the extent any racism was proven in this case, such discrimination was generally perpetrated by the plaintiffs upon the defendant, not the reverse, for it was the plaintiffs who consistently saw every criticism and action in a blindly racial context," Fox wrote.

The lawyers, Fox said, should have known through research and information provided by the

Army that the claims were frivolous. "If this had been done to any professional degree, it is inconceivable that many of plaintiffs' claims would have been filed and clearly none would have been maintained after the close of discovery," he said.

Fox said the plaintiffs obviously had hoped the Army would "surrender" rather than fight the case in court.

"When the defendant refused to bow down and fought back, plaintiffs went to trial, glaringly unprepared and without a case, apparently hoping to teach the defendant a lesson and force a favorable settlement," Fox wrote. "Neither occurred. A better case for an award of attorney's fees against counsel could not be made."



Cedric Jones takes the oath as he files to run for County Commission at-large. His wife, Clara, looks on. Jones faces a tough challenge since no

blacks have won an at-large seat on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Commission before.

Racist Leader Gets New ID

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Manning would not say whether Miller's willingness to help authorities meant that he had abandoned his white supremacist philosophy.

Miller testified at a hearing Dec. 2 that he had "changed my views on a lot of things" since he mailed his "race war" declaration and was arrested in April in

Springfield, Mo.

Miller, a former Green Beret, gained national prominence in racist circles after forming the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in 1980. Over the years the group dropped its Klan trappings, took on a more militaristic appearance and became known as the White Patriot Party. In its heyday, the group had an estimated 1,500 members.

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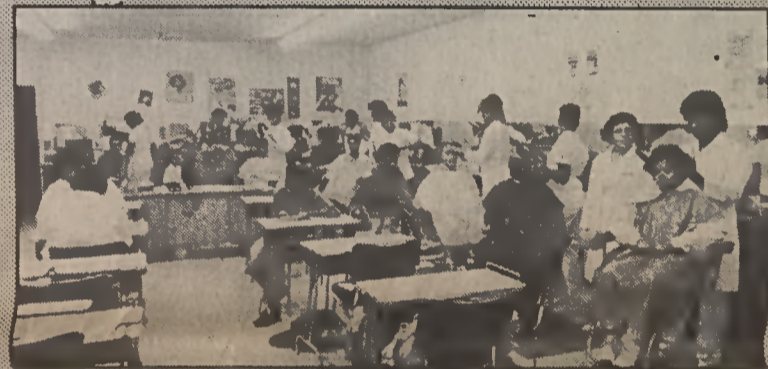
blood and nerve supply from the surrounding tissues that hold it in place. The tooth will have no sense of feeling because the nerve has been removed, but the tooth itself will be fine: it should last as long as your other teeth and could even be eventually used as an anchor tooth for a denture bridge.

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