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Durham kicked off its celebration of 150 years with an opening ceremony at American Tobacco Complex. Here young dancers perform at opening ceremony April 13. See photos and story on page 6).

Words and consequences: A look at the Rep. Omar and Pres. Trump feud

By Laurie Kellman

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump isn't backing down from his tweets about Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, one of the first Muslim women to serve in Congress.

In fact, he spoke at an event in Omar's home state of Minnesota on April 15 amid a ferocious fight over her comments about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Omar, a Somali-American, says it's more than a rhetorical squabble, and that lives, including hers, are at stake. Trump says national security is at issue and Omar is "ungrateful."

A look at the latest rhetorical battle between the pair that's more broadly about race and whether leaders and their words should be blamed for violence.

THE AFTERSHOCKS

Omar says she's faced increased death threats since Trump spread around a video that purports to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks. "This is endangering lives," she said, accusing Trump of fomenting extremism. "It has to stop."

Her statement late April 14 followed an announcement by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she has taken steps to ensure the safety of the Minnesota Democrat. Pelosi also urged Trump to take down the video.

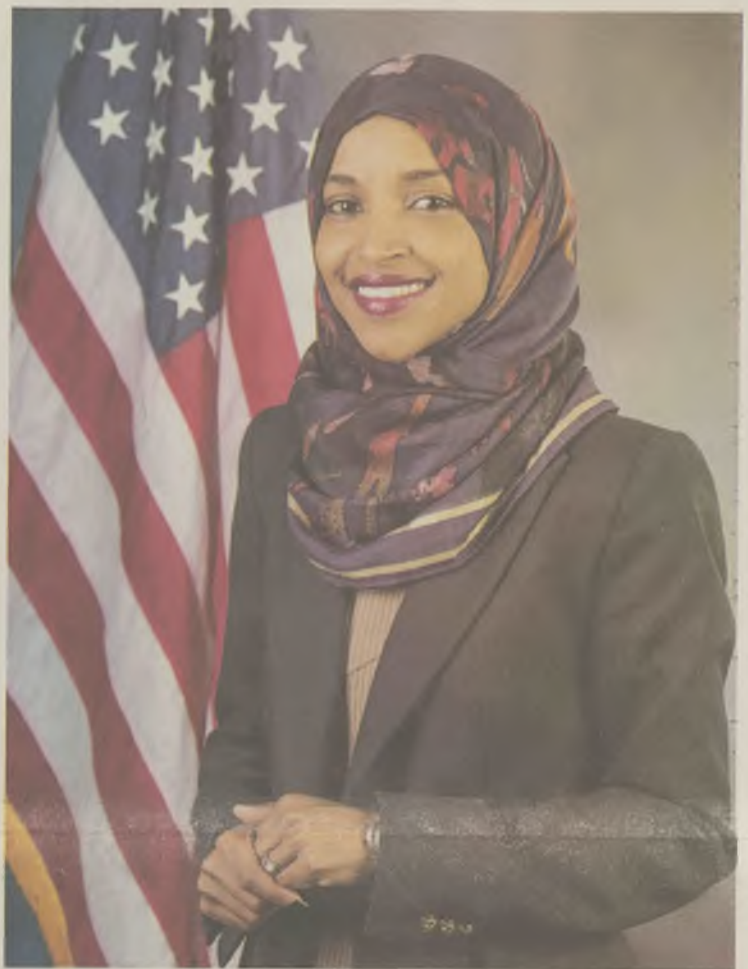
The video soon disappeared as a pinned tweet at the top of Trump's Twitter feed, but it was not deleted.

Trump further escalated his rhetoric Monday morning (April 15), tweeting that, "Before Nancy, who has lost all control of Congress and is getting nothing done, decides to defend her leader, Rep. Omar, she should look

at the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel and ungrateful U.S. HATE statements Omar has made."

Later April 15, Trump announced he was heading to "the Great State of Minnesota!"

(Continued On Page 3)



REP. ILHAN OMAR

Affirmative action initiative reaches Washington Legislature

By Tom James

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) - An initiative that would bring affirmative action back to Washington state arrived at the Legislature April 18, where supporters and critics alike invoked American ideals including opportunity and equality during a lengthy public hearing.

The initiative, I-1000, would allow the state to use hiring and recruitment goals - but not quotas - to bring minority candidates into state jobs, education, and contracting, loosening restrictions enacted in a separate 1998 initiative that banned government discrimination or preferential treatment based on factors like race or gender.

Along with race and gender or sex, the measure would allow consideration of disability, ethnicity, national origin, age, and honorably discharged veteran status, provided other qualifications were considered. Using any of the factors as the sole qualifying reason for an otherwise less-qualified applicant is defined as preferential treatment under the measure, and would be prohibited. A commission including the lieutenant governor and state attorney general would oversee implementation of the rules.

But that exposed deep divides, with advocates characterizing the under-representation of minorities in jobs and schools as the ripple effect of historic discrimination, even as opponents charged that explicit inclusion goals for individual groups would amount to an unfair exclusion of others.

"There's a myth that hard work is all you need to get ahead," said Ben Henry, head of APACE, an advocacy group for Asian Pacific islanders. "That fails to take into account the legacy of generations of institutional racism that has happened in this country and in this state."

Three former governors also spoke at the hearing, all supporting the measure: Dan Evans, Gary Locke, and Chris Gregoire.

Evans, who served from 1965 to 1977, said the situation had improved since he left office, but called I-1000 a necessary step. "The door of opportunity is still just ajar, and not fully open," Evans said.

Nat Jackson, the sponsor of the initiative, also spoke at the hearing, and characterized the measure in terms of basic fairness, saying it would be step toward leveling a playing field tilted against minorities.

"I-1000 does not do favors," Jackson said. "What we want to do is be fair."

But critics broadly charged that despite its language favoring goals over quotas, it would nonetheless amount to a leg up for applicants from under-represented groups. They too pointed to basic fairness to justify their opposition.

"I-1000 would abolish the standard of equality for all regardless of race as required by I-200 and replace it with a system that uses different rules for people of different races," said John Carlson, referring to the 1998 measure.

A radio host and one-time Republican gubernatorial candidate, Carlson was one of the main backers of the 1998 measure.

Among the crowd watching the hearing were opponents of the measure wearing matching white shirts describing it as "systemic racism."

"This initiative will bring back differential treatment for certain groups of people," said Nora Chan, a Seattle resident. Chan and others, many of whom described themselves as Chinese or Asian immigrants, said the measure would unfairly exclude especially Asian students.

"Please do not limit us or create new barriers for us simply because we are hardworking and successful in some fields."

Tacoma Rep. Laurie Jenkins, a Democrat and chairwoman of one of the two legislative committees that held the hearing, said afterward she supported the measure.

Technically an initiative to the Legislature, lawmakers will have the option to approve or reject the measure. If they reject it outright or take no action it would automatically go on the fall ballot. They could also suggest an alternative, which would go on the ballot beside it.

App will explain slaying that spurred civil rights activism

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP) - A mobile app is being developed to explain places and events connected to a killing that galvanized the civil rights movement.

Emmett Till, a black 14-year-old from Chicago, was killed in 1955 while visiting relatives in Mississippi. Photos from his open-casket funeral showed his mutilated body, stirring anger that motivated people to push for change.

Developers hope the app will be ready by Aug. 28, the anniversary of Till's death, the Greenwood Commonwealth reported.

University of Kansas communications studies professor Dave Tell and Patrick Weems, director of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center in Sumner, Mississippi, have worked five years on the Emmett Till Memory Project. Tell said Florida State University professor Davis Houck also has helped with the project.

"The goal is to use a smartphone app, with GPS technology, to tell Till's story," Tell said.

The app will guide users to 10 destinations in the Mississippi Delta and two in Chicago, providing narratives about the site during the time of Till's death as well as afterward. It will also allow people to see archival documents and photographs pertaining to particular sites.

Till was lynched after whistling at Carolyn Bryant, a white woman, at Bryant's Grocery and Meat Market in the tiny town of Money, Mississippi.

Bryant's husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, abducted Till from Till's uncle's home at night and tortured and shot Till before dumping his body into the Tallahatchie River. An all-white jury found Bryant and Milam not guilty.

Eventually, Tell said he would like the app to incorporate augmented reality, which would bring up interactive graphics on the phone while a person is on site as well as virtual reality so students in classrooms far from the Delta can experience the locations.

"A lot of people clearly think (Till is) worth being remembered," Tell said. "What's really important is that we tell the story well."

Virginia city to dedicate street renamed for Arthur Ashe

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Tennis champion Arthur Ashe Jr. will be honored by the city of Richmond, state of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture with an official dedication of Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

A ceremony is planned for June 22 on the museum's front lawn. The dedication will be followed by a community celebration. The events are free and open to the public.

Ashe grew up in Richmond. He was the first black player selected to the U.S. Davis Cup team and the only black man ever to win the singles title at the U.S. Open, Wimbledon and the Australian Open.

Ashe was a philanthropist who promoted education and civil rights. He died in 1993.

In February, the Richmond City Council approved a proposal to rename a historic street after him.

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