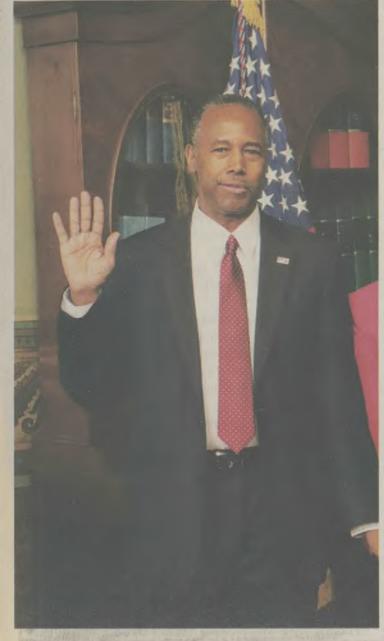
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SEC. BEN CARSON

UNC civil rights law center told to stop taking new cases by Republicans

Ben Carson compares slavery to immigration to America

By Jesse J. Holland

WASHINGTON (AP) - Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson on Monday, March 6, compared slavery to immigration in the United States, a view that experts on slavery called a misleading read on American history.

Carson, who was confirmed as HUD secretary last week and is the only black member of President Donald Trump's Cabinet, was talking about the work ethic and dreams of immigrants who came to the United States through Ellis Island in his first speech at the department.

"There were other immigrants who came here on the bottom of slave ships, worked even longer, even harder for less," Carson said as he walked across a stage holding a microphone.

Carson later that night called slaves "involuntary immigrants" on a radio show. "Slaves came here as involuntary immigrants but they still had the strength to hold on," he said on Sirius XM's "The Armstrong Williams Show."

"That requires a tremendous amount of toughness and will power and hope and faith and they had that," he said. "Don't let anyone turn that into something bad."

A HUD spokesman declined to comment on Carson's statement in Monday, March 6. The department later tweeted: "This is the most cynical interpretation of the Secretary's remarks to an army of welcoming HUD employees. No one honestly believes he equates voluntary immigration with involuntary servitude!"

Carson has been considered a hero and motivational speaker in African-American communities for his accomplishments in medicine, and became a prominent speaker in conservative circles after entering politics.

The retired neurosurgeon has drawn criticism before when making comparisons to slavery. In 2013 he branded "Obamacare," the Affordable Care Act championed by President Barack Obama, "the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery."

Rana Hogarth, a history professor and expert on American slavery at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said comparing slaves with immigrants was "inappropriate and wildly inaccurate." She said immigration "suggests a desire of a person to make the journey."

"I think that he's either misinformed or made a mistake," Hogarth said. "His beginning on Ellis Island tells me there's a major gap in his knowledge of how we talk about different ways people settled the United States and what circumstances they settled in United States."

Rebecca Scott, a University of Michigan law and history professor, said slavery in the United States was a "dramatically distinct form of migration," and that slavery made realizing the American dream much more difficult for captured Africans.

"That people had aspirations for their children regardless of how they were brought to the United States was certainly true," Scott said. "Their capacity to see their aspirations realized was starkly limited by slavery."

Carson spoke to HUD employees as he began his first full week leading the department. The Senate confirmed him last week.

The agency, with a budget of about \$47 billion, provides housing assistance to low-income people through vouchers and public housing, enforces fair housing laws and provides development block grants to communities.

In his speech to a standing-room-only audience, Carson pledged to lead HUD with a "very big emphasis on fairness for everybody. Everything that we do, every policy. No favorites for anybody. No extras for anybody, but complete fairness for everybody."

He praised HUD employees for their dedication to HUD's "mission of really helping the downtrodden, helping the people in our society to be able to climb the ladder. Because to me, that really is what it's all about."

Democrats and housing advocates have expressed concern about his lack of government and housing policy experience. Carson said he plans to embark on a listening tour of communities and HUD field offices around the country to "see what works and what doesn't work."

Associated Press writer Jennifer C. Kerr contributed to this report.

What to do when pulled over: A

CHAPEL HILL (AP) - Attorneys at North Carolina's top law school who pursue lawsuits on behalf of poor and minority residents are being told to stop taking new cases while state officials decide whether the group's work should be stopped altogether.

Multiple media organizations report the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's law school will not take on any new cases. That's while the statewide public university system's governing board studies whether the law center should stop its free legal work.

The Center for Civil Rights has gone to court for residents of a predominantly black Brunswick County neighborhood who objected to a nearby county landfill; taken on school desegregation cases; and argued in the state Supreme Court on behalf of people involuntarily sterilized by the state.

Alabama city re-enacts march that sparked "Bloody Sunday"

Selma, Alabama, for the annual re-enactment of a key event in the civil rights movement

Sunday, March 5, marked the 52nd anniversary of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge over the Alabama River in Selma. On March 7, 1965, African-Americans seeking voting rights launched a march across the bridge en route to Montgomery but were attacked by police. That violent episode became known as "Bloody Sunday."

The march is credited with helping build momentum for passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965. Attendees included the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Congresswoman Terri Sewell, Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill and North Carolina NAACP President Dr. William Barber

WFSA-TV reports that a number of Selma church services kicked off Bridge Crossing Jubilee events including at the historic Brown Chapel where speakers remembered the battle for African American voting rights and the role the Chapel played in that fight.

Merrill's speech however upset some audience members. He told onlookers that the state has been working to create more opportunities for people to obtain photo identification and get registered to vote by going to various sites throughout the state.

"We want to make sure that every eligible U.S. citizen that is a resident of Alabama is registered to vote and has a photo ID so they can participate in the electoral process at they level that they want to participate," Merrill said.

Multiple spectators called out in opposition several times of having a photo ID including in the voting process. Many walked out of the church service while Merrill was still talking including NAACP president Barber, according to WFSA.

"Standing on this historic ground, where people died for voting rights, we cannot accept this hypocrisy of voter suppression," Barber said.

The service continued, despite the moments of tension, with Congresswoman Sewell calling for unity and activism and other leaders asking for respect and peace.

new chapter for driver's ed?

By Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH (AP) - Deadly encounters between police officers and motorists have lawmakers across the country thinking driver's education should require students to be taught what to do in a traffic stop.

A North Carolina bill would require instructors to describe "appropriate interactions with law enforcement officers." Illinois passed a similar law recently, and another awaits the Virginia governor's signature. Mississippi, New Jersey and Rhode Island also are considering them.

Many lawmakers want to make police interactions more transparent and improve community relations, in particular with people who feel unjustly targeted or mistreated because of their skin color.

Most don't pretend to legislate exactly how drivers should react, leaving the details to be worked out by state law enforcement or education and driver's license agencies. The 2017 "Rules of the Road" for Illinois, published in February, could provide a model, making detailed "suggestions" about proper driver behavior.

"The goal here is to reduce what could be a tense situation that can be very stressful on both sides," said Dave Druker, with the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, which oversees licensing 2.2 million new and veteran drivers annually.

The overall message? Use "a common-sense approach" and don't be confrontational, Druker said.

Robert Dawkins, state organizer of the police accountability group SAFE Coalition NC, said it could help young drivers control their emotions at traffic stops. But he said North Carolina needs companion legislation "so that police officers can understand to control their emotions" as well, and be trained that racial profiling is unlawful.

Dawkins said that even drivers who have been taught to show "all kinds of respect" could be vulnerable if an officer sees their hands move from the steering wheel: "I make a quick movement, that that quick movement can result in me losing my life," he said

Law enforcement officers worry about exactly the same situation: When motorists reach under their seats to get a driver's li-SELMA, Ala. (AP) - Throngs of people converged in the city of cense, officers have to consider whether they're reaching for a gun, said Eddie Caldwell, executive director of the North Carolina Sheriffs Association, whose organization has strongly endorsed the North Carolina legislation.

> The Illinois guidelines, now included in expanded form in driver licensing materials, encourage drivers to avoid this situation by keeping both hands clearly in sight on the steering wheel "until the officer instructs them otherwise."

> Virginia Democratic Del. Jeion Ward said her measure, which the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed and is now on Gov. Terry McAulliffe's desk, aims to make sure all young drivers are properly informed.

> "Heaven help us if they are getting information off of YouTube or the internet," Ward said. "We just have to make sure that our young drivers have the correct information so simple infractions will not become something more serious."

The Illinois guide focuses on driver responsibilities, while addressing officer behavior in several sentences at the end.

It says "a driver is to be treated with dignity and respect by law enforcement officers," and that drivers should report what they consider to be inappropriate conduct to the officer's superiors as soon as possible. It also notes that "officers are required to provide their names and badge numbers upon request."

The American Civil Liberties Union's online "know your rights if you're stopped in your car" guidelines include some identical suggestions, and adds several more: It says drivers should turn off the engine, turn on the internal lights and open the window partway before placing their hands on the wheel, presumably to reduce the need for any risky movements.

The ACLU also says drivers can refuse a search request, but that officers don't need consent if they believe the car contains evidence of a crime. And it notes that both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent. Passengers can ask if they're free to go; "If yes, silently leave," it says.

The proposed North Carolina curriculum would be developed in consultation with the sheriff's association, the state Highway Patrol and a group representing police chiefs. Civil liberties groups aren't listed in the bill.

Allen Robinson, chief executive officer of the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, which creates curricula in 35 states, said these mandates won't prevent all problems, but they should help teenagers avoid bad decisions.

"Anything that keeps the rancor and stupidness from going on inside of a car when there is a minor traffic violation, we're all for," Robinson said.

North Carolina's legislation is getting bipartisan support, with more than 35 House sponsors, black and white, from both parties

"It's just a public safety issue," said Republican state Rep. John Faircloth, the former High Point police chief. "I think all of us want to do anything we can to make the public safer out there, and to not put our officers in a situation where they might make the wrong decision."

Andre Peterson, 35, a black father of two daughters, said he thinks it can help young people know what's expected of them. 'Compliance is a big issue between police and the people-of-color community,'' Peterson said while attending a civil rights rally in Raleigh. "If you show respect, you'll get it back in return."