

USC Chancellor Candidate Refuses to Accept Position

BY JENNY HEINZEN
STAFF WRITER

The prime candidate for the post of chancellor at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, who is black, chose to decline the position because of the treatment he said he received from an advisory board that voted not to endorse him.

"I have decided that recent action on the part of the Spartanburg Commission on Higher Education has created an environment of suspicion and controversy which would negatively impact my ability to do the job effectively," Charlie Nelms, who currently is chancellor at Indiana University East, said in a letter to USC system President John Palms.

Nelms turned down the job after the Spartanburg Commission on Higher Education, an independent group that only makes recommendations to the university, voted to deny him the position.

"I made a decision based on what I think is in the best interest of myself and my family," Nelms said.

S.C. Sen. John Russell, R-Spartanburg, said the choice of a new chancellor should have been a "command decision" by Palms, without input from outside organizations.

"The decision incensed the candidate so much that he withdrew," he said.

Russell said he thought the group's decision should have had no validity because when the commission was created, no provision had been made to allow for the committee to elect the chancellor.

"The board had no authority whatsoever in who would be chancellor," he said.

Russell said he did not think the fact that Nelms was black had affected the decision, but said he did believe Nelms's race was

related to the high salary Palms had offered Nelms. "President Palms went overboard in agreeing to meet the salary request of the candidate," he said.

The former USC chancellor made about \$92,000 per year, but the salary offered to Nelms was approximately \$120,000, Russell said.

In a letter to the university's Board of Trustees, Palms said he thought the education commission had overstepped its duty as an advisory board.

"The commission changed its consultative capacity into that of arbiter of the university's final choices," he said. "It clearly gave Dr. Nelms the impression that he was not welcome."

Nelms said that even if the commission was removed from the decision, he would not consider the position again.

"I've made my decision and I'm moving on with my life and I think they ought to move on with their institution," he said.

The UNC system conducts its chancellor elections differently than the USC system, said Joni Worthington, assistant vice president for communications for the UNC system.

Worthington said chancellor selection was a process involving the Board of Trustees, the president of the system and the Board of Governors.

She said the BOT appointed a search committee consisting of trustees, faculty, alumni and students who would seek out potential candidates and make recommendations to the BOT, who then would forward the names of at least two nominees to the president of the system.

The president would then select one candidate to send before the Board of Governors, who makes the final decision.

North Carolinians Tell Stories of Life in Haiti

BY ALIA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM—After completing a peace mission to Haiti in October, Ray Eurquhart and Tom Hammond, members of Witness for Peace, reported on the state of affairs in the troubled Caribbean nation at the group's meeting Thursday night at the Immaculate Conception Church.

"Now there is no safe place in Haiti," Eurquhart said.

"Being American won't save you from the military or the police."

Witness For Peace is a nondenominational Christian organization that sponsors delegations to Latin America to provide Christian fellowship, education and assistance to those in need.

Addressing a crowd of about 30, Eurquhart began his presentation with a slide show featuring peasant life in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital. He explained the hardships of Haitian life by focusing on workers' difficulties.

"It was amazing for me to see these

people digging ditches with no picks, no hard hats, ... women carrying buckets of water long distances everyday," he said.

Eurquhart added since the military had taken control of Haiti, citizens' lives had become even more oppressed. He cited the system of tax collection in Haiti as one example.

"The taxation system in Haiti is very unfair," he said. "All of a sudden one day, the military will come by and say, 'This is what you owe.' If you can't pay it, then they confiscate your property or land. It's not like here, where you have plenty of notice."

Eurquhart said the military also was destroying Haiti's forests as a means of trying to prevent "peasant insurrection."

Much of the Haitian population relies on selling lumber as a source of income.

Lack of roadways in much of the country and insufficient funding for Haitian universities also are major problems, Eurquhart said.

"The university system in Haiti is extremely underfunded and disorganized,"

"People just go around shooting each other in the middle of the day."

RAY EURQUHART
Witness for Peace member

he said. "There are no books, just sometimes mimeographed copies of chapters here and there."

Furthermore, the lack of literacy in the country is very disturbing, he said.

Eighty to 90 percent of the public is illiterate.

Eurquhart also mentioned the growing military violence in Haiti's major cities, especially in Port-au-Prince.

"The military loves to beat people on the rectum," he said. "A taxi driver was beaten so badly he had to have reconstructive surgery."

"There have been over 300 killings in Port-au-Prince since Aristide fled. People

just go around shooting each other in the middle of the day."

As a result of the injustices many Haitians face, some workers have formed the MPP, a peasants' movement trying to work toward Haitian reform and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Eurquhart said.

Because of the military government now in power, members of the MPP often are arrested or beaten, Eurquhart said.

Witness for Peace and other humanitarian organizations backed by the United Nations provide refuge for MPP members at hospices throughout the country.

"(The hospice) is there for people who need to recover from military brutality and provides space for people who need to recuperate and hide," Eurquhart said.

He also said he believed the Haitian military was afraid of peasant gatherings, which in turn could prompt an uprising.

Eurquhart said the military tried to control the peasant movement by importing rice, so the small farmers weren't able to sell their agricultural products.

Clinton, Perot Trade Barbs in Controversy Over NAFTA

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
LEXINGTON, Ky. — President

Clinton told fellow Democrats Thursday not to be spooked into voting against free trade with Mexico by this week's Republican election victories.

He also traded barbs with former U.S. presidential candidate Ross Perot, who called the trade pact "stupid."

Intensifying his uphill struggle for votes, Clinton dismissed arguments from the Texas businessman — and some Democratic and labor leaders — that a trade agreement with Mexico would cost many American jobs.

"That one fellow talks about the giant sucking sound," Clinton said, referring to Perot's charges that American plants would rush to Mexico because of cheaper labor and less stringent environmental rules.

"I know a little about this — I was the governor of a state that lost plants to Mexico," Clinton said.

"I used to go stand at plants on the last day they were open and shake hands with people when they walked off the job for the last time."

"I want you to understand this very clearly from somebody who's lived through this: This agreement will make that less likely, not more likely," Clinton said.

While Clinton traveled to Kentucky to campaign for the North American Free Trade Agreement, Perot pushed for its defeat on Capitol Hill.

Congress will vote to approve or defeat NAFTA on Nov. 14.

Perot praised opponents for their political courage — although most analysts believe it might well be more of a risk to

support the pact.

He said the agreement was "dead on arrival" among ordinary citizens.

"If this is such a good deal, why doesn't everybody get excited about it?" he demanded.

He called it "another stupid trade agreement rammed through by special interests."

Clinton flew to Kentucky to appear at a Lexmark plant that makes computer equipment that is subject to a 20-percent tariff in Mexico.

The trade agreement would eliminate the tariff.

With the House set to vote Nov. 17, the White House acknowledged it still lacked enough support but said things were picking up as a result of new deals with Mexico to protect politically sensitive American industries.

NAFTA supporters estimated that an agreement with Mexico on sugar would bring Clinton 10 to 12 votes.

On the other side of the battle, Rep. Terry Everett, R-Ala., said there were 53 solid Republican votes against NAFTA in the House.

Appearing at a news conference with Perot, Everett and other NAFTA opponents said there were 213 House members against the agreement — just five short of the number needed to kill it.

Some analysts believe the Republican sweep in Tuesday's elections in New York, New Jersey and Virginia will make fence-sitting Democrats even more nervous about casting risky votes, such as for the trade agreement.

"That's ludicrous, that's just a Wash-

ington story," Clinton said. "That's ridiculous."

However, the fears were real enough that the White House sent Clinton's own pollster, Stanley Greenberg, to Capitol Hill to reassure Democrats they wouldn't be ousted by voters for supporting the trade agreement.

Clinton said he was proud of the showings of New York Mayor David Dinkins and N.J. Gov. Jim Florio, even though they lost narrowly to Republican challengers.

"They came back from the dead. Everybody wrote them off," Clinton said. "Besides that, NAFTA wasn't an issue in any of those races."

He said the best course for American lawmakers "is doing the right thing for America."

"The real evidence is that if people think you're for change, you get elected, and if they think you're for the status quo that's not working, you're (in trouble)," Clinton said.

"And the proper change this time is to support NAFTA."

Asked by reporters about Perot's prediction that NAFTA would fail, Clinton said, "He's certainly done everything he could to cloud the atmosphere. ... The vice president has challenged him to a debate on Larry King. Let's see if he takes it."

In his remarks, Clinton said the United States had trade problems with some countries but not with Mexico.

Mexico this year will buy \$5.5 billion more in American goods than it will sell in the United States.

Clinton acknowledged that America would take some job losses because of the trade agreement.

On the other hand, he said, "Some people will be dislocated if we do nothing. Every year, Americans lose their jobs."

He said all displaced workers would have access to job training programs. Clinton also said a North American Development Bank would concentrate its resources in areas with substantial job losses to try to start new job enterprises.

He said a third program would offer special investment incentives targeted to areas where jobs had been lost.

ECONOMY

FROM PAGE 3

dramatically over the last decade — by 62 percent.

At the same time, the number of people commuting to work outside the county increased 47 percent.

According to the report, only 2 percent of the Triangle population uses the bus.

Future growth was a key issue discussed at the meeting. Lee, who is a chairman of the Economic Development Strategic Planning Committee, said jobs and growth were questions the county still was struggling with.

"We know we're great, and we know we have what it takes to attract business, but we also must be responsible," Lee said. "We need to build consensus."

Lindsay Efland, chairman of the commission, said the commission did not support large-scale development.

"We understand that economic development means different things to different people," he said.

Efland said the commission recommended attracting businesses that were nonpolluting, used little treated water and didn't produce hazardous waste or large amounts of regular waste.

Abernathy said that would include high-tech industries, office and administrative businesses and other professionals.

"It includes a wide range really," he said.

"We're not going to recruit anyone who's going to pollute our environment or who's going to pay lower wages than they should."

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