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Black Marines Angry About Racism Looked For White Man To Kill

CAMP LEJEUNE (AP) — Six Black Marines looked for a white man to kill because they were angry about racism, one of the Marines testified.

Lance Cpl. Terence D. McDonald was sentenced Monday to 28 years in prison for his part in the slaying of Lance Cpl. Rodney L. Page, 22, of Oswego, N.Y. Page was shot in the chest with a shotgun on March 17 outside of two bars near Jacksonville.

McDonald, 23, of Freeport, N.Y., pleaded guilty in December. He faced up to life in prison, but the military judge, Lt. Col. David A. Anderson, agreed to the lower sentence as part of plea bargain that includes McDonald's agreement to testify against the other defendants.

He was also given a dishonorable discharge, reduced in rank to private and ordered to forfeit all pay, the Morning Star of Wilmington reported.

McDonald testified Monday (February 1) that the six Marines drank a case of beer and quart of gin in a barracks before the slaying.

He said the group got into heated discussion about racial injustices against blacks, leading another defendant, Lance Cpl. Kenneth G. Parker, to tell the group "We are going to get us a white boy tonight." He also testified that the victim begged for his life, and that when the six defendants got together later, Parker was elated and trying to hug the others.

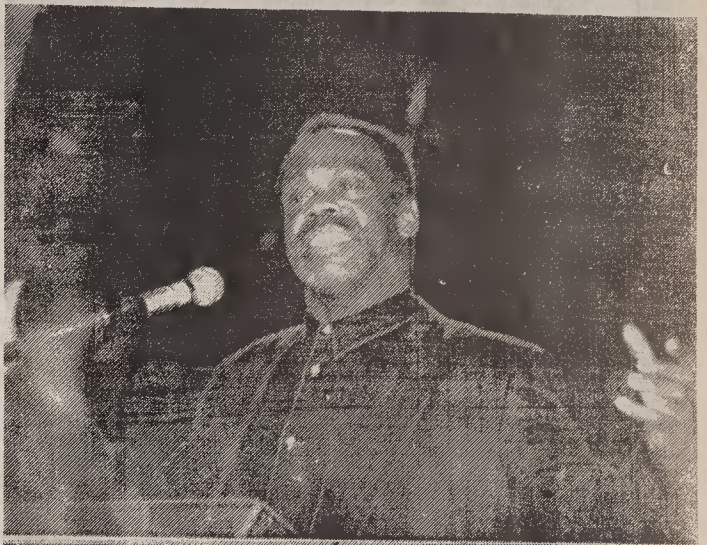
"When we got back to the barracks, Parker was still bragging about killing the white guy," McDonald said.

Among the five prosecution witnesses was Melissa R. Page, the victim's widow, who was four months pregnant at the time of her husband's murder.

A second of the six defendants, Lance Cpl. Frederick Brown, also pleaded guilty in the slaying and is scheduled to be sentenced later this month.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Adams and Parker are awaiting trial, as are Lance Cpl.s. Wade L. Walker and Michael L. Curry.

All six Marines were charged with murder, conspiracy, kidnapping, robbery and possessing an unregistered firearm on the base.



Actor Danny Glover,

above, came to NCCU to

perform recently. In top

photo Glover delivers

Langston Hughes poetry.

He was accompanied by

Felix Justice, right, who

performed with Glover.

(Photos by Trent)



State Facing Some Lean Budget Years, Belt Tightening Necessary

By Dennis Patterson
RALEIGH (AP) — A \$1.2 billion budget shortfall two years ago caught legislators that they must consider the effects of their financial decisions well into the future, David Diamond says.

"Nobody wants to go through that pain," Diamond, D-Surry, said Tuesday. "We did just about everything we could — raised taxes, cut services, all those things that politicians don't like to do."

"... One thing we learned from 1991 was to look down the road, past the next election, which is something different from what we've done," he said during a briefing for House members on the state's fiscal outlook.

Analysts told lawmakers that the state should have enough money to pay its bills through 1998, but there will be little left over for salary increases, education improvements or

other new spending.

David Crotts, the Legislature's senior fiscal analyst, said the state through the next five years will have only enough extra money "for one-fifth or one-sixth the spending demand from the '70s and '80s." In 1994-95, for instance, the state should have just over \$100 million left after it pays for continuing state programs, Medicaid increases, premium increases to the employee health plan, required increases in prison spending and the expected increase in public school students.

But there will be nearly \$600 million in demands for increased spending on higher salaries, education improvements, infant mortality programs and other projects, based on spending requests over the past 20 years, Crotts said.

A 1 percent increase in the state payroll alone costs about \$58 million.

Crotts' projections are based on the state taking no action — either through spending cuts or tax increases — during the next five years. While leaders of the House and Senate have said tax increases are unlikely this year, spending cuts are likely.

House members will soon be given a briefing on a year-long audit that includes more than 400 recommendations for streamlining government. The recommendations total about \$275 million in savings to the state for the first year.

Both House Speaker Dan Blue, D-Wake, and Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, have said that some of those audit recommendations must be implemented this year if the state is to have any new money to spend on early childhood programs and other projects promoted by Gov. Jim Hunt.

Arkansas State Senators Want Jerry Jewell Out, But Not By Force

By James Jefferson
LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Sen. Jerry Jewell, who stirred statewide outrage by freeing a convicted murderer, remains in the state Senate's top post — but not because his colleagues want him to stay.

Jewell is still Senate president partly because some senators fear the ramifications of kicking out the first black to hold the post since Reconstruction.

Such a move, some said, could be devastating to the image of a state brimming with pride and great expectations from having sent its native son to Washington to be president.

"A great many members, perhaps a majority, love the state so much that they don't want to subject it to the image erosion, nationally and internationally, that would result from the forced removal of Sen. Jewell," said Sen. Travis Miles, R-Fort Smith.

"Were it not for that, I believe Sen. Jewell already would have been removed." Others were less concerned about the national image problem than about the internal strife that might result in a state where race remains a strong social and political undercurrent more than 30 years after the Little Rock school desegregation crisis.

Sen. James Scott, D-Warren,

raised the specter of demonstrations, street riots or even bloodshed if the Senate fired Jewell.

"We fear a backlash that may cause some unnecessary harm to the general public," Scott said. "We don't know (what would happen)."

That's why there's no consensus. In a poll of senators conducted Thursday and Friday (Jan. 28-29) by the Associated Press, 11 senators said Jewell should resign as Senate president. Fifteen said he should not and nine refused comment or said they were undecided.

Most senators dutifully noted that Jewell acted within the framework of the state constitution, and that the chamber has had no specific provision for removing a colleague for taking a legal act.

But privately, many of those who said in the survey that Jewell should stay also said they would go against him if his fate as Senate president were put to a vote.

None of them would say they supported Jewell's actions, and few acknowledged receiving comments from constituents supportive of the Democratic senator from Little Rock. Most said they doubted he seriously deliberated before taking action, and some were miffed that he gave no assurances that he would not take similar drastic action the next time he becomes ac-

ting governor.

"He's not given me any personal assurances, but I can assure him that if he does it again, I would certainly vote to remove him," said Sen. Jay Bradford, D-Pine Bluff.

Jewell, a veteran civil rights activist and the son of former eastern Arkansas sharecroppers, became the state's first black senator since Reconstruction following his election in 1972. Twenty years after taking office, his colleagues unanimously elected him the state's first black Senate president pro tem.

His rise to power was a source of pride for blacks across the state.

Then, barely two weeks into his tenure, Jewell became the state's first black acting governor. It occurred during the Legislature's week-long recess — Jewell co-sponsored the resolution authorizing the recess — for Bill Clinton's presidential inauguration. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker went to Washington for the festivities.

During his three-day stint as governor, Jewell granted executive clemency to Bill Ray Davis, who was serving a life sentence for murder, and to Tommy McIntosh, who was serving a 30-year sentence for dealing cocaine. He also pardoned two prison parolees.

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Black Arkansas Lawmaker Says He May Quit Over Pardon Issue

By Dennis A. Byrd
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — A black lawmaker, upset over swift action on legislation to limit the clemency powers of governors, told a committee he was considering resigning.

Rep. Jimmie Wilson, D-Lexa, told the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday, January 28, that he was considering giving up his seat in the Legislature if they recommended approval of an administration bill requiring 30 days' public notice of a governor's intent to commute a prison sentence or pardon a felon.

Wilson, one of four blacks on the committee, said putting the legislation on the fast track made it a racial issue.

Last week, the state's first black Senate president, Jerry Jewell, D-Little Rock, granted executive clemency as acting governor to two felons and pardoned two others who already had been released from prison.

This week, Gov. Jim Guy Tucker offered the bill that Wilson said was moving too quickly. It was

submitted Tuesday, approved by both a Senate committee and the full Senate on Wednesday, and by the House Judiciary panel on Thursday.

The House was expected to take up the measure Thursday after it got a recommendation from the Judiciary Committee despite opposition from Wilson and others.

"I guarantee you that if Jim Guy Tucker had made the same pardons, we wouldn't have this legislation," Wilson told the committee.

"He (Tucker) has pardoned people, the president has pardoned people, others have pardoned people," he said. "I wouldn't have pardoned any of the people they pardoned because I have a different perspective on life." Wilson said the committee's refusal to postpone action on the bill for 30 days showed that black people have no respect among lawmakers.

"As of this moment I have no choice but to seriously consider resignation," Wilson said after the measure got 12 votes in the 20-member committee. "I don't know how we can function in a body that for whatever reasons shows a dis-

respect for our concerns as members.

"It makes it difficult to be a lawmaker when you are excluded from ever getting your turn at bat or even getting a chance to have the ball," Wilson said.

The lawmaker said he would meet Saturday with his supporters in Helena and with members of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People before making a final decision on resigning. Wilson is president of his local NAACP chapter.

"This isn't about Jerry Jewell... It's about the question of respect. And if I don't have the respect of my colleagues, I'm nothing," Wilson said. "If that had been a similar situation, I assure you if my colleagues had asked me to defer action, I would have deferred it." Wilson said that, if he decided to keep his seat and run again, he would have no problems getting re-elected. But, he said lawmakers who supported the bill who live in districts with a large number of

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