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MEETING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE
U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Given before Karen Elliott, Notary Public and
Court Reporter, at the Sheraton Airport, 5991 Rivers Avenue,
Versailles Room, Charleston, South Carolina on Friday, June
the 19th, 1992, commencing at 2:00 o'clock, p.m.

A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

- Gilbert Zimmerman, Chairperson
- Bobby D. Doctor, Regional Director
- Dr. Oscar Butler, Jr.
- Bishop Johnnie Smith
- Mr. Rudolph Barnes
- Dr. Marianne A. Davis
- Mr. Robert L. Knight
- Dr. Milton Kimpson

1 MR. ZIMMERMAN: At this time we would like to
2 call the meeting of the South Carolina Civil
3 Rights Commission to order and we will follow our
4 agenda as outlined. And I assume that each of you
5 have a copy of your agenda, however, at the end of
6 the persons that are listed on the agenda give
7 their presentation we will ask those individuals
8 in the audience who would like to have comments to
9 make them at that time and we will also then take
10 any questions at that time. The Committee is in
11 favor of the proceeding with the agenda as
12 outlined?

13 MR. BUTLER: So moved.

14 MR. SMITH: Second.

15 MR. ZIMMERMAN: All in favor say aye. We will
16 proceed with the agenda as outlined. First I
17 would like to welcome all of you. I am Gilbert
18 Zimmerman, a member of the Civil Rights Commission
19 and its Chairperson and this is our second public
20 hearing on racial tension in South Carolina. Our
21 first public hearing was held in April in
22 Greenville and our final hearing will be held in
23 September in Columbia. Over the past several
24 months and, perhaps, years we have all witnessed
25 and, perhaps, experienced some racism that has

1 reminded us that racism is alive and kicking here
2 and exists in these counties that reflect the
3 pulse and heartbeat of mainstream merge.
4 Unfortunately that translates into a social
5 organization characterized by racial activity
6 almost on a daily basis. Remember racism can come
7 in many different forms. It maybe experienced or
8 enacted in overt cultures such as religious,
9 individual groups or institutions, but no matter
10 what form it comes in it must not be tolerated
11 because it is both morally and economically wrong.
12 All of us today must understand that no real
13 change towards good race relations will ever come
14 about without a desire to understand and respect
15 people of diverse cultures. So I opine to you to
16 search your souls and let your conscience be your
17 guide. The transformation of a whole nation
18 depends ultimately upon the initiative and change
19 of character of individuals of which it is
20 constituted. It is incumbent upon each of us to
21 make that change to the betterment of the
22 nation. At this time I would like to introduce
23 the other members of the Advisory Committee.
24 Seated at the table to my left is Dr. Oscar
25 Butler, Jr. of Orangeburg, South Carolina; next to

1 Dr. Butler is Bishop Johnnie Smith of Greenville,
2 South Carolina; to my far left is Mr. Rudolph
3 Barnes of Prosperity, South Carolina. Now, to
4 give you an overview of the United States
5 Commission on Civil Rights and the work of its
6 State Advisory Committee for the current fiscal
7 year I would like to present to you Mr. Bobby
8 Doctor. Mr. Doctor, if you will.

9 MR. DOCTOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would
10 like to introduce one of my colleagues and a
11 member of our staff in Atlanta at the Southern
12 Regional Office of the United States Commission on
13 Civil Rights, Robert Knight to the far end of the
14 table. As has been appointed out by Mr.
15 Zimmerman, I serve as Regional Director and am
16 very pleased to be here today. As always I am
17 pleased to return home. The Commission on Civil
18 Rights back in February of 1991 in recognition
19 that the country was headed towards some very
20 troubling times met in Richmond, Virginia in
21 retreat. Out of that particular retreat we
22 concluded that we should look at the question of
23 racial tension in America with the idea in mind
24 that it appeared to be on the increase to us. At
25 that particular time in recognition of that we

1 pulled together letters that were sent to some 50
2 governors around the country. We also sent
3 letters to the leadership of the Congress and the
4 President in which we indicated that it appeared
5 to us that racial tensions were on the increase.
6 We were adopting this project on racial tension
7 and we were trying to alert them to what we viewed
8 as a possible problem on the horizon. We got two
9 responses from the governors. Interestingly
10 enough the governor of South Carolina indicated
11 that he would do all he could with the project.
12 The other governor from the mid west someplace
13 indicated that we shouldn't come his way. The
14 President responded and I don't think we got much
15 response at all from the leadership of the
16 Congress. Now, that was well over a year ago
17 before Los Angeles erupted. I hate to think and
18 I guess I must admit that we were pretty much on
19 target with our assessment of what was going on in
20 the country at that time and what we thought might
21 happen on down the road. It is clear at this
22 point that we do have some real problems in this
23 country. Interestingly enough few people listened
24 to us back over a year ago, but I think I should
25 point out that we have received quite a bit of

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1 information here. I went and spent some time in
2 L.A. and I understand the Bishop was there and Mr.
3 Barnes was there and, also I have had the occasion
4 to visit L.A. in recent days I think you too would
5 have the same kind of concerns that we obviously
6 were concerned with over a year ago. The
7 Commission has adopted a project as I have
8 indicated designed to look at racial tension in
9 America. Most of our concern is about this
10 increase in racial tension and the rise in racial
11 tension. Several of the individuals on the
12 Advisory Committee here in the southern region,
13 including South Carolina, also opted to do a
14 project on racial tension. Florida was one along
15 with South Carolina. Tennessee and Kentucky also
16 decided to operate into that particular project
17 and the idea is to travel from community to
18 community in a given state with the idea in mind
19 of inviting in knowledgeable persons, persons who
20 obviously know something about racial relations,
21 who only are concerned about examining the gem of
22 race relations and racial tension so that we can
23 get some sense from them as to what is going on in
24 the respective communities around a given state as
25 it relates to racial tension. And as you look at

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1 the agenda on down as you look at the invitees
2 reflected on the agenda it gives some idea of what
3 is going on as it relates to race relations here
4 in the Charleston area. The Commission again was
5 on target well over a year ago and the idea is to
6 try not only to identify racial tension and to
7 identify whether or not those tensions are on the
8 increase, but to also talk about what might be
9 done to ease those tensions and to alleviate the
10 problems and the root causes of those tensions.
11 And that is the purpose behind our being here
12 today and thank you all for being here. And, Mr.
13 Chairman, that is all I have to say.

14 MR. ZIMMERMAN: I would like to just give you
15 the names of other persons who make up the State
16 Advisory Committee. Dr. Catherine Butler with the
17 University of South Carolina. Dr. Marianne Davis
18 of Columbia, South Carolina is an educator. Also
19 Vickie B. Jenks of Simpsonville, South Carolina.
20 Dr. Milton Kimpson, he is with the jury department
21 in Columbia. Dr. John D. Riley, Jr. of Surfside
22 Beach, South Carolina, and Mr. Samuel J. Tannebaum
23 of Columbia, South Carolina. At this time I would
24 like to call three people to the head table who
25 will relate to you their interest in our subject

1 matter and their experiences with racism in South
2 Carolina or race relations in South Carolina. I
3 would like to call first to the front center the
4 Honorable Senator Herbert Fielding. If you will
5 come forward and have a seat. Next I would like
6 to call Ms. Patricia Fields who is an educator and
7 community activist from Beaufort, South Carolina.
8 Ms. Fields. And I would like to have Mr. Michael
9 Rivers who is with the NAACP branch of St. Helena
10 Island, South Carolina. We would like each of you
11 to talk about ten minutes, five to ten minutes,
12 and relate to us your feelings about race
13 relations in South Carolina and, more
14 specifically, in your respective communities and
15 even give some insight as to how you feel about
16 the direction in which we are moving as far as
17 race relations are concerned in South Carolina.
18 First I would like to have the Senator Herbert
19 Fielding speak.

20 SENATOR FIELDING: Thank you very much, Mr.
21 Zimmerman. I might say right from the onset I
22 didn't really know exactly what the format would
23 be today and was not really prepared to make a
24 formal statement, however, I have had an
25 opportunity in the last two or three minutes to

1 make some notes and I just would like to expend
2 for a few minutes on what my feelings are and what
3 I have observed over the past 20 or 21 or so
4 years. I would like to begin with the year 1970
5 when three of us, Attorney Felder and Attorney
6 Johnson and myself, entered the South Carolina
7 Legislature. At that time we were the only three
8 blacks who were in the Legislature and we had
9 become the first three blacks since
10 reconstruction. We went into the legislature with
11 all sorts of fears and a whole lot of questions
12 and we soon found that those fears and questions
13 were to a great extent unfounded. Of course, our
14 fears and our questions were based on what we
15 expected as far as race relations would be in the
16 General Assembly. We found a number of men who
17 came to our assistance and over the next few years
18 I think we saw a decline in what we perceive to be
19 race, anti-negative race relations in South
20 Carolina and that went on until in 1974. In 1974
21 there was an influx of 13 blacks elected to the
22 Legislature as a result of the imposition of
23 single member districts in the South Carolina
24 House of Representatives. And I watched the
25 situation as others of us did for a number of

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1 years after 1974 and we felt that race relations
2 in South Carolina was definitely on an up climb
3 until, I believe, around 1978 or 1980, somewhere
4 in that nature. We began to see a beginning of a
5 steady decline. In the interim we had created the
6 State Human Affairs Commission, as Bishop Smith
7 well knows, and Bishop, I believe is still a
8 member of the State Human Affairs Commission. The
9 State Human Affairs Commission was created as a
10 separate arm of government, as a separate agency,
11 with a specific purpose to foster better race
12 relations throughout South Carolina in
13 governmental agencies and in business. But, in
14 spite of the Human Affairs Commission and in spite
15 of a steady increase in the number of blacks in
16 state government on the legislative level, and
17 even in spite of a number of blacks being elected
18 because of implementation of single member
19 districts on county levels as well as the state on
20 municipal levels right here in the City of
21 Charleston through the implementation of single
22 member districts we finally got an even number of
23 City Councilmen, six blacks and six whites. But
24 in spite of that I have witnessed over the years,
25 in the last I would say 12 or 14 years, a steady

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1 decline in positive race relations in the state
2 and it has affected, I know, our effectiveness and
3 what we could do on the state level as far as
4 passing legislation is concerned, as far as having
5 input, as far as minorities on state governmental
6 agencies and boards and commissions to a very
7 negative extent in the last few years. It has
8 gotten to the place where I have seen and heard a
9 number of my colleagues in the Legislature throw
10 up their hands and say, "it's not worth it". I
11 for one am not running again for election to the
12 Senate next year, and there are a number of
13 Legislatures who are not running next year because
14 of the decline in race relations and other
15 relations on the state level. And, on the
16 contrary, right here in Charleston, for instance,
17 because of a positive administration in city
18 government I think that it has been just the
19 opposite. Race relations have increased or have
20 gotten better, far better over the last 12 or 14
21 years in the City of Charleston, but on the
22 overall, on the state level, it has declined and
23 it continues to decline and it is my opinion, my
24 firm opinion, that this decline emanates greatly
25 all the way from Washington down. There has been

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1 set a tone from the White House right on down to,
2 as we say in politics, from the White House to the
3 court house, there has been set a tone in America
4 that is absolutely conducive to a decline in race
5 relations. I don't know what can be done about
6 it. I think as a politician, and I think
7 political answers or responses to this negative,
8 what I call negative race relations, but maybe
9 there are other approaches or maybe there are
10 other answers. I would like to see what they
11 might be. Personally I think that definitely
12 something has to be done, whether it's on a
13 political level, whether it's on a social level,
14 or whether it's on a religious level, something
15 has to be done because race relations in South
16 Carolina is declining and has been declining for
17 the last ten to 12 years and continues to decline
18 and it's hurting a whole lot of people, not only
19 black folks, it's hurting a whole lot of white
20 folks as well.

21 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you very much, Senator.
22 We will go on and then we will take questions
23 later. Ms. Fields.

24 MS. FIELDS: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Patricia Fields and I live in Seabrook, which is a

1 small community about eight miles north of
2 Beaufort, South Carolina. I am by no definition a
3 community leader or activist, but what I am is a
4 concerned parent, a parent who refuses to allow a
5 blatant act of discrimination against my son, my
6 then 15 year old son, Arrow Fields, to go
7 unnoticed. Six months ago, not even in my most
8 far fetched imaginings, would I have imagined that
9 today I would be addressing a group such as this
10 one, but life's road is full of twists and turns
11 and where it leads you no one knows. On January
12 29, 1992, my son, Arrow Fields, was refused
13 admittance to the Wal-Mart store at Cross Creek
14 Shopping Center, Beaufort, South Carolina. Arrow
15 could not be here today, but he sent a written
16 account of his experience. I will read from his
17 statement. "On January 29, 1992, between 4:00
18 o'clock and 4:30 p.m. I attempted to enter Wal-
19 Mart at Cross Creek Shopping Center to purchase
20 supplies for my science project. As I walked
21 through the doorway and into the front of the
22 store I was immediately approached by a white
23 female member of Wal-Mart's personnel who greeted
24 customers at the door. As I began to greet the
25 attendant my smile was abruptly interrupted as the

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1 employee stated a new rule that would not allow me
2 to enter Wal-Mart without the presence of my
3 parents, however, the Wal-Mart employee did assure
4 me of my right under the new rule to dine in the
5 Wal-Mart snack bar. For those of you unfamiliar
6 with the layout of Wal-Mart the snack bar is
7 directly across from the shopping center's storage
8 area and is easily monitored. As I began to
9 question this new unposted rule my questions were
10 quickly intercepted by the attendant who informed
11 me that the rule was not hers. My question could
12 only be answered by a member of management.
13 Because I had not entered Wal-Mart to dine in
14 their charming snack facilities I politely left
15 the Wal-Mart property." At the time I was
16 shopping at a store in the same area. Arrow came
17 immediately to me and informed me of the
18 aforementioned events. We returned to Wal-Mart.
19 The same employee who had previously turned my son
20 away saw our approach. She promptly described her
21 actions, her previous actions, as a reinforcement
22 of a rule that she was required to uphold. She
23 informed me that my questions could be answered by
24 a member of Wal-Mart's management, not her. As my
25 son and I waited at the service desk for a manager

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1 we watched in utter disbelief as white youths
2 without parents entered Wal-Mart and was virtually
3 ignored by the same employee who stopped Arrow.
4 Simultaneously we watched as black youths entered
5 the store and were immediately sent out or
6 questioned. At one point the Wal-Mart employee
7 went out of her way, maneuvering the shopping
8 carts, to inform a black teenager of this new,
9 unposted rule as a white teenager walked past.
10 When a member of management finally arrived I
11 informed him of the previous events and I asked
12 him why my son and other blacks were turned away
13 while white youths were permitted in Wal-Mart
14 without so much as a raised eyebrow from the same
15 employee who stopped my son and other blacks. He
16 explained that what happened was not a result of
17 his intent. He went on to say that the new rule
18 was put into effect because of students from a
19 nearby school entering Wal-Mart during and
20 directly after school hours to shoplift,
21 vandalize, and deal drugs. He also stated that
22 the rule was not to be enforced as it has been in
23 my son's and as it has been in the case of other
24 black teenagers, however, the manager with whom I
25 spoke never explained why only black teenagers

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1 were being stopped. I was not satisfied with his
2 explanation and I felt I had to speak out for my
3 son's sake and for the sake of the other black
4 youths who were accosted at Wal-Mart that day. I
5 felt the public needed to be aware of this
6 incident. I felt Wal-Mart had to be exposed so
7 both my son and I wrote letters to the editor of
8 the Beaufort Gazette, the local newspaper. I also
9 sent copies of my letters to Wal-Mart's district
10 office and Wal-Mart's home office. The
11 publication of my letter on February 12, 1992
12 touched off an avalanche of outcries from the
13 public. Although Wal-Mart's officials could not
14 deny what had happened, they have done and are
15 still doing everything to misrepresent and to wear
16 down what really happened on that day. Thank you.

17 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you very much, Ms.
18 Fields. Now, Mr. Rivers.

19 MR. RIVERS: Thank you. I am Michael Rivers
20 of the NAACP branch in Beaufort and to here Ms.
21 Fields talk about what happened with her and her
22 son it really -- it irritates me because to know
23 the young man, her son, and a lot of times there
24 are so many negative impressions of young
25 African-Americans, especially with males today.

1 and he doesn't fit that character, but yet still
2 the treatment that he got from Wal-Mart to be
3 singled out shows that the racial tensions in
4 South Carolina, in Charleston and Beaufort, is
5 very much -- is very real. Wal-Mart, ironically,
6 when we got involved, the NAACP is involved, we
7 are trying to get her some satisfaction or at
8 least bring some kind of attitude adjustment with
9 Wal-Mart to make them see things differently, they
10 said that they were there to help the customer for
11 the customer's needs, but yet still with her they
12 avoided her, like you said they misrepresented the
13 facts, and I think the sad thing about race is
14 that until you recognize that there is a problem
15 it's very hard for you to address that problem,
16 and I think that is the situation that is not only
17 in Beaufort, but in L.A., in the White House, and
18 on down. A lot of people think that things are
19 fine because it hasn't happened to them or they
20 don't know anyone who has been abused. Abuse
21 comes in so many ways so a lot of people think it
22 has to be physical, but a lot of times the mental
23 abuse is much more devastating than physical abuse
24 because it's lasting, you get bruises and stuff,
25 but once that heals it's gone, but when it

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1 penetrates the mind and starts making you react
2 differently and do things differently I think it's
3 very deadly. And I think one of the real problems
4 I think with the race in my opinion is that
5 perception that all good things happen to have
6 some anti-black connotation and all bad things is
7 strictly a black or African-American minorities.
8 And I think a lot of people don't admit it but
9 that has a lot to do with a lot or problems, in my
10 opinion. Automatically people think that if it's
11 white it's fine, but if it's black something's
12 wrong with it. A lot of times even certain things
13 like black listing and, you know, just little
14 negative things that they use that always has a
15 black connotation to it and I think until we
16 realize that we all have to live together -- a lot
17 of times when I speak to people I say that if you
18 got up a building and you start tearing down at
19 the bottom, a lot of times black folks are
20 considered to be on the bottom, the top is going
21 to eventually crumble. And I think what you saw
22 in L.A. is a good example of that. If you keep
23 ignoring the problems at the bottom eventually
24 those at the top, they're going to be affected,
25 and usually in an adverse manner. And I think

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1 those are the two real things that people have to
2 understand, that there are problems out there. I
3 can't say how it is to be in a particular
4 situation if I haven't been in that situation and
5 I think that is one of the main things that we
6 have to try to work together is to try and
7 understand those things that we are not familiar
8 with. And I think it's also a struggle for
9 power. That is the main thing. Whoever is in
10 control, which happens to be not African-
11 Americans, they tend to do whatever it takes to
12 keep that control and that is one of the main
13 things I think as far as race relations and, like
14 I said earlier, the lack of understanding. I
15 think the white community and the black community
16 and those other communities, you don't understand
17 each other because you can say something -- a
18 black person can come up and say like the
19 N-I-G-G-E-R word, you know, that's alright because
20 it's a different --it's a family type thing. It's
21 like if I come into your family and start
22 criticizing it, you're going to automatically get
23 on the defensive, but if family members, you know,
24 they start bickering and, you know, whatever,
25 having a misunderstanding, when it's all blown

1 over they're still family and I think that is one
2 of the main things that has to do with race
3 relations. And I think maybe the most important
4 thing right now is economically the country is in
5 economic turmoil, per se, and whenever things are
6 going bad people tend to pick out a particular
7 area or a particular group of people who are
8 causing a problem. And right now it seems that a
9 lot of white folks tend to think that everything
10 bad about the economy, the lack of jobs, or should
11 I say they say that black folks don't want to
12 work, but yet still there aren't that many jobs
13 out there for people in general, white, black, or
14 whatever. And the same with the lack of the Jews
15 and stuff in Russia who have their problems. In
16 Russia the Jews were the problem. Now, in
17 America, black folks are the problem. They don't
18 want to work. They want to have kids. They don't
19 want to take care of the kids. And I think, you
20 know, until we realize that we are all in this
21 thing together it's going to always be some
22 problems and that comes from the top and I think
23 that is why it's important for black folks or,
24 people in general, but mainly black folks, to
25 exercise those rights or those powers that they do

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1 have. As far as voting, for instance, I mean, I
2 got a lot of black folks sometimes that says, why
3 vote, it's not going to make any difference, but
4 it's the people who are in office who are doing
5 their best to do the positive things. They don't
6 mind people coming out to vote because they know
7 that they're doing the right thing, but when those
8 people start voting who don't normally vote those
9 who are in office who are not taking their needs
10 serious, who doesn't even care about their needs,
11 and they start getting voted out of office then
12 you can see the product of what voting does. And
13 I think for black folks, all that we went through
14 before my time and Mr. Fielding, and all the
15 people, what you went through, I mean, the blatant
16 racism into now say, well, we don't need to vote,
17 is kind of crazy because there was so many people
18 who gave so much for the right to vote and I think
19 that's one issue that will probably help the
20 racial tension as far as those who don't have
21 African-American interests at heart. Once they
22 realize that if they don't do those things that
23 are inducive to helping African-Americans or
24 minorities then they're not going to be there much
25 longer. Everybody has to get involved. The

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1 churches, the people who don't go to church,
2 because a lot of times the church in some
3 instances, some people feel like they may not be
4 doing all the things, you know. There are so many
5 scape goats that we have to stop making excuses
6 and everybody has to come together and try to find
7 a solution.

8 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you very much, Mr.
9 Rivers. Prior to taking any questions to this
10 particular group of panelists I would like to just
11 introduce to those of you that don't know her one
12 of the committee members of who I made mention
13 earlier. Dr. Marianne A. Davis of Columbia, South
14 Carolina. Anyone that may have any questions they
15 want to ask the three panelists can do so at this
16 time, any of the committee members or any of the
17 audience.

18 BISHOP SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
19 first of all make a brief comment to all three of
20 you. I think all three of you are to be commended
21 for your individual efforts because America has
22 gotten to where it is. And as Senator Fielding
23 has stated I agree with him, things are worse now
24 than they were, but we got to this point because
25 of people fighting and I think we can stop the

1 decline if we do something. And I just want to
2 take my hat off to all three of you. Especially
3 when I hear something like Wal-Mart not admitting
4 some young teen because of the color of their
5 skin. If nothing is done things will really
6 decline. And I want to say as one member of this
7 Advisory Committee we are going to make some
8 recommendations, but I appreciate all of your
9 efforts, and if more people in their areas would
10 do more towards better race relations, we would
11 have a better community, and I thank you.

12 SENATOR FIELDING: I respect the Bishop very
13 highly and I agree with the Bishop to a great
14 extent but, however, I think what I am saying is
15 if it does not come from the top down it's going
16 to get worse, as this young man indicated, from
17 the bottom up because the tone is not being set
18 out there in the streets, the tone is being set on
19 the top and that tone is coming right down through
20 every channel and it's turning off young people.
21 They don't want to vote, they don't want to
22 participate in government because there is nothing
23 to look forward to and there is nothing to look
24 forward to because that tone is being set right
25 from the top all the way down to say, to heck with

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it.

BISHOP SMITH: Well, I definitely agree with that. I agree with that. As you stated the first time, you don't know what the solution is, but I think we need to look at the political as well as look at other areas. I am concerned that so many people did suffer and die that we have the right to vote and now we will take voter registration right into the community and people won't come outside their door and vote, so I agree and I do know that the tone has changed somewhat in the last eight to ten years, I agree with that, and that is why I say I take my hat off that you observed this and in observing it all three of you, whatever can be done and we're here to listen. I don't want to get out of my role. We're here to listen, but whatever can be done by you in not allowing things to get any worse if I can just, in my little area, keep things from getting worse that is doing something and that is what I commend you all for.

DR. DAVIS: I am a strong believer that morality has to be set at the top and although naturally we're suffering and perhaps further down on the totem pole we're suffering from this need

1 of moral leadership, I am impressed with what I
2 perceive to be good happenings in Charleston.
3 That is my perception, and that perception comes
4 through the Mayor, and you can tell me if I am
5 right or wrong. I am just going by my perception
6 and it seems to me that there is a climate in
7 Charleston where there is an active participation
8 in the business of the city to the extent that
9 African-Americans are brought into the decision
10 making apparatus to the extent that you are more
11 prone to feel a part of the system. I am going to
12 venture to say that I see something of that in
13 Columbia since we have had the Mayor, and keep in
14 mind that I am going on my perceptions because I
15 don't know all the facts, although your Mayor has
16 invited me to come in and sit on the Board of
17 Equivalent Voters, and although in Columbia our
18 Mayor has done a lot to involve our community,
19 there are still problems with the council. But I
20 am just saying the perception of the leadership.
21 And if I am correct, then it means that although
22 at the national level we're having problems, it
23 seems to me that there can be -- can't there be a
24 grass roots effort to put at the top of the helm
25 within our communities a person who is sensitive

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1 to the problems and aspirations of
2 African-Americans. And perhaps by lighting the
3 candle at that end we can then light candles at
4 the other end so that we can have a continual of
5 this new kind of moral leadership. So my comment
6 is like a question for you to straighten me out
7 whether, in fact, we can point to Charleston and
8 Columbia as examples where the leadership is
9 beginning to light the candles in this way.

10 MR. ZIMMERMAN: That can come from the Senator
11 or any other people here.

12 JOYCE ZIMMERMAN: I'm Joyce Zimmerman, a
13 Charleston resident, transplant, and I do enjoy
14 the city, it's a lovely city, but as you said the
15 perception, and I speak as an individual,
16 independent businesswoman, the perception that the
17 climate in Charleston is up and running and race
18 relationships are doing all those good things that
19 is a perception. In my opinion I think our Mayor
20 does a very good job of good perceptions, but as
21 far as dealing with the real problems with grass
22 root people, no. I attended a function last
23 night, when you speak of the business community,
24 with, I don't remember the count, but the Chamber
25 of Commerce, their annual function, dinner and

1 reception, and I have an eye problem, but it's not
2 that bad. I had nobody there to relate to except
3 the person that I accompanied to this affair.
4 That doesn't speak very highly, I think, for this
5 city if it is an upbeat business improvement for
6 black communities in this area. I just don't
7 think so. I think that today by not the Mayor or
8 sending a representative here or anyone from the
9 police department here, or any of the City Council
10 members in North Charleston, inner City Charleston
11 and the surrounding areas that we have no
12 political persons here tells me that something is
13 wrong, something is very, very wrong, and we can
14 sit here and go many ways with race relations and
15 civil rights, but it's a very blatant thing in
16 this country, and particularly here. You go into
17 many of your social service programs, your
18 businesses, just go everywhere and you can feel it
19 and it's there and something has to be done at the
20 top, but we have to address whether this is a
21 society, locally and otherwise. We are basically
22 capitalistic and we're not humanistic and that
23 makes a difference. We don't take people as
24 individuals we take them as a number count. And
25 that is the way I perceive the white society as

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1 preying on my people, and particularly black
2 males. It's a count, it's a number count, and
3 unless we do very drastic things we do not get any
4 margin or reactions. L.A. is a very classic
5 example of that and, unfortunately, I think it's
6 going to happen all summer long, locally and
7 otherwise. And I am not for violence, but I
8 encourage it if it is going to be a change for my
9 people. And the perception, you're right, a
10 perception. Thank you.

11 MR. ZIMMERMAN: I would like to just at this
12 time if Mr. Doctor would just mention as to
13 whether or not the Mayor's office was informed and
14 what other documentation --.

15 MR. DOCTOR: The Mayor's office, in fact, the
16 Mayor himself, was extended an invitation to
17 participate in this meeting and he indicated that
18 he had a conflict, I believe. We extended
19 invitations to a number of other folks in the
20 community and, obviously, they're not here. This
21 is strictly a voluntary kind of situation. The
22 agency itself does have Subpoena powers. The
23 Advisory Committee does not have Subpoena powers.
24 But I would like to point out that an effort was
25 made to get folks representing other groups, other

1 interests, all the cultural experiences here and,
2 obviously, the response was not positive.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Let me just make a comment.

4 MR. DOCTOR: Could you identify yourself for
5 the court reporter.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Edward Johnson is my name. I am
7 the owner of WZGI Radio Station, it's a black
8 owned gospel station here in the tri-county area.
9 If I wasn't afraid I'd get in trouble I'd have to
10 hug you real tight for those comments, but in
11 reference to what you mentioned I don't think it
12 could have been any better articulated from this
13 young lady and that what is really happening here
14 in the City of Charleston is pretty much a
15 facade. I think that we must get back to the
16 basic root of the problem. I was just recently
17 asked to serve on a committee along with five of
18 the members of Charleston County Council. It's
19 called a Fair Committee, Fairness Accountability,
20 Responsibility and Equity Committee. Myself is on
21 the committee, Reverend Brian DeMoore, he's a
22 minister from the Amzion Church, Dr. Sinkler of
23 the African Reform Episcopal Church, Reverend
24 Edward Bryant who is the President of the North
25 Charleston branch of the NAACP, and Pastor Simmons

1 who is a United Methodist Pastor. We had our
2 first meeting approximately four weeks ago.
3 County Council called in approximately 25 of the
4 religious leaders out of the community to come in,
5 sit down, and to address the problem between
6 council and the religious community to see what
7 they could do to try to curtail what may, perhaps,
8 come to Charleston with another Los Angeles
9 situation. In that meeting when we met there was
10 only about five or maybe eight at the most of the
11 ministers out of the 25 that were called that
12 showed up. None of the white ministers showed.
13 There were a mixed number that were called, but
14 only a few of the blacks. I went because I was
15 asked to go instead of my father. My father
16 served as Bishop of the Church of God in Cross
17 Hill, South Carolina. The Church of God in Cross
18 Hill is the largest black Pentecostal church in
19 the country. But, anyway, when I got to the
20 meeting I had already spoken to the Chairman of
21 County Council, which was Keith Summie, the night
22 prior to the meeting in reference to some things
23 that I had on Mayor Riley's desk for approximately
24 a month and got no response, not even who is this
25 dog asking for this information, no response

1 nowhere, so I just got road blocks everywhere. So
2 they asked me to get up during that meeting and
3 make comments and my comments to them was, that
4 except you all, and I was talking basically to the
5 Charleston County Council because they were the
6 ones that called us in. Charleston County Council
7 by the way out of, I think some ten or 11, there
8 is only one black on there. They asked -- Keith
9 Summie asked me to get up and say to the Council
10 what I shared with him on the telephone. And I
11 told him that except white America for the most
12 part would be willing to admit to the sins of
13 their forefathers and what they had done to black
14 America during the issue of slavery, except
15 they're going to be willing to repent of that and
16 right the wrong there is no need in calling us in
17 because what you're going to really be doing is
18 just trying to put a band-aid on a catch and it's
19 just not going to work. So in essence if we're
20 going to see a basic fundamental change take place
21 in this city and in any city and across this
22 country, number one, white America has to be
23 willing to admit and repent of the sins of their
24 forefathers. I had one of the Council member,
25 Charlie Lybran, had the audacity to say that he

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1 don't see and don't believe that the problem with
2 black America today has anything to do with what
3 happened during slavery and, of course, I
4 continued to share with him in a loving way of his
5 ignorance and since then he's warmed up to me
6 because he saw that I had not only that I knew
7 what I was talking about, but I did have a sense
8 of compassion about myself when I spoke the truth
9 to him. And to not be long and drawn out, the
10 problem that we are facing, and I'm going to
11 change note just a little bit, is really for the
12 most part, and you have to understand what I mean,
13 it's not a black and white problem. The problem
14 is really a good versus evil problem. I think all
15 of us are familiarized with some church or a
16 member of somebody's church, and except this
17 country go back to it's foundations we claim to be
18 a country that was founded on religious principals
19 have the audacity to print In God We Trust on our
20 dollars, and our government for the most part try
21 to throw God out of everything there is. So if
22 you are going to fix something you are going to
23 have to go back to the root. And the root problem
24 is we all have strayed away from our foundation,
25 and that is God, and the basis of what this

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1 country was found on, which is in scripture.
2 Unless we are willing to go back -- it's in the
3 power that for the most part the white community
4 holds over black America is so strong and they
5 have so much an advantage on us it would be
6 impossible for us to get up under these
7 circumstances unless we go back to our God because
8 there is no way you're going to get a group of
9 white men to address and turn their power over to
10 us when we are destroying ourselves more than
11 anybody else is right now, so we are going to have
12 to find our places back as black America. The
13 black leaders, particularly the religious leaders
14 are going to have to go back and re-examine their
15 agendas. We are going to have to get back to the
16 grass root of our people. We are going to have to
17 come together as a community and stop this
18 denominational bickering and learn that we are all
19 God's children if we claim to be a Christian
20 according to what this country stands for and get
21 back to those basic roots and when we do that I
22 think that there will be some real changes taking
23 place in this country, but only until we are
24 willing to admit the facts, get back to the root
25 causes. Racism is really just a tool that the

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1 devil uses to carry out his program. If you leave
2 America and you go to Israel, I have been there
3 several years ago, all the people over there are
4 pretty much the same color. When you go to South
5 America all the people over there are pretty much
6 the same color, and various places. When you look
7 at what happened several years ago with the youths
8 there, those people are pretty much the same
9 color. It's really not a color problem. The
10 enemy uses color to confuse us, but the problem is
11 good versus evil and we are going to have to get
12 back to the root cause, those basic principals,
13 and get back to the basis of what this country was
14 founded upon. And in closing I would like to say
15 this, the greatest misconception that we have in
16 government today is the separation of church and
17 state. There's really no such thing as separation
18 of church and state. That article in the
19 constitution that addresses church and state was
20 not designed to keep church out of government. It
21 was designed to keep the government out of the
22 churches. The government in this country was
23 founded by the church so how are you going to
24 separate church from state. Thank you.

25 BISHOP SMITH: Senator, you said that when you

1 first went to the General Assembly there were
2 three and you felt that race relations was at
3 least acceptable and not on the decline. Ten
4 years later with 13 --.

5 SENATOR FIELDING: Not ten years, just four
6 years later.

7 BISHOP SMITH: Well, four years later. Has
8 the number of blacks in the General Assembly
9 increased; you indicated that you felt that there
10 was a definite decline in race relations; what do
11 you attribute it to?

12 SENATOR FIELDING: I don't attribute it to the
13 number of blacks in the South Carolina
14 Legislature.

15 DR. BUTLER: I'm saying what did you; was it
16 the numbers, or the times, or what, what did you
17 attribute it to or will you identify what?

18 SENATOR FIELDING: Yes, sir, and I thought I
19 indicated. I don't attribute it directly to South
20 Carolina, per se. I think that the tone or what
21 is happening in the South Carolina legislature is
22 being set on a much higher level and it has come
23 down to South Carolina -- not only to the South
24 Carolina Legislature, but a number of other
25 governmental bodies in the state of South Carolina

1 to the extent that what we were able to accomplish
2 when I first went into legislature or even five or
3 six years after we cannot accomplish now because
4 there are members of the General Assembly who are
5 listening to what is coming down from on the
6 national level and it's also gotten to the extent
7 that it's permeated the state government. I think
8 what I am trying to say, Dr. Butler, is simply
9 that I believe that what is happening in the
10 country today on the local level is because of
11 what is happening on the national level.

12 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Do you have a comment?

13 DR. DAVIS: Well, I know this is going to get
14 me in trouble. I think a great part of our
15 problem in this country is the fact that we use
16 church and religion out front when racism really
17 is not tied into that. All you have to do on
18 Sunday is ride around town and look at the white
19 churches. They have cars parked everywhere. I
20 mean they go to church, you understand. They are
21 church going people. And on Monday morning they
22 will do you in as though they didn't even go to
23 church on Sunday. And you know that in the last
24 several national elections it was the church that
25 kind of hurt us because a lot went on under the

1 umbrella of religion and we lost. All you have to
2 do is look at the facts because they speak for
3 themselves. So I am almost to the point that
4 these are the years of my life and I am a
5 Christian, I think, and I work in the church to
6 sort of keep politics separated from that because
7 we have got some smart people in the think tanks
8 who use the religion issue to do you in
9 politically and that's not what I'm -- what I'm
10 saying is it's not easy cause you got to know how
11 to deal with it and we still have to keep our
12 religion, you see. But these other people take it
13 and misuse it and when you get into the discussion
14 of religion and all of that then we get into the
15 discussion of abortion and then from that we go to
16 others. All these issues get tied up under
17 religion and we can't see the forest because of
18 the trees. And I think that this body as well as
19 the bodies across our country that are advisory
20 bodies have to be very careful with that, very
21 careful, you see, and it's not easy to talk about.
22 I am a school teacher, by profession, and I have
23 to help my students to understand that we are not
24 going to do religion in this classroom, but yet
25 when I teach literature I have the freedom to

1 teach something about the bible, you see what I'm
2 saying. So you can kill a bird with many stones
3 without letting the bird know that it's getting
4 killed.

5 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Mr. Barnes.

6 MR. BARNES: I have a heavy burden to carry
7 today being just about the only Anglo in the room
8 here. Senator, I can't help it. I am going to
9 have to ask you some loaded questions here.
10 Having fiddled in politics myself and being a
11 confirmed cynic of what the political process can
12 do for racism, I have only seen it get worse as a
13 result of political involvement. I have seen some
14 good things come out of politics and you have been
15 associated with some good things, I think, in our
16 state government, and I appreciate what you have
17 done, but I have never witnessed the political
18 system improving race relations. I think it has
19 reflected some improvement in race relations along
20 the way, but I don't know -- it's a question of
21 cause and effect, I suppose, but I wanted to ask
22 you, we have touched on -- hit pretty hard
23 actually, the role of churches in this issue of
24 race relations. We have talked about race
25 relations being a moral issue. I know we can't

1 separate morality from politics, but there is
2 something of a difference there. What would you
3 see or, what would you recommend that churches do
4 and even whether it might involve politics may
5 not, but do you have any suggestions how churches
6 could play a role in reducing racial tensions?

7 SENATOR FIELDING: Particularly in the black
8 community the church has historically been the
9 meeting place and is sort of a leader in social
10 and economic and political manners throughout the
11 years from slavery right down to the present, and
12 I agree with Edward Johnson entirely. I think
13 that the constitutional provision was definitely
14 intended to keep politics out of the church, but I
15 don't think it was intended to keep the church out
16 of politics. And I think that the more that we
17 can involve the church and it's morality in
18 politics the better off a whole lot of us as
19 politicians will be, particularly in the black
20 community because there is no other real source of
21 bringing black folks together as near as well as
22 the church can. When we passed the ethics bill
23 last year one strong point in the ethics bill was
24 that we as legislators could no longer accept
25 contributions from churches. Everyone of us, 22

1 of us in the legislative black caucus fought that
2 to the very bitter end because the basis of black
3 politicians has been in the church, but it was
4 white politicians that were adamantly opposed to
5 receiving contributions from the church. When you
6 tell black politicians that they can't receive
7 contributions from churches you cut off a great
8 source of their political contributions.

9 MR. BARNES: I think that the church can and
10 should have a very positive role in shaping
11 politics in this country.

12 BISHOP SMITH: In a follow up question, and
13 it's one I think we all feel strongly, you
14 mentioned obviously that the church has played a
15 very, very significant role in the black or
16 African-American community for years, but we all
17 know that the most segregated hour of the week is
18 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, and churches are,
19 after all, the moral barometers of our
20 community. I mean, politics reflects moral
21 attitudes, but churches perhaps more so than any
22 other institute. What do you think; do you think
23 that as leaders, and certainly you are a moral
24 leader of this community, even though you are
25 getting out of politics, and I think that reflects

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your good judgment after all, but what do you think; you can speak freely. What would you tell the religious leaders of this area that they should do to help improve race relations; and I might just suggest that you address the fact that our churches are segregated. How do we go about changing that or, should we change it.

SENATOR FIELDING: I think that is one thing we need to approach immediately, that most segregated hour in America. My church is doing a lot to try to break it down. I happen to be an Episcopalian and there is a strong movement for integration within the episcopal church, and I think there needs to be a strong movement for integration in all churches. I just spoke about a week ago to a men's day program at a church in Columbia. That's one of the things I pointed out, the fact that those two hours from 11:00 until 1:00 o'clock are the most segregated hour in America on Sunday morning. So quite probably there needs to be more communication between church leaders, Bishop, on that level, on your level, Bishop, so that there can be an exchange of information and probably of bringing together of the white church and the black church to some day

1 that we will have a church and not have a white
2 and a black church in America because I think the
3 church is a leader, whether they admit it or not
4 they are a leader, and being moral leaders there
5 is no way to separate morality from politics. You
6 can't legislate morality, but you can separate it.

7 MR. ZIMMERMAN: I would like to add to that.
8 What we are talking about is racism and race
9 relations and that is a society problem. And
10 religion or religious communities are a part of
11 our society. Politics is a part of our society
12 and racism is a societal problem. So it's a
13 problem in the religious community, it's a problem
14 within the political community. And one of the
15 first things you have to do in order to attack a
16 problem or to solve a problem or to address a
17 problem is to first admit that the problem is
18 there and in America we have a problem with
19 admitting that racism is a problem in America.
20 Racism is a problem in America, race relations.
21 Yes, there have been some problems here and there
22 and a lot of it is window pressing. I think we
23 talked about perception. Dr. Davis, I remember
24 when we went to Greenville. My whole thought when
25 driving to Greenville was, well, we won't have

1 much to do here because my perception of
2 Greenville was a very progressive city where race
3 relations were dynamic. I mean, where things
4 were great. We got to Greenville, not one white
5 Anglo-Saxon showed up. The people in Greenville,
6 the Afro-Americans, well, we listened to them you
7 would have thought you were in Greenville,
8 Mississippi, or you would have thought you were in
9 some back area as to how race relations was not
10 progressive in Greenville. On the surface the
11 perception was that it was great. I think
12 sometimes, you know, it's illusory and grandeurs
13 of delusion and we get the wrong perception. And
14 in Charleston that may be what you and I and some
15 others are getting from the outside or anywhere
16 else, but redundant in Charleston, Greenville,
17 Ravenel, Beaufort, wherever, is a microcosm of
18 America and America is a racist country for
19 whatever reason.

20 MR. DOCTOR: I yielded to Rudy just a minute
21 ago. I would like to sort of reinsert, if I may.

22 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Yes.

23 MR. DOCTOR: I would like to direct this
24 question to the Senator. Senator, I think you
25 made some comments which clearly suggested that

1 you thought the State of South Carolina was having
2 some difficulty in terms of racial tension, but
3 you inferred, maybe you didn't infer, maybe you
4 spoke directly, to your perception that you
5 thought that Charleston was doing considerably
6 better, but shortly after you made those comments.
7 I thought there were some other comments from a
8 couple of other people in the audience clearly
9 suggesting that their perception of what was going
10 on in race relations or racial tensions here in
11 Charleston was a little different from yours. How
12 do you account for that difference of opinion?

13 SENATOR FIELDING: No, I don't think there is
14 really a difference of opinion. It's a difference
15 in the way that I may have expressed myself and
16 others have expressed themselves as far as the
17 Charleston situation is concerned. I didn't mean
18 to imply that Charleston was a utopia. I do not
19 only imply I explicitly say I think that the
20 situation in Charleston is considerably better
21 than the situations in a number of other places
22 that I know of right now in South Carolina. And
23 particularly since I have been running for
24 Congress I have been exposed to 16 counties on a
25 daily basis and I have seen race relations in a

1 number of other communities in South Carolina that
2 I consider to be far less conducive than they are
3 in Charleston. And I don't say that Charleston is
4 a utopia, but I think because of the tone that is
5 set by the mayor and because of the fact that we
6 happen to have six blacks and six whites on City
7 Council there has come about a better situation
8 than we can find in a whole lot of other --
9 including Columbia, and I go to Columbia on a
10 daily basis and I know that from what I can
11 observe race relations in Charleston to some
12 extent is better than race relations in Columbia
13 and that is just a hundred miles up the road.

14 MR. ZIMMERMAN: And that is the comparison
15 that you were making at the outset?

16 SENATOR FIELDING: Yes. And I'm still not
17 saying that Charleston is perfect and I know that
18 we have a long way to go, but I will tell you one
19 thing, and the Bishop knows, it took me five years
20 to pass the Fair Housing Bill, which is now
21 administered by the State Human Affairs
22 Commission. It took five years to pass that bill
23 purely because of racism, because somebody thought
24 I was trying to integrate housing all over South
25 Carolina and everyday somebody was picking up a

1 telephone in some doggone little, I don't know
2 where the place is in South Carolina, called the
3 Legislature saying, don't let that fool pass that
4 bill, we're going to have integrated housing. It
5 took five doggone years. You know it Bishop. It
6 didn't have a thing to do with integrated housing.
7 It was only to make sure that we had fair housing
8 in South Carolina. That was pure racism.

9 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you very much. We are
10 going to move on with the next panel. I will give
11 you two minutes.

12 BISHOP SMITH: Okay. It won't take me two. I
13 just wanted to make it clear that last statement
14 for the most part was not by no way a conflict
15 with his. I totally agree with Senator Fielding.
16 I just further stated we do have a good climate.
17 As a matter of fact I strongly believe that
18 Charleston is being set for the basis of a model
19 stilt for better race relations across this
20 country. I believe that we are going to be the
21 first city that is going to bring that to daylight
22 here, but we're not there yet. The atmosphere is
23 being set. All you have to do is look and look in
24 the black community and look what our houses in
25 the black community look like for the most part.

1 Look at the job market in government and see who
2 is holding these particular jobs for the most part
3 and you will see, but, yes, we do have a good
4 climate and as soon as the religious leaders wake
5 up to the fact that it's time for us to move
6 forward we can do better. And to speak to -- what
7 is your name, please, ma'am?

8 DR. DAVIS: Dr. Davis.

9 BISHOP SMITH: I just wanted to say in
10 reference to what you said. What you said was
11 exactly right. What it is, white America used
12 their religion in the political process.
13 Somewhere in the back of our mind we have been
14 brain washed to believe to do that from the black
15 community is wrong, and I think it has to be
16 changed because there is no basis for that no way.
17 This country was founded on the basis of Judial
18 Christian religion. It was the religious
19 community that brought government to this country
20 and in the bible in the old testimony the
21 political leaders were also the spiritual leaders.
22 So again what we have in this country is a
23 deviation from the root. And politicians, excuse
24 me Senator, has preyed on the churches and gotten
25 their own agendas and used the church to their

1 advantage, but the church must get back involved.

2 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you very much. And we
3 are going to move on -- yes, Mr. Rivers.

4 MR. RIVERS: You know, sitting here and I hear
5 the discussion about religion, and religion, and
6 religion, religion, but religion, everybody has
7 some form of religion. And I think religion is
8 one thing, but we should be talking about
9 spirituality and that's what the church should be
10 about, spirituality. Anyone who is spiritual is
11 not going to do wrong things, but religion, the
12 guy on the street who drinks religiously, that's a
13 religion, you know. So, I mean, we talk about
14 religion, religion can be very detrimental, but
15 when you start talking about spirituality then
16 that brings out the moral and the goodness about
17 people.

18 MR. ZIMMERMAN: That's the last comment.

19 BISHOP SMITH: Let me just say that I will put
20 on a religious hat. I don't feel that it's an
21 accident that we're talking the way we're talking
22 because very frankly it was mentioned that I was
23 out in South Central along with some others. The
24 only solution to our problem is using Judicial
25 Christian because there are a lot of religions.

1 Let me back up and say this, we need to have
2 understanding of what we're talking about. The
3 reason there is always problems is because of
4 misunderstanding. I might say religion and mean
5 "A" and you say religion and mean "C" and we are
6 both saying religion and we're talking about two
7 different things. But I think you hit it on the
8 head when you mentioned spirituality. The truth
9 of the matter is, excuse me, don't tell anybody I
10 said this, I am a Bishop, but I don't like
11 religion because religion tends to push a certain
12 doctrine, but it does not change the heart of men.
13 Spirituality changes the hearts of people and if
14 we're really spiritual and, young man, you really
15 -- you say what I would like to have said, if we
16 were spiritual, then there would be integration,
17 there would not be the problems that we have. We
18 would not have the segregation on Sunday the way
19 it is, but we're not spiritual, we're religious.
20 And I just did a series of messages on ethnic
21 pride. My ethnic group is stronger than my
22 "religion". I'm a -- let's say I'm a Baptist, but
23 my being black is stronger than my being Baptist
24 and when I -- let's say if I adopt my Baptist
25 philosophy from the bible and I know what it says,

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1 but I'm black and I have to decide which way I go
2 I am going to go with being black. When one
3 ethnic group says I'm going this way and another
4 ethnic group says they're going that way we'll
5 never get together. But when I say I'm a
6 spiritual person and another ethnic group says
7 they're a spiritual person and that becomes the
8 important thing and we start changing on the
9 inside then we'll get together and we'll have a
10 harmonious, unified community and until that
11 happens I don't care what politician, I don't care
12 who else comes or goes, we're going to have
13 problems because deep down within men, rich and
14 poor, regardless to what ethnic background, people
15 are going to be grabbing for things.

16 MR. ZIMMERMAN: We are going to move on
17 because Dr. Kimpson just came in and I don't --
18 this subject matter, and he will be here expounded
19 on his ideas about the subject, but I do want to
20 introduce Dr. Milton Kimpson who is another member
21 of the Advisory Committee who has just come in.

22 DR. KIMPSON: I apologize for being late. Jim
23 Solomon's retirement was today and I had a part in
24 the program.

25 MR. ZIMMERMAN: And I will just say thank you

1 to our first group of panelists. You have been
2 very, very cooperative and most informative and we
3 want to say to you and as Bishop Smith said to
4 you, stay on the case. Thank you very much. I
5 would like to have our next group of panelists
6 come forward. I would like to have Mr. Thomas
7 Johnson, is he here, Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson is
8 the Legislative Chairman of the Charleston branch
9 NAACP. I would also like to have Mr. William
10 Saunders who is the Executive Director of the
11 Committee on Better Racial Assurance, more
12 commonly known as COBRA. Mr. William Saunders.
13 Is Ms. Reid here. I would like to have Ms. Reid
14 who is the Editor with the Coastal Times. If you
15 will come forward. Now, Mr. Saunders came in a
16 little late and so did Ms. Reid. I think Mr.
17 Johnson, you were here when we started, but
18 sitting in front of you is the State Advisory
19 Committee to the United States Civil Rights
20 Commission. Its members that are seated around
21 the table, I won't go into them individually, are
22 here to listen to you and, as I stated previously,
23 we will take your information and put it together
24 in a form of an analysis on better race relations
25 in South Carolina and come up with some

1 recommendations which will be forwarded to the
2 United States Civil Rights Commission in
3 Washington DC and the President for their approval
4 to have their report published. I would like to
5 start with Mr. Johnson, if you will.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening ladies and
7 gentlemen, panel. I am glad to be here and get
8 this opportunity to maybe give some insight or
9 shed some light on some of the things that we feel
10 are wrong in the community of Charleston. The
11 question has basically been answered, I guess.
12 Over and over the question has been asked in these
13 letters that we got. Is there an increase in
14 racial tension in Charleston. Our response to
15 that is racial tension in Charleston is growing.
16 The problem is how do you measure this increase in
17 racial tension, what is causing this growing
18 racial tension, and what do you do to resolve it.
19 The growing racial tensions as we see it are a
20 result of many problems that exist in our
21 community as it does across this nation. Again,
22 the main contributing factor to this increase in
23 racial tension is the age old problem of racism.
24 Racism is a part of our government, our living
25 institutions, our private industries, our judicial

1 systems, and our community as a whole. Blacks can
2 still in many cases expect to be the last hired or
3 hired in the lowest paying jobs, the last to be
4 promoted, more apt to receive no justice from our
5 justice system, and blacks are still in this
6 county under represented in the political
7 community, especially in Charleston County Council
8 Government. I would like to take this time rather
9 to maybe shed a little light or add a little
10 flavor, local flavor, to the discrimination
11 practices that have been seen in this community by
12 citing some incidents. Since January, 1992 to
13 June, 1992 the Charleston Branch NAACP Housing
14 Committee has received numerous complaints from
15 various housing tenants concerning racial
16 harassments, plus the denial of sale of property
17 to a couple due to interracial marriage. The
18 housing discriminating practice is more pervasive
19 than we would like to consider, however, the
20 housing committee is not able to address all of
21 the complaints due to lack of manpower to support
22 such a clearing house mechanism. So
23 discrimination in the housing area is still there
24 and in some respect it's getting worse. The
25 banking industry; the banking industry leaves a

1 lot to desire when it comes to providing loans to
2 blacks in this community in spite of the community
3 reinvestment act. This was clearly shown in an
4 article done by the News and Courier a month or
5 two ago as it pertains to the banking industry
6 co-record of providing loans to blacks. The
7 article shows that blacks are more apt to be
8 turned down for a loan than his white counterpart,
9 even when it clearly shows that he was just as
10 capable of paying back his loan as his white
11 counterpart. Blacks have clearly indicated they
12 feel that they do not get a fair shake from the
13 justice system when it is a white committing a
14 crime against a black and/or a black committing a
15 crime against a white. In this community just
16 several months ago three black youths, 14 years
17 and older, were found guilty of killing a white
18 youth and they were tried as adults and there was
19 no problem at all in trying them as adults. In
20 the last month or so three separate shootings we
21 have had, three black men shot by three white men.
22 Two of the shootings were fatal and the white
23 shooter was vindicated with justifiable homicide
24 before the bodies were cold. Even though one of
25 the shootings was reinvestigated it was still

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1 declared justifiable homicide. The one shooting
2 that was not fatal has not been tried, but the
3 victim stated he felt he was shot because his
4 girlfriend was white. Again, the feeling of
5 unfair treatment to the black community has been
6 demonstrated in a recent march by the local
7 NAACP's and black citizens voices in the
8 displeasure with their feelings of injustice in
9 this community through meetings, and editorials,
10 and the local newspaper. Another incident I would
11 like to give to you occurred in the promotion area
12 of one of our governments. The individual refused
13 to move forward in prosecuting the individuals
14 that did this injustice to him, but in this
15 situation it was clear cut discrimination, racial
16 discrimination. There was an assistant
17 administrative job open and the individual black
18 who was applying for the assistant administrative
19 job, the requirement states that you must have
20 four years, have a BS Degree, eight years of
21 experience, a Masters Degree, four years of
22 experience. Well, this individual, to give you
23 some background, had 15 years of experience, plus
24 a Masters Degree. He contested the attempt to
25 hire a white male that had no degree and no

1 experience in filling a 45 thousand dollar
2 assistant administrative job who would in turn
3 become his boss. He protested it, it was stopped,
4 but they said, "we will just leave it vacant now,
5 we won't fill it at this time, we will leave this
6 position vacant." We asked the individual to
7 proceed with going through with filing charges of
8 discrimination and so forth, but he refused it.
9 In this case being that he refused and for some
10 reason, fear of something, for not filing the
11 white male was kept on the payroll as a 45
12 thousand a year gopher and the black fellow that
13 refused to proceed with filing suit decided
14 instead of fighting, I can't win, terminated and
15 applied for another position in the local
16 community. And I think in that fashion, which I
17 hope to address in a minute, that he contributed
18 to some of the problems that we have and I am
19 going to try to clear that up, but I am saying
20 these are the type of blatant discriminatory
21 practices that are going on within this community
22 and I don't think you can get any clearer than
23 that. One doesn't have the qualification, but yet
24 will be hired before the individual that has the
25 qualification. I know you've always heard

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1 qualification, qualification, well, he had it and
2 didn't get the promotion. This increase in racial
3 tension is no more than a fallout of all the
4 problems that I have mentioned resulting in the
5 black community, in many cases feeling helpless,
6 there is no hope, they're expecting a fair shake
7 when it comes to black concerns. So we have a
8 segment of our society that are being
9 disenfranchised from all major aspects of our
10 society that will have an impact of determining
11 their quality of life. I say if we continue down
12 this path then we can eventually expect the same
13 type of riots that occurred in L.A. or some type
14 of disturbance. But again, this type of rioting
15 as we seen in L.A., that type of rioting is no
16 more of an outcry that something is wrong. That's
17 what the people were doing then, crying that
18 something is wrong in our society as it pertains
19 to a treatment of a group of people. In fact, it
20 is a weaker call for all of us to address the
21 problem before it becomes more than a riot. It is
22 a weaker call for Charleston as well. How do we
23 resolve the racial tension problem or at least
24 minimize the things that are causing this increase
25 in racial tensions. What would be simple if we

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1 just stopped practicing racial activities that
2 causes increase in racial tensions, but I think we
3 all realize that that is too simple and if we did
4 that we wouldn't be sitting here. So the problem
5 is one that all must, all must play upon, but I
6 think it has been alluded to earlier in several
7 individual statements and presentations. The
8 major role of resolving racism and racial tension
9 rests with the perpetrator. Who are the
10 perpetrators. The government, industries,
11 judicial systems, and people in general. Who are
12 in control of these institutions. Quite clearly
13 the dominant segment of this community is in
14 control and it's simple. They are the white folk
15 of this community. So that means that the major
16 role in resolving a racial tension problem is the
17 white community's responsibility. This does not
18 exempt the black community from it's
19 responsibilities of ensuring the problems that are
20 resulting in the increase of racial tensions are
21 not addressed. It is difficult for one to resolve
22 the problem. For example, if you have your foot on
23 his neck the only thing he can ask you to do is
24 get your foot off his neck. Now, you have an
25 opportunity to prevent some disturbance and

1 prevent some conflict by doing just that, removing
2 your foot off his neck, but it's just common
3 sense. If you continue to keep your foot on his
4 neck, you are going to react as any other human
5 being. He may hand you your foot into your
6 hand. It's that simple. So what I'm saying
7 again, and just to re-emphasize, I see in this
8 room the panel, myself, 99.9 percent of the people
9 in this room are black. We can't solve this
10 problem. People that need to be addressing or at
11 least to be participating in the solution of this
12 problem are those that are in control. Those are
13 the individuals that can solve the problem. You
14 institute the problem, you want it solved, stop
15 it. You have the power to stop it. This
16 community has the opportunity and responsibility
17 to seize upon this time to resolve these problems
18 that are contributing to racial tension. It is
19 our responsibility to ensure that the laws on the
20 books that address racial discrimination, even
21 though it has been weakened in some, address
22 racial discrimination, are enforced. All of us
23 must bring to the attention of those in charge
24 when discriminatory acts are being carried out,
25 and if we are serious about the increase in racial

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1 tension, then we as a community, white and black,
2 whites playing the role that they should, will
3 resolve it. If we are not, then we can expect,
4 eventually expect the same type of activity that
5 occurred in L.A. not only to occur in this
6 community, but to occur in other communities. I
7 think it is quite clear historically this is not
8 the first time that these type of questions and
9 meetings have taken place. I guess the last 40 or
10 50 or 60 years they have had numerous reports and
11 on back. So I want to thank you for having me
12 here again to at least provide you with some light
13 on what I see and what we see at the NAACP and the
14 various things that are going on in this
15 community. But again, I would just like to
16 emphasize that, yes, we all must play a part in
17 resolving this problem of racial tension and
18 prevent it from getting worse, but the white
19 community is going to have to get involved because
20 they are the ones, simple as that, in control,
21 they are the ones instituting the problem.
22 Otherwise, ten years from now you're doing the
23 same thing, 20 years, same thing. Thank you.

24 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you very much, Mr.
25 Johnson. Mr. Bill Saunders, if you will.

1 MR. SAUNDERS: I have heard some discussion
2 already and my position has been for quite a while
3 that our practice of religion is the most
4 dangerous thing we got going for us,
5 African-Americans, our practice of religion, and I
6 think it's something we keep discussing and it
7 keeps getting further away from us simply because
8 we belong to every religion that people come up
9 with and even planning some new ones. I think that
10 the problem when we start talking about racial
11 tension back in the 50's and 60's I was a part of
12 racial tension. I see racial hatred today
13 different from things what I saw back in the 50's
14 and 60's. I see pure hate between both groups at
15 this particular time. It's different from the
16 kind of things that we used to talk about tension
17 and tactics. The number of playing tactics and
18 setting up people to make them do the right
19 things, you know, I think that with the Reagan
20 Administration to do wrong have been sanctified
21 and it's a way to do a lot of things and there
22 have been a lot of changes. And in our community
23 a lot of people would see it differently because I
24 think that Charleston has always been
25 sophisticated as it relates to racism, but there

1 is a lot of things that goes on here that one has
2 a problem with. The brother that alluded to the
3 four blacks that were accused of beating a white
4 boy to death, before they got through beating the
5 boy the solicitor asked for the death penalty and
6 they were going to change the law to try these
7 kids as adults. And I did an editorial on the
8 radio last week, five blacks shot a black kid to
9 death last week. Nobody cares whether these kids
10 go to jail or not, that killed the black kid. And
11 the black kids are getting killed over and over
12 and over and over again and the black kids, all of
13 them, have guns, all of them got guns, and the
14 question that comes to mind with us, where are
15 they getting the guns. And they don't have the
16 guns that we used to talk about, you gentlemen
17 that are sitting up there that have 22s. They
18 have the real deal. And somebody is selling them
19 those guns and the same people that's selling them
20 those guns are the ones that are selling them the
21 drugs. And then they come to me and say, well,
22 why are they doing those things, you know. And to
23 me that is the kind of thing that I see where
24 racism -- really white people have allowed
25 themselves -- they have done a good job in

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1 allowing themselves - they are individuals. Black
2 people are all of one. Anytime -- right now, if
3 you go out that door and do something wrong every
4 black man in here is in trouble. Now, if he go
5 out the door and do something, they'd be looking
6 for a white man and not even looking like him,
7 they wouldn't even mess with anybody. We had a
8 serial rapist that raped 27 women and it didn't
9 bother the white male community, but if a black
10 guy had done that, all black men would have been
11 guilty of that and we would have felt guilty.
12 Every time a crime is committed now I am
13 supposedly, and it makes the black community mad
14 at me, and again, I think Milton and some people
15 could relate to this, anytime that my name gets in
16 the paper or on t.v. a black leader, then the
17 black community comes to me, how the hell did you
18 become a black leader, who made you a black
19 leader. The white folks made me a black leader.
20 My white counterpart is a leader, but I can never
21 be a leader. I got to be black and a leader.
22 They come to me for the same problem, or they go
23 to the Legislature to do something, or get Urba to
24 do something, or to get Jim Frank to do something,
25 or get you to do something, when I don't have the

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1 power like those other places, but I'm still a
2 black leader, and it bothers both sides of the
3 community. We have a lot of subtle things that
4 are irritating the younger black community and
5 they are giving us credit for having no power or
6 not the ability to deal with power. And we as the
7 so called leaders don't go to the kids and say we
8 don't have any power, that we are incapable of
9 doing some of the things that they think that we
10 should have the power to do. So I think that
11 racial hatred, it's a growing thing and it's going
12 to have to be looked at very seriously unless a
13 lot of people are going to perish. And I came up
14 here, I came up late, but I have gone back to do
15 what I do best. I'm helping people pay light
16 bills and the kids that need some help at school
17 and those kind of things. I am good in those
18 areas. I can't solve these problems that you are
19 dealing with. I can't deal with the racial problem
20 any more. Because people are being used in the
21 racial areas we got right after the riots
22 supposedly people going to riots in L.A. I
23 thought it was an uprising. That's not over with
24 yet, but our Mayor that everybody is proud of, and
25 I'm proud of him, he did a good job with the city,

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1 but he was able to get ministers to ride around in
2 police cars to go to the black community to say
3 just, ya'll be cool now. The black male was
4 embarrassed of it. There were 40 or 50 black males
5 in a school doing a mentoring program for black
6 young males and they had helicopters flying over
7 this school with cops all around the place
8 watching these -- and these are professional men,
9 engineers and lawyers and doctors doing mentoring
10 program that Friday evening, but they were all
11 suspects because they might do something bad and
12 those brothers and sisters were doing okay, but
13 those guys were upset about that and it comes out
14 in the form of hate, not the kind of thing that we
15 did, again, I'm going back to what we did in the
16 60's, and somehow to begin to -- nobody's
17 beginning to address that. Nobody is saying to
18 this whole group that we are all in this boat
19 together and if you guys don't begin to deal with
20 this problem, we're all going to go down the drain
21 if no longer you're not able to control me without
22 hurting yourself. Economically, you know, I'm in
23 the radio business. It doesn't matter what kind of
24 rating I have on my radio station I don't get no
25 advertisements, you know. And I had on minister,

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1 Reverend Dawson, I mean, he would go picket and
2 they called him crazy and he's a bad influence on
3 the community, but that's the only way I got
4 advertisement from Pizza Hut or from Church's
5 Fried Chicken or, you know, from those places.
6 That's the only way I got any advertisement. It
7 doesn't matter what rating my radio station has.
8 It's called racism, and these things are out of a
9 job. And so many of the young people that he's
10 talking about that got the Masters Degrees and
11 Baptist Degrees wouldn't even try. I got kids of
12 my own that got these degrees wouldn't even -- oh,
13 they ain't gonna let me do that. They don't even
14 try. So we have a lot of problems that a lot of
15 people have to address. And with me and my
16 capabilities, I'm 57 at this point. I don't think
17 I'm capable of doing any of those things, but I'm
18 going back to doing the things that I did in the
19 '50s and '60s, at helping people because I'm good
20 at helping people, but I'm not good at helping
21 solve these kind of problems because the people
22 like our Mayor -- and we got a new Mayor in this
23 city here of North Charleston. And they used to
24 call the old one bad. He's not near as bad as the
25 new one. I mean, this guy's going to buy property

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1 to build the municipal -- they're building a
2 coliseum and paying a quarter of a million dollars
3 for the property around it and got the housing
4 where people are living and tell the people, you
5 got to get out. They're not going to pay them a
6 nickel to move or find a place for them to live,
7 just get on.

8 MR. DOCTOR: This is going on in Charleston or
9 North Charleston.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: I'm talking about where you are
11 right now; not too far from where you are right
12 now. Right by the airport. Those are the kinds
13 of things, and this is a young white lawyer that
14 everybody think was a good guy. He's a lot worse
15 than the old fellow that was there before and he's
16 smarter, probably louder than the NAACP.

17 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you. Ms. Reid.

18 MS. REID: Good evening. I have been asked to
19 come here today to discuss whether or not racial
20 tension and racial prejudice exists in the City of
21 Charleston. So definitely. However, it's clearly
22 disguised and surfaces with blatant instances of
23 racism. The City of Charleston as we know in
24 South Carolina is nationally acclaimed as the City
25 of Culture, Spalato, magnificent gardens and

1 homes, and the historic cradle of the south and
2 it's a tourism attraction to the world. Although
3 I applaud Mayor Riley and the tremendous asset he
4 has become to Charleston, I look around and see no
5 viable advancements made by African-Americans in
6 the African-American population. With the
7 construction of the municipal auditorium hundreds
8 of African-Americans were displaced through
9 eminent domain. With the construction of I-26
10 cross town connectors it was the African-American
11 who was displaced and remaining streets turned
12 into dead ends. With the construction of the
13 Omni Place Hotel there were scores of new
14 businesses with rents priced way above the budgets
15 of small black businesses. Jobs were available as
16 promised, but only as domestic positions for
17 blacks and those were greatly reduced by the
18 number of white college students who were hired.
19 Many renovation projects have been undertaken in
20 the Charleston east and west side, however, bank
21 loans with high interest rates have either been
22 denied or priced out of the range of African-
23 Americans, and the white flight from the city has
24 been reversed with more young home owners in the
25 once black predominately populated

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1 neighborhoods. City and county employers have
2 increased the numbers of African-Americans they
3 have employed, but have consistently kept them in
4 the low managerial positions. The News and
5 Courier recently did a poll. That poll stated
6 that the City of Charleston had 1,177 employees.
7 Those being paid 40 thousand dollars or more,
8 there were 37, only seven were black. Those being
9 paid between 30 and 40 thousand dollars, there
10 were 60, only 14 were black. The County of
11 Charleston, 1,440, those being paid over 40
12 thousand, there were 51, only one was black. Being
13 paid between 30 and 40 thousand --.

14 MR. DOCTOR: Excuse me. What was the first
15 category?

16 MS. REID: Excuse me.

17 MR. DOCTOR: What was the first category?

18 MS. REID: City of Charleston.

19 MR. DOCTOR: I mean, between -- I'm talking
20 about County of Charleston, your first monetary
21 category?

22 MS. REID: Those being paid more than 40
23 thousand dollars.

24 MR. DOCTOR: And one; did you say one was
25 black?

1 MS. REID: There were 37 of those and there
2 were seven of them who were black.

3 MR. DOCTOR: I'm talking about the County.

4 MS. REID: The County, okay. There was only
5 one; 51 people and only one was black.

6 MR. DOCTOR: Okay.

7 MS. REID: Those being paid between 30 and 40
8 thousand for the County, there were 75, only seven
9 were black. In the City of North Charleston they
10 employ 625 employees. 13 of them are paid
11 between -- more than 40 thousand dollars, only one
12 was black. 30 of them were paid between 30 and 40
13 thousand dollars, only seven were black.

14 Charleston County School District refused to
15 release any figures in that arena and they were
16 probably just in doing so. In the City of
17 Charleston we're 42 percent black. In the County
18 of Charleston we're 35 percent black. The results
19 of this invisible ceiling fills the requirement
20 for minority hiring while it provides a plantation
21 style system of a white male dominated control.
22 This results in lower income, forces
23 African-Americans to live in sub-standard housing
24 that breeds drug related activities, poor living
25 conditions, and crime. One area that speaks to

1 that is the Bayside Manor Apartments. Those
2 apartments -- well, you couldn't even see it
3 driving down the main thoroughfare of Charleston
4 because it sits way off of the road. It's like 97
5 percent black, sits way off of the road, and
6 surrounded by three or four grave yards, a junk
7 yard, a scrap metal yard. It's just living in a
8 blinded condition. Inside those apartments, we
9 did a story on those apartments, inside those
10 apartments you can walk in and you can see holes
11 in the walls, or you can see rats, you can see
12 roaches, people have found snakes in their
13 apartments, children have been bitten by raccoons,
14 and nobody wanted to take responsibility for this
15 apartment complex and the situation that was going
16 on in that complex, and no one was coming forward
17 and say who owned that complex, but the paper
18 trail led to four of the richest white people in
19 the City of Charleston and those people, even with
20 them being discovered as the owners of this
21 apartment complex, still did nothing to relieve
22 the living conditions of those people.

23 MR. ZIMMERMAN: That's Bayside --.

24 MS. REID: Bayside Manor.

25 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Okay. Is that at the end of

1 what, Calhoun?

2 MS. REID: It's Meeting, off of East Bay and
3 Meeting Street.

4 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Okay.

5 MS. REID: The resulting fact of these
6 deplorable living conditions have ended up in
7 crime rates that have skyrocketed, which has
8 brought on many more confrontations with the
9 police officers. And confrontations with police
10 officers in the City of Charleston, I mean, that
11 would take more than just a session. For black
12 people police officers have not been our
13 friends. For black males police officers have
14 been a nightmare. There have been just incidents
15 upon incidents where black males have been
16 accosted for no particular reason, they have been
17 handcuffed, thrown in the back of cars, they have
18 been beaten, and they have never been charged with
19 anything. One such incident is a young man in
20 North Charleston, his name is Ashbury Gregory, he
21 -- his brother was outside of his apartment
22 complex, the police officers accosted the brother
23 for driving under suspension of license, he
24 intervened and was beaten, handcuffed, had his
25 fingers broken, his arm broken, no charges were

1 filed against him. That next week he was standing
2 outside of his apartment, there was supposed to be
3 someone in the area who had committed some kind of
4 robbery, and this young man fit the description.
5 Mind you, this young man's hand is bandaged, his
6 arm is bandaged, and he's standing outside his
7 apartment, but yet he was thrown to the ground,
8 handcuffed again, and taken to jail, but still not
9 charged. He just looked like somebody, but then
10 in the City of Charleston we all look alike.
11 Another incident was Connell Brown. Connell Brown
12 made the mistake of being a black man walking down
13 his own street carrying his own typewriter. A
14 black man carrying his own typewriter in the City
15 of Charleston is a crime, obviously. He was
16 followed, he was followed to his home, he just --
17 well, what the young man did is the police
18 officers asked him to stop and he didn't. If you
19 live in the City of Charleston and you're a black
20 man in the City by yourself at night and a police
21 officer asks you to stop, it's not uncommon for
22 that person to try to make it on home before he
23 stops. He was like on the same street too that he
24 lived on so he proceeded to his home, went into
25 his house, his brother came out, the officers got

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1 into a fight with his brother, his brother was
2 handcuffed to the banister, Connell comes back out
3 of the house upon hearing the shouts and the
4 scuffle, Connell is shot twice, he was in the
5 hospital for several weeks and he was charged.

6 MR. KIMPSON: Let me ask you why do you say it
7 was not uncommon for a black man to try to make it
8 to the house?

9 MS. REID: Because safety is the best measure.

10 MR. KIMPSON: He fears what will happen to
11 him?

12 MS. REID: Yes, yes. Even going back to the
13 incident in L.A. with the Rodney King incident. If
14 you talk to many black men in Charleston, and I'm
15 not talking about people who you would see where
16 brothers are hanging out, I'm talking about every
17 black man, you know, professional brothers,
18 whoever, their perception now is if I'm going to
19 -- if the police is trailing me and he's throwing
20 on his lights, I'm going to keep on driving until
21 I get to the nearest lighted area or the nearest
22 populated area where there are people who can see
23 what is going to happen to me. There is a total
24 loss of trust with the police department in the
25 City of Charleston. Other signs of racism in the

1 City of Charleston we can look to the political
2 front. The black population in Charleston is
3 heavily involved in the democratic party, heavily
4 involved, and being so you would think that we
5 have black candidates who are running for office
6 that they would receive the full support of the
7 democratic party. That is not the case. We have
8 had black candidates who applied for the Governor
9 of the State and, once again not only Charleston
10 but South Carolina is almost predominantly
11 democratic controlled and predominantly black in
12 the democratic party. That black candidate has
13 not received the support of the white democrats in
14 this state, and definitely not in the City of
15 Charleston. And people have said we're fortunate
16 that six black people are on City Council when we
17 really only and Council member Robert Ford has one
18 voice that really spoke for the individuals in
19 Charleston either the black or the white
20 community. It doesn't matter how many numbers you
21 have there if those people are not working in your
22 best interest. So I don't want anybody to be
23 mislead that because we have six black people
24 sitting on City Council that we are on easy street
25 because we are not. There is also environmental

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1 racism in the City of Charleston. We have a plant
2 on King Street, Albright and Wilson plant. In
3 July 17th of last year they had a very deadly
4 explosion where eight people were killed. That
5 plant borders a very poor black community. That
6 plant has been cited with numerous health
7 violations. They have been fined for numerous
8 health violations and nobody from that plant
9 decided that they ought to go into that black
10 community and see what it is that we can do for
11 this community or what it is that the chemicals or
12 whatever else is leaking out of our facility how
13 it may have impacted upon your lives. Even after
14 the explosion it took Council member Robert Ford
15 to bring in Dr. Bridges from Atlanta to set up
16 examinations for people in that community. Of
17 course, after the explosion Albright and Wilson
18 are all over the place trying to be good
19 neighbors, you know, we're donating money to this,
20 we're putting out newsletters, we're letting
21 people into the plant to use computers for
22 tutorial programs, but what have they really done
23 to change and impact that community. And I have
24 been throwing some dollars at them and they
25 haven't done anything. So we are also facing

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1 environmental racism. We have institutions of
2 racism in the City of Charleston, the Citadel
3 being one, the College of Charleston being
4 another. The Citadel hazing and dismissals and,
5 even recently a shooting of a black student at the
6 Citadel campus, but nobody knows anything about
7 it. Black students have been hazed and dismissed
8 for hazing, dismissed for knowing about hazing,
9 excuse me, when the white students who actually
10 did the hazing nothing happened. They're still on
11 campus, but because this black student had
12 knowledge of the hazing he was dismissed. And
13 also a black student was shot on campus very
14 recently. Nobody knows why, nobody knows who.
15 They also have problems at the Citadel with the
16 food workers. The food workers were trying to
17 unionize. Those persons who tried to start that
18 union were dismissed. Those persons were rehired
19 after some fights, but the union itself is not
20 recognized by the Citadel, and the Citadel is
21 saying these people are not really state employees
22 any more, they're working under food
23 sub-contractor service people, so those
24 individuals are not eligible for any state
25 pensions or any kind of state anything, they're

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1 just out there and they're out there at the whim
2 of the Citadel to be dismissed again if they
3 choose. The College of Charleston has an
4 increasing enrollment of black students. I can
5 count on my hand the amount of black professors
6 they have there. There are none who are tenured,
7 none whatsoever. They have professors there in
8 visiting stances. They don't have any on the
9 staff say full-time. They can show you their
10 numbers and they will tell you we have "x" amount
11 of black people so we're pulling those quotas, but
12 those people are support staff people. Those
13 people are not in the classroom. We have
14 African-American studies being taught by white
15 people, but we have two Africans on the staff at
16 the College of Charleston in the field history,
17 but they're being taught by white people. And
18 Charleston County School District, that's another
19 thing that we would need a special hearing on.
20 Charleston School District as far as dismissal and
21 transferring are just hounding qualified
22 individuals until they have left the district.
23 That's been going on for the past ten or 15 years.
24 And Charleston County School District is almost
25 void of all of those qualified individuals who

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1 could appoint a leadership for our children. And
2 our classrooms, although the inner city schools
3 are becoming -- well, they're not becoming. With
4 the white and black people we may have dropped
5 that 90 percent down to about 85 percent black,
6 but the classroom situation with teachers are
7 increasingly going up with white teachers as those
8 black students is increasingly going up. So if I
9 want to send my child to an inner city black
10 school to be taught by black teachers, nine out of
11 ten chances are he's going to have a white teacher
12 sitting in that classroom and these people do not
13 live in the City of Charleston. And they have
14 systematically closed every black high school we
15 had in Charleston. We only have one black high
16 school left in the entire City of Charleston, and
17 that is being taken through all kinds of changes
18 with the in house, almost white oriented, magnet
19 high school. So the Charleston County School
20 District has been no picnic for blacks either.
21 And we have also -- the media has been a problem
22 for black people and I guess you're saying, she's
23 a part of the media, but when I say the media I'm
24 talking about the white media, plain and simple.
25 The white media has been treating black people

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1 very negatively. I don't care what statistics you
2 are talking about on channel two, four, five, or
3 whatever other channel is seen in Charleston, you
4 are going to see pictures of black children behind
5 those statistics. You could be talking about
6 white people on welfare and you're going to see
7 statistics of black children behind those
8 statistics on television. If some child got shot
9 say three months in the only black high school we
10 have in Charleston, they're going to flash
11 pictures of Burke High School, but we have never
12 been afforded being portrayed positively to our
13 children through the media. I know I'm getting
14 long here. In conclusion there is definitely
15 racial tension and racism in Charleston. It is
16 brought on by racial disparity in hiring,
17 promotion, in firing. It is fueled by
18 inappropriate law enforcement interactions. It is
19 perpetuated by the displacement of black families
20 in the name of progress through eminent domain.
21 It is reinforced by the white male dominated power
22 structure, which comprises our financial
23 institutions and government structures. And it is
24 also subtle and with only outbreaks of blatant
25 acts and it is compounded by the polite, southern

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1 manners that leaves it unspoken and unconfro
2 until an explosion, until the next Los Angeles or
3 the next Rodney King. When I watched L.A.
4 engulfed in a living hell I saw Charleston under
5 the same set of circumstances as did many other
6 African-Americans in many other urban cities.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you very much, Ms. Reid.
9 I want to take this time and thank each of you for
10 your presentations. I think you have been quite
11 forthright in your opinions of race relations and
12 racism in Charleston and the surrounding areas. I
13 think we have heard quite a bit from you. I do
14 know time is of the essence so would the next
15 panel --.

16 DR. DAVIS: Can I ask a question?

17 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Okay. We'll go ahead and ask
18 questions at this time. We have one more panel.

19 DR. DAVIS: Oh, I didn't know we had another
20 panel.

21 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Okay. We'll go ahead and --.

22 DR. DAVIS: I would like to -- and I have
23 known several of you a long time, do you believe
24 that we are operating under the, in the black
25 community, under the crabs in the barrel syndrome

1 to the extent that we can't resist the external
2 because we simply have a lot of problems
3 internally in our African-American community; and
4 I'm speaking from a lot of experience having gone
5 through situations and I know as a school teacher,
6 you know, we don't get the support, those of us
7 who are very professional in teaching, we don't
8 get the support from our own black community in
9 what we're trying to do, and I am very serious and
10 I can say much more, but I won't. Do you think
11 maybe that is how we can get at the heart of the
12 problem, by taking care of in house things
13 first. We tend to get in each others way through
14 a lot of things that we can't take care of and
15 once others see that we are united within and we
16 are going to do some things within then we can
17 move outward. I don't know. I just need to ask
18 that question.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: To me, and I'll start it off, I
20 think we need to personally, and this is where I'm
21 working from right now, we need to quit trying to
22 prove to other people what we can do. We need to
23 go out and do what we need to be doing. But I
24 think the media that the sister just talked about
25 is one that really does an adviseive thing because

1 a lot of times we don't realize. We have one guy
2 on County Council, for instance, Lonnie Hamilton.
3 I have been and other people have been to County
4 Council meetings where he would jump up and down
5 on the table and do all kinds of things against
6 something that is going on there and the media
7 would not carry any of those oppositions that he
8 raised to what's going on. It would come out that
9 he went along with everything that went on, but if
10 he does something that is just the opposite or
11 just a little bit the opposite it plays it up and
12 then we get mad at Lonnie because we go by what
13 that media says. The same thing with the teachers
14 and parents. The media is in the middle of that
15 and we are being orchestrated in terms of what is
16 going on. And I'm saying personally, but every
17 chance I get to talk to people we're going to have
18 to decide what it is we want and don't ask for
19 sanction because we keep asking other people to
20 sanction what we are about and, you know, we can't
21 continue to do that. We have to decide what we
22 are about and then go out and do that. But that
23 media has been really doing a divisive job on us
24 that we just won't believe. They're into
25 everything that we're doing. And I'm around

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1 brothers and sisters all the time and they say,
2 you know such and such a thing, how do you know,
3 man, it was on radio or, it was on t.v. or, I read
4 it in the paper. And if it was in the paper or on
5 the radio or t.v., it's the truth, it's always the
6 truth and you have already done that. And they
7 pull out kids and they put them on t.v. They take
8 our people, most of the people that are most
9 unqualified to deal with an issue.

10 DR. DAVIS: I guess I'm sort of -- you know, I
11 have a reason for whatever I'm saying.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: I understand that and I'm not
13 disagreeing about us getting together. I think
14 that's a possibility, but I think that we're going
15 to other people to pat us on the back for getting
16 together. I think we are going to have to go out
17 and do what we need to be doing.

18 DR. DAVIS: Yes, well, you know, I don't care
19 about being pat on the back because I've been
20 kicked in the tail so much, but it seems to me
21 that maybe part of our problem is that we sort of
22 need to look at the leadership and maybe who are
23 so called leaders and not really -- the leaders --
24 or maybe the leaders have been bought off to the
25 extent that they can't do us any good and so we

1 have to get back to some basics in the grass roots
2 community.

3 MR. JOHNSON: I think Mr. Saunders touched on
4 this somewhat. I think what it amounts to is that
5 we have a complex problem internally and that is
6 why it is so difficult to put the finger on it.
7 And when the other people get involved, but then
8 again it's easy to manipulate, control and cause
9 problems when you have a lot of external problems,
10 dictating and so forth, and one of the mediators
11 that is a good piece of the problem today is to
12 utilize, to paint pictures, of the black
13 community. I believe and I think we got to the
14 point that we have very little trust in ourselves.

15 MR. KIMPSON: Mr. Johnson, Let me ask you, you
16 and Miss Arlene. You mentioned the police force.
17 Doesn't the City of Charleston have a black police
18 chief; are those people you're talking about that
19 you're afraid to stop if you are encountered, do
20 they work under that black police chief.

21 MS. REID: Yes, they do. Just because we have
22 a black police chief does not mean the problem is
23 going to be solved.

24 DR. DAVIS: The color of the skin doesn't
25 solve the problem.

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MR. KIMPSON: Maybe you're right. Maybe we do have some problems.

MR. ZIMMERMAN: Los Angeles has a black mayor.

DR. DAVIS: And a lot of whites believe that if your skin is black that automatically puts you somewhere and that is not true. I kept saying just know about internal.

MS. REID: I agree that there's internal problems, but I don't want us to place too much emphasis on internal problems being the reason for all the ills of the black community because there are internal problems in the white community also. The difference is that the black community is impacted differently by the white community than the white community is impacted by us. Where we have a serious drug problem in the black community, but we can't bring any drugs into this country. We can't even bring one single drug not even into the State of South Carolina. We can't bring it in so where is it coming from. All those are impacts from outside of the community.

MR. JOHNSON: Can I just say that I think what I was trying to say is that our, and I kind of mentioned earlier, our quality of life is determined by the controlling aspect of this

1 community or the controlling segment, or the
2 controlling segment of this society, which is
3 predominantly white. So, therefore, we are
4 dictated to politically, economically, and
5 socially, and somehow we are going to have to come
6 to a point, I guess what you were trying to
7 address, how do we determine our own destiny, how
8 do we start working together and putting some of
9 those things into play and not worrying about the
10 outside force.

11 MR. BARNES: Being about just the only Anglo
12 in the room, I apologize, I'm going to have to
13 leave in just a -- Milton knows I like to make
14 sure we get everything on top of the table anyway
15 and some perspectives, and I don't want to, for
16 me, say I'm here speaking for white people because
17 I'm not always considered to be in the mainstream
18 in that regard, but I think I do have a feel for
19 how a lot of white people feel and, by the way,
20 going back to the Senator for a minute, I can't
21 help but believe that tone you see from the White
22 House or from whatever house, Governor's mansion,
23 is merely a reflection as the democratic process
24 provides a reflection of the majority of people in
25 the country. I don't think you can blame it on

1 the politicians. It's us, we're that. But let's
2 get back up. Mr. Saunders brought up the point
3 that I thought really came down to why we're here
4 today and that's to try to find the foundation,
5 the bedrock of racial tensions. We talked a lot
6 about evidence as real problems and they're all
7 legitimate of racial tensions, the product of
8 racism, but you came closer to pointing out what
9 it's all about when you talked about hate. You
10 mentioned the word hate and hate is not one sided.
11 We white people see a lot of hate coming from
12 black people, a lot of hate. And that reinforces
13 white racism. Now, I'm not saying that the hate
14 isn't justified. There are a lot of reasons for
15 that. I went to L.A. and saw hate of a greater
16 variety than I had ever seen over here, a little
17 different type, different ethnic groups, different
18 combinations, but hate is hate and it's bad, evil
19 stuff wherever you go. If we acknowledge, if we
20 could agree that hate is a big part of the problem
21 of race, and if hate is a problem for both blacks
22 and whites, I want to ask you, if you would, and I
23 apologize for having to leave, how can we best
24 deal with that, not with the products of it
25 necessarily. I know that's a separate problem,

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1 it's a real problem, but how do we deal with the
2 hate, how do we get down there and try to improve
3 it just a little bit. We talked about -- what do
4 ya'll think; how can we deal with this issue down
5 here in Charleston. I leave it to Mr. Saunders,
6 if you might start it out, you mentioned it was a
7 problem. You mentioned -- let me suggest one
8 thing. You mentioned something that struck me
9 too. You said you felt that you were kind of
10 helpless to deal with it so you're just going back
11 to helping people and I wanted to say to you
12 immediately then, well, isn't that what it's all
13 about, helping people. Maybe we focus too much
14 sometimes on race, I don't know, but you were
15 hitting right around, I think, the number
16 amount. What do you think we can do about this
17 thing?

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Well, number one, I think that
19 the young, and I did mention that there were eight
20 on both sides, I did mention that, and I think
21 that the -- when I said about going back to
22 helping people the reason that I said that is
23 almost basically for the same statement that you
24 just laid, because folks are looking for the
25 victim to be the one to solve the problem. The

1 victim is not going to be able to solve the
2 problem. Brother Johnson was talking about a
3 little while ago the people that have the power
4 are going to have to be a part of solving that
5 problem. And to this day they are not willing,
6 the folks that I have been meeting with, have been
7 willing. And I've been meeting with the Chamber,
8 I've been meeting with all of everybody, and
9 there's a good bit of lip service and there's a
10 lot of philosophizing going on, but there is no
11 real dealing with what needs to be done because
12 the only way that that's going to be done is that
13 if that white group are willing to start dealing
14 with that white community because see, it's not
15 very hard at all for the blacks that ain't here to
16 go right out and deal with the black community and
17 we have something to take to them. But we have to
18 have some socials and the point that I'm making,
19 although people are saying that their leadership
20 is not here or black leaders. We're not doing
21 what the black leaders used to do in the past.
22 We're not going to go back to folk empty handed
23 and say, you should do this. But if the white
24 community is willing to meet us, we will be
25 willing to deal, but we're not going to go back

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1 and say that, you know, these folk are talking
2 good. We are going to have to have something to
3 deal. Like Mayor Riley. Mayor Riley can only
4 deal with the black folk that are probably over 60
5 or so because he's not going to talk about
6 economics, and that's the deal that these young
7 men and women want to talk about. He's not going
8 to talk about anything except for putting a plaque
9 up someplace for somebody or some of those kinds
10 of things. And if you're not going to be dealing
11 with that, it's not going to work.

12 MR. BARNES: Who comes closest to, getting
13 down to the number thing, from your own
14 experience. You mentioned the Chamber, politics,
15 that seemed to be the place. We mentioned the
16 church a little while ago. Which of these
17 organizations or even some others come closest to
18 grappling with the problem that you were talking
19 about; which can we look to as maybe having a
20 beginning point?

21 MR. SAUNDERS: I think that the group that's
22 going to come closest from the white community to
23 do it eventually is going to be the business
24 community because -- and the business community
25 have always led in this country in terms of these

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kinds of things because they stand to lose the most and that is the only reason that they have been so receptive.

MR. BARNES: The only color they're conscious of is green.

MR. KIMPSON: Let's go back to that 35 percent, 42 percent. How much are we doing when it comes to educating ourselves and vote such that we can get rid of some of these people who with all the -- now, I mention that simply because I'm from Richland County in Columbia, I live in Columbia, and we have the worst County Council I have ever seen in my life. They are --I went to the meeting and I went -- Rudy, I got so angry and so I can see why people commit things when they get real angry. We have -- now, this happens to be republican, but democrat this time. There was a district where by 19 votes a man won, 19 votes out of a majority black district. And we're having all of this problem because if they had voted we would have had a 6/5, six democrats, five republicans. 19 vote out of a predominantly black district. This white man won by 19 votes and now we got all this chaos and now they're mad at such that they might always have that. And my feeling

1 is somehow, and all of us have some, that part of
2 the problem is us. Now, we're going to be hurting
3 for the next 20 to 50 years because we sat on our
4 behinds and didn't vote. Now, if we got 42
5 percent in the city or 35 percent, in fact, we're
6 not a majority, but we're a big enough minority to
7 dictate what happens, what are the possibilities.

8 MR. SAUNDERS: The thing about what you're
9 saying is that we have had that majority democrat
10 on County Council. It has really not been that
11 advantageous to us.

12 MR. KIMPSON: I'm not just talking about
13 democrats cause, you know, I voted for this guy
14 here when he was a republican cause he's a good
15 man. But my point is good people whether --.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: And that's where the whole
17 thing's going to have to be revisited with the
18 education and the problem in Richland County and
19 with here right now, again, we're going to have to
20 be able to say to the people if you do this here's
21 what could result from that. And we have not put
22 that agenda together because there are really no
23 guarantees in the political arena right now. It's
24 just not there. That you can -- folks see
25 politicians as -- I go and talk to people and they

1 say that it doesn't matter which one of those
2 rascals wins, it's not going to change nothing for
3 me, it's not going to change nothing for me. And
4 until -- we have to be able to get past that and
5 to make sure the people are looking for a future
6 beyond that, but that's a hard teaching. It's not
7 like it was in the '50s and '60s. We saw
8 something there that they're not seeing today.

9 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Yes, do you have a comment?

10 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Carolyn Johnson and I
11 just have a brief comment concerning the subject
12 here on racism and as far as politics and what you
13 were saying about, you know, majority black and we
14 can't get anything done cause people are voting
15 strictly among -- the political line is the
16 democrats would win all their issues and, you
17 know, all the things that they're trying to get
18 across, but it's racism, you know, the white
19 democrats voting for the white republicans and
20 what have you. And right here in the City of
21 Charleston we have our leading democrat, I mean,
22 what is the guy's name -- Senator Ravenel. We
23 have a guy, right here I have his pen, and there
24 are a couple of others. It's not going to get --
25 they're not going to get the nomination or the

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1 support from the democrat -- of the so called
2 democrat. To me I don't see any one part of the
3 system, you know, it's white against black, every
4 election, it's white against black. Well, ya'll
5 say democrats, republicans. I say white against
6 black. That's all I have ever seen.

7 MR. ZIMMERMAN: That's a good point. That's
8 the reality of it.

9 MS. JOHNSON: It's only two party, it's all
10 democrat. When it's a white democrat running that
11 we all democrats should stick together. When it's
12 a black democrat don't mean a thing. All of a
13 sudden people cross the party line and vote for
14 the white person. And I see it more and, you
15 know, politics to me is racism. It all ties into
16 what you're saying here. Thank you.

17 MR. ZIMMERMAN: We are going to have to move
18 on. If we could have the final group of people we
19 want to come forward. We certainly appreciate
20 your comments. Thank you very much. Now, we
21 would like to have Mr. Jim French who is publisher
22 and editor of the Charleston Chronicle, Mr.
23 French. Is Reverend Blake here. Reverend Blake
24 isn't here. Miss Audra Wallace who is Miss South
25 Carolina U.S.A. was to have been here. She called

1 me last night and she's still in Atlanta on
2 business and having car trouble. She holds the
3 title of Miss South Carolina U.S.A. and was second
4 runner-up. And it's quite shocking to hear what
5 Audra Wallace had to say in Jasper County a few
6 weeks ago when I met her and I invited her to be
7 here today, but unfortunately they had car trouble
8 and she wasn't able to make it. Another gentleman
9 here, Mr. Bob Daily, who is from Charleston and
10 was a victim, is that correct, of racism. Mr.
11 Daily, if you will take a seat here. We'll hear
12 from Mr. French first and then Mr. Daily and then
13 we'll conclude our meeting for today.

14 MR. FRENCH: Committee members, Dr. Davis
15 mentioned earlier that you were sort of -- had a
16 very romantic tattoo about the City of Charleston,
17 is that correct, and that you had met with one of
18 the people, Joe Riley, at one time. As a
19 newspaper publisher I get around this town pretty
20 much and so after about 21 years I fairly well
21 know the people, those up here and those down
22 here. That's my lifestyle. And I wanted to say
23 to Dr. Davis that this is probably the most racist
24 city in terms of image. Internationally
25 Charleston's a great city, that's the image. But

1 Joe Riley is the most professional PR man you
2 would ever run into. He has painted this nice
3 picture of Charleston, South Carolina as being a
4 paradise. It's probably the biggest plantation in
5 South Carolina in terms of dealing with people.
6 I'm talking about people now. Okay, now we're
7 always pointing to the fact that we have a black
8 police chief, you got a black City Administrator,
9 we have blacks who are in charge of the auditorium
10 and so on and so on, but we got blacks in key
11 positions, but it doesn't fall down to the grass
12 root people, those who have, what I call the come
13 here's and the been here's. The been here's are
14 those who are born and raised in Charleston and
15 the come here's are people like myself, and there
16 is a difference between the two. If you were born
17 here, that's a plus. If you come from somewhere
18 else - so we have an internal problem. It's not
19 white folks so much that I'm concerned about, it's
20 black people dealing with one another. You
21 mentioned the crab in the barrel syndrome. Well,
22 in this town we can't even get inside the barrel
23 before we can drag other folks down. You
24 discussed education. Let's take the school
25 district. 55 percent black population in the

1 school district across the County we're talking
2 about. Let's take downtown. The City of
3 Charleston is District 20. 99 percent of black
4 student population in all the schools, with the
5 high schools, the middle, the elementary schools
6 on down. In District 20 you have -- let's take
7 Buist Academy for Advanced Studies, a magnet
8 school. Not one black teacher, not one black
9 teacher. At Burke High School, the magnet part,
10 out of 14 teachers, one black teacher. In
11 District 10, which is probably about 40 some
12 percent black populated in terms of students you
13 have a teacher ratio of four to one, not one black
14 administrator, not one. And it goes on and on and
15 on and on. But, you know, I think Ms. Reid
16 already recited some of the problems that we are
17 having in every area, but Charleston is a city
18 that's been painted as a paradise. I don't care
19 whether you're talking about the schools, the
20 business, whatever sector we're speaking at. But
21 I found in my travels that we have forgotten the
22 one element that causes rebellions like in L.A.
23 We forget the young people and they're the ones.
24 They're not from the old school. You could ask
25 ten blacks in this town, talking about senior

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1 citizens, or a college graduate who has been here
2 for a long time, what do you think of Joe Riley,
3 he's the new messiah. They'll tell you that.
4 They love Joe Riley. Ask a young black
5 professional and you get a totally different
6 opinion. The young lady earlier, Ms. Zimmerman, I
7 believe her name was, she told the truth about the
8 whole matter. You have no kind of program for the
9 black entrepreneur in this town. Now, they have a
10 minority vendors office set up by city government
11 on a 25 thousand dollar grant. Totally
12 ineffective for the past four years when it was
13 created, put in place. We put some much heat on
14 the place in the last year the guy resigned, left
15 town, cause they weren't doing anything. We have
16 a City of Charleston Housing Authority, 99 percent
17 black occupancy, but you got a white administrator
18 and the people within the projects are not
19 accorded the kind of respect or the services that
20 the government brings in dollars to provide. You
21 mentioned the aquarium at the end of Calhoun
22 Street. Now, there has displaced almost 60
23 families in the black public housing. They
24 displaced all those families in the past six
25 months because they want to put the aquarium in

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1 that location, but they used this big lie, we
2 found creosol in this area so we are concerned
3 about your health and you got to go. Big lie.
4 Right across the street no more than 50 yards you
5 have Dockside, a 12 story high private condo, the
6 same site where the plant was on, the creosol, you
7 see. So if you're going to move the black public
8 housing, what about those people, you're not
9 concerned about their health. We asked that
10 question. Now, the place is in a low tide flood
11 area so when the rain's pretty heavy just during
12 the little creek as a matter of fact, so I will
13 say to the City Administration you need not lie to
14 dislocate these people. Tell them the truth cause
15 they should move anyway, but tell the truth.
16 Don't be coming up with this crap about some toxic
17 waste that we're concerned about your health.
18 That's not the issue at all.

19 BISHOP SMITH: Were they required to find
20 other suitable, acceptable housing?

21 MR. FRENCH: Well, initially they sort of
22 bulked that, but we changed that pretty fast so
23 they took total responsibility and financial
24 responsibility of finding decent, accommodating
25 homes and, of course, with their moving. It's

1 just some of the areas. I think Ms. Reid spoke to
2 many of those. In the police department you got
3 Chief Ruby Greenburg, a black police officer, but
4 he has a Jewish background, nothing wrong with
5 that, but you got a different set of rules for
6 whites and for blacks. About three years ago they
7 passed a law against public drinking. Fine, no
8 problem with that, but it's only enforced in the
9 black community. You go to the east side of town,
10 which is considered our ghetto, which it's not
11 really a ghetto. It's probably one of the
12 cleanest ghetto's I've ever seen in my life.
13 Cause black people here take care of their
14 problems by and large. You don't see the ghettos
15 like I saw in Baltimore or when I was in Kansas
16 City the same week. That's the ghetto. I know
17 what the ghetto is. I was born and raised in a
18 ghetto, and we have a very lovely town here. But
19 I think sometimes we don't feel like we're part of
20 the mainstream in terms of inclusion. Take one
21 young kid out to a place on the east side. They
22 thought he had drugs on him, and he owned the
23 place. Took him outside of his business place,
24 made him undress in the middle of the street to
25 strip search, right. It's crazy, it's crazy. You

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1 go downtown and you see a black guy, ain't no
2 black people, you know, we colored people, but
3 he's standing on the corner with a can of beer,
4 you're going to jail. Now, that law was designed
5 just to keep about the black population. Right
6 downtown four blocks away in the Market place you
7 see the wife walking through the streets drinking
8 that beer, cops, how you doing, but we aren't
9 supposed to understand that and the young folks
10 are not going to tolerate that, okay. I am
11 getting out of harm's way, but these kids don't
12 care about no jail and I look here I'm not doing
13 anything. You put me on the corner, you got some
14 problems and it's happened so many times. Take
15 last week. You're talking about public housing.
16 Again, we got two swimming pools in the black
17 community, but they're utilized by white
18 lifeguards. On the east side you got almost five
19 or six thousand young folks. Now, this pool was
20 not created for black people that is why you can't
21 get inside that pool. Last week they had three
22 white life guards in this black swimming pool.
23 You might have read about it, I don't know. So
24 one young kid came into the pool, didn't pay, he
25 was approached by the white life guard in a manner

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1 that I won't approach, but understanding how we
2 deal with each other he indicated he was put out,
3 he came in somewhere else, almost had a race rat
4 out there, beat them white boys repeatedly, but it
5 wouldn't have happened if we have some black
6 lifeguards. But this is the situation. The city
7 recreation budget is the largest in the city
8 governed budget, but you have, and this is what
9 tension I'm speaking about, the tension I'm saying
10 is going to blow this city up sooner or later. We
11 like to play basketball, we like to play softball
12 this time of the year, but we're being pushed off
13 these playing areas. North Citadel soccer team,
14 the Bishop England soccer team, and on and on and
15 we have had some image that we're trying to make
16 the city understand what are you doing. We got
17 six blacks on City Council. You talk about some
18 poor City Council Government. We have six blacks
19 on City Council. Only one that expels and
20 addresses the issues that come down.

21 BISHOP SMITH: How many people on City
22 Council?

23 MR. FRENCH: Six blacks and six whites. And
24 the Mayor's supposed to be liberal. Joe Riley has
25 done nothing to -- he supported a white republican

1 about ten years ago but he's supporting this white
2 republican. The difference, here you got all
3 these good democrats and we still have not made
4 any political gain in this system, economically or
5 otherwise. I mean, zero.

6 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you. Thank you very
7 much, Mr. French. We've got to move on to Mr.
8 Daily.

9 MR. DOCTOR: Mr. Daily, could you give us your
10 full name, please

11 MR. DAILY: Robert Daily.

12 MR. DOCTOR: Robert Daily, okay.

13 DR. DAVIS: Daily.

14 MR. DAILY: Just like daily paper.

15 DR. DAVIS: Oh, D-A-I-L-Y, okay.

16 MR. DAILY: I'm not surprised that there are
17 now officials from the government, just say. I am
18 not surprised at all. I'm appalled that they're
19 not, but it doesn't surprise me because I don't
20 really think they give a damn. And I think -- I
21 know the focus here is to relieve racial tensions.
22 The church is not the answer. Our morals are not.
23 Hate -- when we're born we don't know anything
24 about hate. The only thing we know is love. We
25 learn hate. And our government, our government,

1 let's us get away with this hate so it just grows.
2 This guy here, Erie Spence, says "there is justice
3 for none, white and black." There is no justice.
4 This is the guy that defended the Cara Sophras(ph)
5 case. Remember Cara Sophras(ph). There is no
6 justice. Representative John Conders(ph), does
7 anybody know him. He used to be head of the
8 Senate Investigating Committee on police
9 brutality. It says here following the meeting
10 held with Attorney General Thornburg, March 14, he
11 promised, and I know he did because I watched him
12 on television, he promised all us victims of
13 police brutality that he was going to do something
14 about it, promised a departmental study to discern
15 whether there's any pattern of misconduct is
16 apparent and determine this correlation, if any,
17 between the incidents of police brutality and the
18 presence or absence of departmental training. And
19 it goes on and on. He goes on to say, "I shutter
20 to think that the justice department's behind the
21 line would have been" -- the bottom line is out of
22 47 thousand cases of police brutality compiled
23 within the last six years 68 have been dropped to
24 -- what are we paying the Civil Rights Division of
25 the FBI for. What good are they. I can't believe

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1 it. South Carolina's Constitution reads basically
2 the same thing as the United States Constitution
3 to afford us due process, defending and enforcing
4 our legal rights. It's all a bunch of junk. The
5 cops can come along, they can - black or white -
6 they can knock out your teeth, they can separate
7 your sternum, they can lie about you, they can
8 throw you in the pokey, they can put the cuffs on
9 so tight that you need medical attention, and you
10 don't even find out that you were prescribed
11 medical attention until you get out of jail, and
12 they can get away with it. I call home
13 Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The black population
14 in New Hampshire is probably somewhere around ten
15 percent. You can go to the clubs and the streets
16 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and you will see a
17 connectivity between white and black like I have
18 never seen anywhere before. They go to the clubs,
19 they dance together, they have a good time, they
20 don't go out in the parking lot and rip each
21 other's hearts out. Why is it different than
22 Portsmouth, New Hampshire than it is in
23 Charleston, South Carolina. Because the laws in
24 New Hampshire say if you don't respect each other,
25 we're going to make you respect each other out of

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1 a law. It works. Portsmouth, New Hampshire is
2 just a groovy, groovy place.

3 MR. KIMPSON: Let me ask you a question on
4 that. We found, and I think the research will
5 support this, that whites get along with blacks as
6 long as they're not more than ten percent.

7 MR. DAILY: Okay, yeah, and I'm sure that the
8 statistics -- I'm sure that there's a lot of
9 validity and I am sure that there are some white
10 people that feel threatened by the overpowering
11 presence of blacks. I am sure that's true. I
12 know that when I'm in Portsmouth, New Hampshire I
13 can go into a club and commingle with black
14 friends and it's genuine, and I know that there is
15 a genuine feeling between a lot of black and white
16 people there. And I think that the basis for that
17 is the law. It says you people are going to,
18 black and white, you are going to not tread on
19 each other, you are going to afford each other the
20 rights guaranteed under the constitution and the
21 state constitution. I think if you go into
22 someone's place of business and it's a mess and
23 there's cigarette butts and stuff all over the
24 place, you're going to throw cigarette butts and
25 paper all over, but if this person's business is

1 clean, you're going to throw it in the garbage
2 can.

3 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Okay. I guess what you're
4 saying, Mr. Daily, is race relations in
5 Charleston, South Carolina is so bad that
6 something needs to be done about establishing good
7 race relations.

8 MR. DAILY: I agree. I agree with what you're
9 saying. And let me reiterate by saying that I
10 know that this forum is to help relieve some of
11 the tension that's between the races. I agree
12 that something needs to be done to -- if we don't
13 get it together, we're in big trouble. And I
14 agree that this area is a tender box for some --
15 something's going to happen. I agree with that.
16 The main reason that I came here today is because
17 I am interested in civil rights. And I know that
18 all of our rights are treated not so civilly. The
19 cops can get away with whatever they want to, the
20 judges. You don't have a chance if you're
21 arrested by the police, you don't have a chance.
22 They can work you over, they can charge you with
23 things that you didn't do, they can work you over,
24 you go in front of a judge, the judge does not
25 give you your rights as afforded by our Bill of

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Rights.

MR. ZIMMERMAN: As the United States Senator said, you're saying that constantly your civil rights are being violated.

MR. DAILY: Yes, yes. And nobody gives a damn, right down to Mr. Thornberg, right down to the legislators, the senators. There is no justice. There is justice for none. And I think the whites do have the power, yeah, and it's wrong, yeah, and it's wrong. Use the law to change it. Make the law do what it's supposed to do. Here it defines responsibility for protecting liberty. It's written right here. There is a law. Why doesn't anybody do something about it. Why doesn't somebody go to their congressman or the President and say, look, you have a responsibility to protect my liberty. Do something about it.

MR. ZIMMERMAN: We certainly will carry your concerns back to the United States Civil Rights Commission in our report, and we appreciate your being here along with the other panelists. And we want to conclude this meeting here today in saying that we know that race relations are not what they used to be, but I want to say to you that they're

1 definitely not where they should be in this day
2 and age. We will do what's necessary. There is a
3 lot to be done and we must not be so naive to
4 think that everything is alright because it isn't,
5 but we must be strong enough to do what is
6 necessary. It may not be the most popular
7 position to be taking, but grant you, it's the
8 right position to take and, where you may not be
9 loved by your adversaries you will be respected
10 and I think that's all that each of us desire.
11 And I think that if we're all to live in a nation
12 that is to be true to all of its citizens and the
13 great nation that it speaks of, we're going to
14 have to do what is necessary to make the laws of
15 this nation responsive to each of its citizens.
16 And with that I would like to thank each and every
17 one of you for attending.

18 (The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 o'clock, p.m.)
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1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 2 COUNTY OF CHARLESTON) : C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

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I, Karen Elliott, Notary Public, certify that I did have the South Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to appear before me at the Sheraton Airport, 5991 Rivers Avenue, Versailles Room, Charleston, South Carolina; that the foregoing pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of this meeting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or kin to any of the parties to this cause of action, nor am I interested in any manner in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 16th day of July, 1992.

5/

 Notary Public for South Carolina.
 My Commission Expires Aug. 15, '00.