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Meeting of the South Carolina Advisory Committee
to the
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Tuesday
July 16, 1996
1:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

ADAMS MARK HOTEL
1200 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Volume II of II

1 Trooper, local troopers on both sides of them. So, they
2 couldn't go to the side and give out the applications.
3 You're not going to find too many people going to come
4 through SLED agents and troopers and local police with us
5 videoing them and come back and get an application.

6 Well, they didn't have a whole lot of success
7 in that. And after a couple years, like every other week,
8 that kind of stopped. And now they have rallies and the
9 biggest group of the most recent rally probably had 50
10 people counting women and children.

11 You say: Is this a small problem? And I've
12 likened it recently to cancer. If you got a little cancer,
13 you got alot of cancer; cancer is cancer. So, we try to
14 monitor it very closely and keep up with what is going on in
15 that. At SLED we have approximately 350 agents, a
16 nationally accredited agency and forensic, NCIC, and
17 uniform crime reporting center for the state. We have 20
18 agents in our arson team. They are highly trained and very
19 over worked, no question about that. They call on the
20 regional agents in the field to assist them in these cases
21 and others. And we are putting all the resources we can to
22 it. And we are very thankful to have all the Federal
23 assistance that has come our way on this problem in the last
24 six months.

25 I think you have heard an awful lot already

1 on some of the topics I was going to cover, so I know you
2 have a tight schedule. I submit myself to any question.

3 DIRECTOR DOCTOR: Thank you, Chief. I think
4 they are waiting for you. Who wants to go? Miss Lee,
5 Commissioner Lee.

6 MS. LEE: Can you give a brief description
7 for those of us who are from other town. Like, are you an
8 independent agency? Who funds you?

9 CHIEF STEWART: We are a state agency. The
10 state law enforcement division. We have exclusive and
11 specific authority for all criminal investigations on the
12 state level. While there is nothing requiring it. We
13 normally, except in cases of corruption or a general
14 breakdown of law enforcement, we respond to request from
15 Sheriff's offices and police departments to assist them in
16 any help that they don't have the manpower or the equipment
17 or technology to solve.

18 MS. LEE: Now, between the fires and the
19 actual arrest, the two statistics. Do you see any
20 connection between the timeliness of a coordinated law
21 enforcement agency response? In other words, does it make
22 any difference?

23 CHIEF STEWART: Yes, I think it has greatly
24 improved now. When SLED gets a call from the sheriff's
25 office or the police department, we immediately notify the

1 FBI and ATF. All three agencies respond. I think it's been
2 very good.

3 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Yes, Commissioner
4 George.

5 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: Thank you. Mr.
6 Stewart, could you comment on the problems that have been
7 reported in some areas about the sensitivity of with which
8 investigations are conducted, and the relations between the
9 pastors and other church officials and law enforcement.
10 What's your perception in South Carolina?

11 CHIEF STEWART: Here, again, we haven't
12 received complaints and I understand that we maybe are not
13 the ones that receive complaints, but we just try to do a
14 thorough objective job. We have had, as I told you, a case
15 of a minister burning a church. We have had a case of a
16 Deacon burning a church. And it's one facet that you have
17 to look at, but you certainly need to be sensitive in the
18 way you do it.

19 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: Could you comment on
20 relations between, I think, your unique position to comment
21 on relations between law enforcement at the various levels
22 in the investigations of the arsons? Are they good?

23 CHIEF STEWART: Yes. As I have said, we're
24 working hand-in-glove, the FBI, ATF, and local agencies.
25 And everyone seems to be working real well.

1 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: Could you comment
2 whether there is any significant element of religious
3 bigotry involved in any of the fires or would racist
4 motivation exhaust the categories of arsonists that would
5 raise Civil Rights issues?

6 CHIEF STEWART: We have seen one or two
7 satanic motivated fires. Usually fairly young people
8 involved. I think the racism -- I think the racism goes
9 against religion as you can, so I put all that in.

10 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: Certainly. And the
11 Islamic Mosque that was burned, was there any element of
12 religious bigotry involved in that, so far as you can tell?

13 CHIEF STEWART: That case is pending before
14 the Court and I'd rather not speak of that.

15 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: That's just fine.
16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Commissioner Anderson.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Thank you. I think I
19 noted that you indicated that there had been 17
20 African-American churches burned, and twelve cleared of
21 those cases?

22 CHIEF STEWART: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: And of the
24 individuals arrested of the 12 cases, 11 were white and 8
25 were African-American?

1 CHIEF STEWART: Yes, sir.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Can you address the
3 question of racial motivation in some of those? I know some
4 of them may be pending. But can you say for a majority of
5 them, that seemed to be part of the motivation or none of
6 them? Can you give us some sense?

7 CHIEF STEWART: I think we could probably
8 show it in, at least, a third to half. And there's been
9 some work, you're talking about a profile. And I noticed,
10 give some credit to media and "State" paper. They had a
11 good article the other day and they came out and talked with
12 me some more and printed that article about some research
13 out of, I believe, it was Northeastern University, that went
14 into the motivation on hate crimes. And broke it down into
15 basically three categories.

16 And the first was thrill crimes. And that
17 was, basically, young white men, low educated, that really
18 don't know what they are going to do that night before they
19 go out. They get on drugs and get on alcohol or whatever
20 and clearly racism or hate is involved in it, because in
21 this group, they don't pick white churches, they pick
22 African-American churches. They don't necessarily go out in
23 it to start, but end up doing it. That's probably
24 two-thirds according to this research of the hate crimes.
25 Not all of them hate crimes.

1 The second group is called defensive hate
2 crimes, and that's where -- that's about a third. That's
3 where somebody says, like, I don't want a Mexican church in
4 my neighborhood. I don't want an Islamic or whatever and
5 set that fire. Then maybe one percent would be the true
6 mission-type crimes; where they belong to some organization
7 and they are in a part of a group and actually go out and
8 target on a mission.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Based on your
10 experience with the klan, how would you say most of their
11 activity falls within those three categories?

12 CHIEF STEWART: I have -- I mean, I won't go
13 into specifics, but I think it could fit into all three.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

15 CHIEF STEWART: Because even though some may
16 be a thrill-type thing where they didn't set out to do it,
17 what may have influenced them when they did do it was that
18 connection.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

20 MS. LEE: Can I ask one more question?

21 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Yes.

22 MS. LEE: Since you are a law enforcement
23 officer, I just wanted to take this opportunity to get your
24 thoughts on a couple of things.

25 Number one: The hate crimes statistics act

1 right now is on a voluntary basis. It's not a mandatory
2 thing. I would like your thoughts on how you feel about
3 that.

4 And number two: States -- I think right now
5 there are over 30 states across the country who has penalty
6 enhancement on hate crimes. I would like to get your
7 thoughts on how that is going to affect individual states.
8 Let's say, if you cross the state line, you are going to get
9 maximum sentence on hate crime. But on the other side, you
10 may not. I would just like to get your thought on it, as a
11 law enforcement officer.

12 CHIEF STEWART: Well, you know, I'm for any
13 enhancement in this regard. We've just recently, in South
14 Carolina, passed the two strikes, three strikes legislation,
15 which covers very serious violent crimes. So I -- you know,
16 I'm for it on the state and Federal level.

17 In regard to mandatory hate reporting, I
18 certainly would be in favor of that. Part of the problem
19 you have, though, is how the crime -- what -- see every time
20 a police officer responds to a call in South Carolina, he
21 fills out a report and it comes to SLED. We try to then
22 interpret that and see what categories it falls under. It
23 depends on what information you get, whether you can
24 classify it as a hate crime or not. That is somewhat "iffy"
25 depending upon what information you get and the accuracy of

1 the information.

2 MR. DOCTOR: We obviously are running a
3 little behind schedule. But in the interest of time, I'll
4 be very brief.

5 Mr. Stewart, you have shared with us the
6 number of klan members here in the State of South Carolina.
7 I don't know that you shared with us the numbers of
8 Neo-Nazi's or Skinhead or Posy Komotato(phonetic) members or
9 even malitia members. But I am not so much concerned about
10 numbers as I am about climate.

11 Have you noticed any discernible increase in
12 the impact that hate groups are having in the state of South
13 Carolina as it relates to Race Relations? Negative impact?

14 CHIEF STEWART: Well, you know, I explained
15 to you the history of the klan business, and how we're
16 trying to curtail that as much as we can. As far as the
17 klan being involved in actual crimes that we can prove,
18 there is some pending action now that I just can't talk
19 about.

20 MR. DOCTOR: I'm talking about the climate.

21 CHIEF STEWART: The climate? There is no
22 question that it hurts the climate. There is absolutely no
23 question about that. But I think you are seeing a lot more
24 people come out against it now. And what that's doing is
25 causing the more -- these groups, although they're smaller,

1 to possibly become more radical, and you may even see them
2 get ready to go underground.

3 The klan has been sued now. There has been a
4 couple of church fires. And we've noticed that the last
5 klan rally, not telling you secrets, this was in the
6 newspaper, they're at all the rallies there. There were at
7 least two different klan groups at this most recent rally
8 and some people who said they were part of the area nation.

9 I know that's small numbers, but I said -- as
10 I told you before, it's like cancer if they are there. You
11 don't usually see that. You don't usually see them coming
12 together. They're coming together, they say, to get up
13 money to fight these suits.

14 So, while there is still a small number, they
15 do contribute to the climate. They hurt the improving, or
16 what I would like to think is improving, climate on Race
17 Relations in some areas. And the fact they are now coming
18 together, to get up money to fight these suits, is something
19 I don't like to see.

20 MR. DOCTOR: So, you do see some coalescence
21 amongst those groups. Thank you.

22 DR. BERRY: Mr. Stewart, do you have any --
23 I know you are a law enforcement official and not
24 responsible for public attitudes, but can you think of any
25 reason why the klan would be so active in South Carolina?

1 In some other states, they tell us the klan is totally
2 nonexistent. I was just in Alabama --

3 CHIEF STEWART: Yes, ma'am. I went through
4 the history of the klan while you were out. And basically,
5 we've gone from eight thousand members from the late '60s to
6 early '70s, down to considerably under 400. The largest
7 group has less than 100, and the other three have probably
8 more like 30 or 40 members. But they -- they went through a
9 period of time where they really started to try to increase
10 their membership and went through--.

11 DR. BERRY: Don't do it again.

12 CHIEF STEWART: Yes, ma'am, but I'd be happy
13 to.

14 DR. BERRY: Why is there still some?
15 There's other states that don't have any.

16 CHIEF STEWART: If I had control over it, I'd
17 do something about that. Unfortunately, we can't control
18 what's in people's minds and hearts. I wish we could. We
19 do everything legally possible that we can under the
20 Constitution to curtail that kind of activity.

21 DR. BERRY: Let me ask you this -- this is
22 something more specific than law enforcement. How do you
23 get involved? SLED, how do you get involved in local
24 crimes; like, a church burning that occurs in the
25 community? Do you have jurisdiction to go out and start

1 investigating?

2 CHIEF STEWART: Yes, ma'am. As I explained
3 while you were out. State Law Enforcement Division, we have
4 specific and exclusive jurisdiction in criminal
5 investigation on behalf of the state, at the state level.
6 So, there's no duplication of effort on the state level.
7 But unless it's corruption or total breakdown in law
8 enforcement, we normally take request to come in and assist,
9 when manpower or technology that we have is needed.

10 DR. BERRY: What if they don't request you?
11 I was in a state just recently, where the local state law
12 enforcement director told me that in a couple of these
13 fires, he wanted to get involved but the local sheriff
14 didn't ask him to.

15 CHIEF STEWART: We just really don't have
16 that problem. Sometimes local departments will work them
17 and they work them very well and handle them. We like for
18 SLED to be thought of, except in corruption in some areas,
19 we like to be thought of as an extension of local
20 departments. That's what we were created for, is to have
21 the manpower, some specialized expertise; the forensic
22 laboratory, helicopters, and all these things that local
23 departments, most of them can't afford to have. We don't
24 put SLED on our trucks. We don't put SLED on the
25 helicopters and or bomb trucks. It's a plain truck.

1 If you saw the Susan Smith case on CNN, all
2 that big equipment you saw there was from SLED, basically.
3 And that encourages local authorities to use us. They feel
4 like it's theirs, just as much as it is anybody else. We
5 just really -- very rare that we have a case that we need
6 to be in on, that local authorities don't ask us to come in.

7 DR. BERRY: Why did everybody who answered
8 the question before you got here, everybody came up there
9 said "ask SLED". FBI and BATF think you're theirs, too?

10 (Laughter)

11 CHIEF STEWART: Yes, ma'am, we belong to
12 everybody in South Carolina. We like to think we belong to
13 everybody. Whoever needs out help, if it comes under our
14 statement of law, we will come and help them.

15 DR. BERRY: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you, Chief.
17 That was easier than I thought.

18 CHIEF STEWART: I'll say.

19 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Mr. Bill Graham. Fire
20 -- Captain of Fire Division SLED.

21 CHIEF STEWART: I covered what he was going
22 to cover, unless y'all have something else you want to ask.

23 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Not right now.

24 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Graham,

1 though, for being here. Mr. Jedzinak.

2 MR. JEDZINAK: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: You know, I never have
4 pronounced your last name--

5 MR. JEDZINAK: For those of you who aren't
6 from South Carolina, Commissioner Kimpson used to be a
7 Workers' Comp Commissioner in his prior life, and I used to
8 be a practicing attorney. And let me tell you, you did
9 remarkably well pronouncing my name this time.

10 MR. JEDZINAK: My name is Lee Jedzinak. I am
11 the Director of the State of South Carolina Department of
12 Insurance. In the cabinet form of government that we have
13 in South Carolina, my position is equivalent to what other
14 state's call the Chief Insurance Commissioner.

15 I -- I don't have any prepared presentation
16 for you or any written comments to read off of. However,
17 let me assure you that at the South Carolina Department of
18 Insurance, we recognize that insurance -- or maybe the
19 availability or lack of availability of insurance for
20 religious institutions is becoming a national issue.

21 So, therefore, let me specifically address
22 the laws in South Carolina, Commissioner George, that you
23 asked about which limit cancelations of insurance policies
24 and non-renewals of insurance policies. And let me tell you
25 to -- to follow Chief Stewart's lead, to tell you,

1 specifically, what we've done at the Department of Insurance
2 in relation to church fires and problems with insurance at
3 places of worship.

4 First off, we don't have the same problems
5 they have in other states with the inability of churches or
6 any business entity over cancellation or non-renewal of
7 insurance policies. We have in South Carolina, our
8 legislature has passed a very comprehensive package of
9 consumer protection laws. And included within that package
10 that's been passed, over the years, is a set of cancellation
11 and non-renewal laws for property and casualty insurance.

12 And let me stress "over the years". The laws, that
13 I am about to talk to you about, weren't passed during this
14 legislative session as an immediate reaction to public -- to
15 some public issue. The laws that I am about to talk about
16 in South Carolina, were considered and passed in the
17 mid-'80s in our state.

18 South Carolina, very simply put, the laws of
19 South Carolina prohibit by law, the cancellation mid-term of
20 any property and casualty insurance policy.

21 Now, there are certain statutory reasons for
22 cancellation; obviously, nonpayment of premium is one. And
23 material misrepresentation by the applicant, which you don't
24 have with burnings of religious institutions; and
25 substantial breach of contractual duty, and loss of

1 reinsurance and substantial change in the risk. Other than
2 that, there cannot be any mid-term cancellation, any
3 unilateral cancellations by insurance companies.

4 And even if one of those five conditions are
5 met, the insurance company still has to provide 30 days
6 notice before they could actually cancel the policy, and
7 then state the specific reason for cancellation.

8 On non-renewal of insurance policies, a
9 company cannot non-renew any property and casualty insurance
10 policy in this state, without providing 30 days notice at
11 the end of the policy term and the precise reason. And
12 precise is not my language, it's the legislative language.
13 The precise reason for non-renewal of the policy.

14 Now, these laws are great to have at this
15 time, with the problem that the other states are having. I
16 know Pat Smackey and I talked about some of the problems he
17 saw up in Tennessee over the last couple of weeks. So they
18 are nice to have for religious institutions, but those laws
19 apply in South Carolina to all policies; whether it's the
20 policy of a religious institution; whether there is a
21 hurricane bearing down on a coastal hotel, like we had last
22 week; or my homeowner's policy or your homeowner's policy in
23 this state.

24 Specifically, the department has taken alot
25 of specific activities towards helping the -- helping the

1 religious institutions.

2 We have in our agency, a very strong market
3 assistance program. The purpose of the market assistance
4 program is to provide help to any consumer who cannot find
5 insurance coverage on their own. We've got a 1-800 number.
6 We've got nine consumer assistants who are trained in market
7 assistance. We have a laundry list of contacts and anybody
8 who calls in, who needs help, we will help them find
9 coverage.

10 Southern Church Mutual was mentioned as one
11 of our domestic companies in South Carolina. And I would
12 like to echo the compliments that they've gotten. They have
13 called us several times to remind us that they are out there
14 and willing to write churches in our state, and they're
15 actively willing to help. In fact, they've put up a reward
16 for anybody who is convicted and sentenced for the arson of
17 churches.

18 We conducted some specialized training for
19 our market assistance program, but it's there to help
20 everybody in South Carolina; including and especially
21 churches.

22 Now, our consumer services division, over the
23 last several months, has individually contacted every church
24 that has had an arson or a burning of any nature, within the
25 last three years, to offer them both claims advice and help

1 them process their claims. To explain the cancellation and
2 non-renewal laws that I just went over with you, to make
3 sure that they are not the victim of any improper or illegal
4 cancellation. To give them tips on how to avoid non-renewal
5 of their coverages, and just talk to them generally and give
6 them any advice that they would have. Now, this is not
7 generally, but we specifically contacted every church that
8 had a fire or -- any kind of fire, arson or burning, in this
9 state.

10 We have contacted also, because we're
11 completely aware that alot of times churches -- especially
12 the churches that have been burned, small rural churches in
13 South Carolina, don't feel that comfortable calling the
14 bureaucracy of state government. We've also contacted the
15 -- Connie is here -- the NAACP and Urban League, the Human
16 Affairs Commission, our consumer affairs office and our
17 consumer advocates office and remind them that we're out
18 there and here is what we could do for anybody that has
19 calls.

20 So, specifically, I think we have done a good
21 bit in South Carolina at the Department to try and address
22 the problem. I will tell you that we contacted other states
23 to find out if there was anything else we could do and the
24 short answer was, they were more interested in what we were
25 able to do to avoid the problem than they could give us

1 advice.

2 On a national level, I'm a member of the
3 National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and I think
4 some of you know that I'm not on the executive committee,
5 but the executive committee has met with Vice-President Gore
6 and is presently answering a series of questions for
7 Congress.

8 I think one of the important things I could
9 do for you here today is answer any questions you have or
10 provide you with any data or information you may want. And
11 like most bureaucrats, I brought my deputy director, who is
12 actually in charge of this area, if I can't answer a
13 particular question. So, if there's anything I could
14 respond to, I'll be glad to try and do it.

15 DR. BERRY: Mr. Jadzinak, do you have a list
16 or do you know specifically what happened in the case of
17 each one of the black church fires; in terms of whether
18 insurance was paid or not paid, or do you have information
19 like that?

20 MR. JADZINAK: I can't tell you by black or
21 white church. We have contacted every church. We have two
22 files that we are working on right now in the case of
23 churches that needed help. I prefer not to go into
24 specifics.

25 (To Mr. Byrd) Do you know specifically how

1 much was paid --.

2 DR. BERRY: Even if you don't know how much,
3 do you know, specifically, that in each case, they were --
4 in fact, are paid?

5 MR. JADZINAK: The answer is we haven't
6 heard back from Paul, but we haven't heard back from any but
7 two of them. So, the best answer I could give is they're
8 either happy with what the insurance companies are doing
9 now, or like most recovery agencies, we'll hear from them at
10 some later point again.

11 MR. BYRD: We have given them the opportunity
12 to voice any concerns or problems that they may have with
13 our office through our toll free access. And, of course,
14 these individuals, we have not heard a response back. And
15 should we hear something, then we will commence any inquiry
16 to that particular problem.

17 MR. DOCTOR: Your name and position again.

18 MR. BYRD: My name is James Byrd. I'm deputy
19 director for the consumer services division for the South
20 Carolina Department of Insurance.

21 DR. BERRY: And you said you had two, you
22 heard back from two?

23 MR. JEDZINAK: We have two open consumer
24 assistance files that we're working on right now. One of
25 them was a dispute over and, I believe, it's the amount of

1 value of the organ that was burned up in the church, and
2 we've been working with the insurance company.

3 I hate to say this, since in my prior life I
4 was an attorney, but both churches are represented by
5 attorneys and there is a limited amount of how much we can
6 push when you have attorneys on all sides of the situation.

7 The other is a question of, there was a church
8 building and the church moved from one building to a new
9 church and it was the old church building that burned down;
10 whether the policy on the old church building was cancelled
11 by the church itself. Whether or not there was coverage,
12 and Jim's been working to try to resolve that with the
13 churches. So, like I said, we've only gotten two, I think.

14 People, unlike maybe the law enforcement
15 officers, there ain't no one afraid to call us. We get
16 almost two thousand calls a month and hundreds of walk-in
17 visitors, and then we try to resolve their concern. We're
18 well publicized who we are and where we are.

19 MS. SNEAD: Just one brief question. I think
20 I already heard the answer and I just want to clarify it.
21 So, there is no danger in South Carolina of policies being
22 cancelled because someone files an excessively high claim?

23 MR. JEDZINAK: No, no. You cannot cancel a
24 policy mid-term unless you fall into one of the five very
25 clearly delineated, very limited--

1 MS. SNEAD: How about if it's just an annual
2 review and they decide now, we're not going to reissue--

3 MR. JEDZINAK: A company can non-renew a
4 policy if they state the precise reason for non-renewal. So
5 the answer is: At some point in the future, some of -- some
6 churches may be non-renewed and that's why we have the
7 market assistance program that we have.

8 I think what we've seen, and we've probably
9 seen it in South Carolina, as well as any other state in the
10 country, whenever there is a time of disaster. We've been
11 through it in Hugo. We almost went through it last weekend
12 with Bertha. The insurance companies will come to the
13 forefront and do the right thing. I really don't anticipate
14 that we'll have that major of a problem.

15 MRS. SNEAD: There is nationally some fear of
16 the impact of that along those lines.

17 MR. JEDZINAK: I understand that, and that's
18 why we started the program as early as we did. And that's
19 why I think we're as far ahead as we are -- our market
20 assistance program, like our cancellation laws, is not a
21 knee-jerk reaction to public concerns.

22 This program has been up and running and
23 working well in South Carolina. We've been through, after
24 Hugo, the same type of situation with mobile homes along the
25 -- where we had to go out and find them coverage and I think

1 we'll be successful with churches.

2 MR. BYRD: And as a supplement to that, we
3 have contacted several of the largest insurers of houses of
4 worship in the state of South Carolina. These individuals
5 are -- basically, assured us that they are committed to
6 staying with the property for which they are insuring. The
7 industry attitude, basically in South Carolina, is that
8 this is very similar to what we were faced with in the
9 Natural Disaster, where the integrity of the industry is at
10 question. And basically, to insure that integrity is upheld
11 by the members of the public, then the insurance companies
12 are doing what they can to assure that these policies are
13 not being non-renewed. And one of the ways to do that, is
14 to, basically, get with a particular house of worship and
15 say, these are some of the things that you need to do to
16 improve your chance of a risk from being non-renewed or
17 cancelled.

18 So we have supplemented this process by
19 developing one-page brochures, trifold to be distributed to
20 individual business entities; houses of worship, basically
21 to educate them as to what you need to do in order to
22 protect your property and to avoid it from being subject to
23 non-renewal or cancellations by insurance companies.

24 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Commissioner George.

25 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: Thank you very much,

1 Mr. Chairman. I am going to have to leave now to catch a
2 flight back to New York, if this storm permits. But let me
3 take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in
4 putting this forum together. It's been very useful.

5 Let me also thank, Bobby Doctor, who, has
6 usual, done a terrific job. I'm sure he's happy to be back
7 in his native South Carolina contributing to helping people
8 in this state to deal with this very important issue.

9 I am very glad that I was able to stay long
10 enough to hear Mr. Jedzinak's contribution. And I want to
11 congratulate you on the efforts that you have made.

12 Chairman Berry was kind enough to mention my
13 efforts to publicize this issue. This issue came to my
14 attention when I attended a summit of ministers whose
15 churches had been burned that was hosted by the Christian
16 Coalition in Atlanta not long ago. And it became very clear
17 to me, from the the testimony of many of those ministers,
18 that what we were facing -- it was potentially a very
19 precarious situation; an ill-motivated person. A person who
20 would burn a church for racial or religious reasons or some
21 combination of those reasons, would find himself in a
22 position, not only where he could burn a church, but where
23 he could silence that church. That church could not
24 rebuild. That church could not reconvene, because they
25 couldn't get the insurance to get back in business.

1 It's very easy to infer from that, the
2 mission of that church or synagogue or mosque is silent.
3 The gospel isn't preached, the torah isn't taught. The
4 message of the Coran is not promoted. So, it was clear to
5 me that efforts had to be made, whether formal or informal,
6 to insure that that possibility was not on offer to the
7 potential arsonist.

8 I would like to make a request, Mr. Jedzinak,
9 because I am -- because I am impressed by the way your
10 office has dealt with it and by the laws of South Carolina
11 that enable you to do that. I wonder if you would be able
12 to work up a brief statement to us of the facts that you put
13 before us this morning, which you have shared with other
14 states, in your effort to discover what more could be done
15 and only learn that they want to learn from you. And I
16 think we might be able to cooperate with you there, in
17 helping to disseminate that information to other states and
18 perhaps promote your efforts here as a model of what can be
19 done by other states.

20 I think, happily, that as Chairman Berry has
21 pointed out, insurance companies have got the message. That
22 this is not going to be -- the cancellation policies of
23 these churches is not going to be tolerated unless there is
24 very good reason for it. But I think we should be vigilant
25 about it, and we should promote efforts like yours. Would

1 that be possible?

2 MR. JEDZINAK: Yes, sir. I think we've
3 already got most of that done, if you want to -- if we could
4 give it out to you now. We've prepared that right along and
5 kept an ongoing log. And let me say that, although Jim and
6 I are both new in our positions, either of us, have been
7 here since this morning. This is our home, and this means
8 alot to us; to keep the insurance industry in South
9 Carolina, so we'll continue in these efforts.

10 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: Thank you. Thank you.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: We want to thank you
13 for being here. We, in South Carolina, are privileged that
14 you've come down and we appreciate that fact.

15 COMMISSIONER GEORGE: It's an honor to be
16 here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 BISHOP SMITH: I wanted to ask a question in
18 reference to, not so much cancellation, but there have been
19 instances and I'm sure the Commission is aware of -- I don't
20 know what the term is. Certain churches and even certain
21 communities, they may not have their insurance cancelled,
22 but the cost of it is tremendously increased. Has anybody
23 addressed that? Is that a problem in South Carolina?

24 MR. JEDZINAK: Cost is always a problem in
25 everything. So, I can't say no to that. I don't know that

1 we've actually gotten any concerns or complaints about that.
2 But I would encourage you, if you have any churches in your
3 area or know of any churches any place that: One, shop
4 around, to shop; and if not, to call us.

5 Insurance is a competitive market. The
6 market doesn't expand. It's the same size market. The
7 number of players who compete will expand, and so prices
8 will go down. Our market assistance program could easily
9 give out a laundry list of companies.

10 Again we haven't received concerns or
11 complaints that I'm aware of, involving the cost of church
12 insurance. But it wouldn't surprise me that all churches --
13 all churches, all businesses, all people are unhappy with
14 what they pay for coverage.

15 MR. BYRD: You know, we do have our prior
16 approval.

17 MR. JEDZINAK: That's right. Our laws in
18 South Carolina, again, are rating laws. A rate is a formula
19 that develops a premium. Our rating laws are prior approval
20 laws, which means before any insurance company could use any
21 rate in South Carolina, it has to go through an
22 administrative process. And most of them go through an
23 administrative hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to
24 determine whether or not that rate is adequate. So, our
25 rate levels -- we insure that the rate levels which result

1 in the premiums are not excessive or unfairly discriminatory
2 in this state by law.

3 Again, our legislature routinely address
4 insurance. Those of you who are from South Carolina, know
5 that you can't pick up the paper on any day without seeing
6 insurance as a topic. So, we're a very highly regulated
7 state which it comes to especially property and casualty
8 insurance.

9 BISHOP SMITH: Maybe you can help the nation
10 in that regard. Frankly we had a situation occur in Chicago
11 where it was a predominately white area. The insurance
12 rating was one thing. Blacks moved in and we purchased a
13 church, and the rate just about doubled simply because
14 blacks moved in. And that's a different subject, but I was
15 just wondering.

16 MR. JEDZINAK: I would hope that wouldn't
17 happen under our laws in South Carolina. Let me put it this
18 way: At the department, we would insure that that would not
19 happen. And I think Chief Stewart might have interest in
20 that, too.

21 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: We want to thank you.
22 And we're going to move right along. We have Dr. Willis
23 Ham, the Commissioner of the State Human Affairs Commission.

24 MR. HAM: Mr. Earl Brown and Carlette Black
25 accepted the invitation so that we could help to boost your

1 number. But then came and saw the agenda and realized you
2 had a number of people yet to speak. We're going to be very
3 brief in bringing to your attention the fact that we
4 administer on behalf of the State of South Carolina four
5 laws that cover a broad range of areas. Race happens to be
6 one of them; but race, age, sex, color, national origin, and
7 handicapped conditions, and in the case of fair housing from
8 status, which is suggested that we protect the rights of
9 families from children from prenatal to eighteen years of
10 age.

11 The primary thrust of our effort is to
12 investigate discrimination and fair housing, general
13 employment, ADA, and we have a public accommodations law
14 which crosses this particular area.

15 And on the preventative side of the ledger,
16 we have staff development training, a technical service
17 division that handles affirmative action for the state. And
18 significant to the issue at hand, we have a Community
19 Relations section that responds -- well, primarily what we
20 do to indicate what this agency is there for on matters such
21 as these. As we develop Community Relations Councils and in
22 every county that is ready to fend for itself and we'll
23 bring together a cross-section of people for us to come in
24 and train in areas of conciliation and negotiations and the
25 like, so, that all problems that occur on a day-to-day

1 basis, they can handle; and also so they can do
2 progressive -- and if there is such a term as proactive --
3 a proactive job of determining what's best for their
4 particular community.

5 A question was raised earlier as the
6 Governor's representative was on, as to what would happen in
7 the aftermath or what will happen increasingly with the
8 Governor's effort. Now, the Human Affairs Commission is
9 developed by statute to deal with some of the kinds of
10 things we've talked about. I've mentioned to include
11 building Community Relations Council. So, the State of
12 South Carolina is assured that there will always be a force
13 and readiness to deal with the matters such as these.

14 Governors, on the other hand, have done less than
15 this Governor, some equal to, in terms of dealing with the
16 issues of race across all lines. We want to indicate to you
17 that when Governor Beasley leaves office whether that
18 happens to be 4 years, 8 years or whatever, the Commission
19 will still be here to address matters such as these.

20 Now, no individual in a county or city, or
21 what-have-you, is called a Commission under the Public
22 Accommodations Act to act and ask for assistance. And we
23 need to make answer one question, whether it's asked or not,
24 where is Human Affairs in matters such as these. We serve
25 at the pleasure of the Governor of the state, the general

1 assembly, and a 15-member board.

2 We do not act on these kind of matters unless
3 someone calls for our assistance. We are here as a force
4 and readiness, as such. And so, we're here today just to
5 share that with you. When Jesse Washington comes on later
6 in the day and you want to know really what a Community
7 Relations Council does that keeps Human Affairs indirectly
8 in the mix, then you'll have the best indication; as along
9 with Greenville, Anderson, Spartanburg, Rock Hill, and
10 several other areas. The greater Columbia Community
11 Relations Council happens to be one of the better -- if not
12 the very best in the state of South Carolina. With that
13 I'll--.

14 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Let me ask you before
15 we get: Is there a formal relationship between Human
16 Affairs Commission and the Governor's Race Relation
17 Commission, do you all work together? Do you cooperate? Do
18 you staff them or -- she mentioned that she didn't have any
19 Staff. And occurred to me, that since there is a
20 legislative body that has some of the same objectives as the
21 Race Relations, is there any relationship or do you work
22 together?

23 MR. HAM: One of the things that we visited
24 as soon as we heard the Governor was going to create the--

25 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Speak up. I don't

1 think they can all hear you.

2 MR. HAM: One of the things that we did, as
3 soon as we found out that the Governor was going to create
4 the Commission, was to write him and to indicate to him that
5 we were statutory designed to do a part of what he was
6 developing a committee to do.

7 As I indicate again, race is what -- one of
8 the several areas that we covered. Very hurriedly, they
9 assured us that they were aware of our statutory design.
10 That at a point in time when they have amassed all the
11 information they need to, in public forums and dealing with
12 the people at grass root level as well, they are certain
13 that there will be a need for the likes of Human Service
14 Commission and the Palmetto Project and Race Relations
15 Council to get together and attempt to do what the public
16 has suggested needs to be done within the term of this
17 particular Governor and staff.

18 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Very good. Any
19 questions or comments for Dr. Ham.

20 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Members of the
22 Commission, since 1990 and since 1973, the Division of
23 Community Relations at the Division of State Human Affairs
24 Commission has kept an index and analysis on all hate crimes
25 in the state of South Carolina and the southern region. And

1 we have worked constantly over the last 24 years or more
2 with CRS, that is Community Relation Services of the United
3 States Department of Justice, which we use, before, a lot of
4 the task force and studies are not reported. You will
5 recall alot of that when you were Director of the Community
6 Relations.

7 In all of these studies and things going on
8 here recently, we have studied and kept information indexed
9 as filed at our office. And who did it and why they did it,
10 and when they did it and why they did it and where it
11 happened, that information has been there for our commission
12 members to indicate in their particular district, if this
13 happened in your part of the community, here is the
14 information and here is the data. We don't publish that
15 information. We have that information available and we,
16 sort of, coordinate that information with anyone who wants
17 to find out as to what we keep on file. We aren't asked to
18 do it. We aren't forced to do it.

19 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Yes. Yes.

20 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: First, could we have
21 access to copies of that information? And secondly, how did
22 you say you compiled this information? Using what methods?

23 MR. BROWN: Using the newspaper, using CRS,
24 that has hate crimes, klan watch. We are affiliated with
25 these organizations on a national basis, and we get that

1 information and we index it. And take a look at what is
2 going on in the southern regional states and part of what we
3 call the do-line of the southern belt of South Carolina;
4 where you've had these kind of crimes.

5 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: Could you make it
6 available to the committee?

7 MR. BROWN: We have it available.

8 MR. HAM: Please depend on Mrs. Mary Snead on
9 your committee to provide you, through us, anything that you
10 need. She is a member of our staff, as well.

11 MRS. SNEAD: I was just about to add what an
12 excellent staff they have. They really do good work.

13 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Let me just ask you,
14 since we are talking about church burnings and we've
15 mentioned Race Relations and hate, et cetera, and if I am
16 correct, I think that also is a part of your watch?

17 MR. HAM: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Have you all been
19 assisting in this with SLED? Have you been called to do
20 anything in connection with that?

21 MR. HAM: Again, without invitation or
22 required presence from either the Governor, the General
23 Assembly or our Board, the answer is no; but we have been
24 monitoring just the same. We've been kind of a face and
25 body or shadow in the dark. And most places that where

1 matters have occurred, we've had a staff member there to
2 listen to the dialogue; to bring back the feedback, so we
3 can discuss it with the staff. We don't intend to be caught
4 flat-footed, if we're called today or tomorrow to join in
5 and say we know nothing about anything.

6 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: So you have not been
7 invited?

8 MR. HAM: We're just monitoring.

9 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: You're ready, but you
10 haven't been invited.

11 MR. DOCTOR: Mr. Chairman, I have a great
12 deal of respect for the South Carolina Human Affairs
13 Commission. Dr. Ham's predecessor, Jim Clyburn, is an old
14 classmate and friend of mine.

15 But I am particularly interested, Dr. Ham, in
16 trying to get some indication as to what the relationship is
17 between your agency and the Governor's Human Relation's
18 Commission.

19 MR. HAM: There is not a direct correlation
20 or direct relationship between us at this time. As I said,
21 we did have immediate discussions. We talked about giving
22 them a chance to get up and running, to determine what their
23 mission would be; like talk, they hadn't even been staffed.
24 But we were assured by the Governor's Chief of Staff, who
25 happens to be a friend of mine, that the point in time would

1 come when we would begin to coordinate our efforts.

2 MR. DOCTOR: I raised that question because
3 it is very, very clear that you all have a track record in
4 this particular field. And it would make sense to me that
5 that track record be utilized to great advantage by the
6 Governor and the rest of his staff.

7 MR. HAM: Yes.

8 MR. DOCTOR: I certainly would encourage
9 that. I've worked with you guys very closely over the years
10 and I know what you have done in this particular field.
11 That is an asset that clearly needs to be utilized more
12 fully, as far as I'm concerned, any way.

13 MR. HAM: Thank you. Might I say this to
14 you: Sometimes we have to discover one another, as we are
15 all busy doing various things. Just recently, the
16 Department of Commerce was worried about a Community Block
17 Grant Program administered by HUD and realized that as they
18 are studying the Aids to Impediment to Fair Housing, that we
19 are, in fact, the enforcement agency. So, we have come
20 together and we've built a consortium of all our groups and
21 all our agencies in the state now -- well, it's in the state
22 that are involved in the Fair Housing business.

23 So, you know, I'm patient, and I foresee the
24 times when we're going to get together the way it's supposed
25 to be done.

1 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Commissioner Anderson.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Dr. Ham, thank you.

3 You said you have been monitoring the situation here in the
4 state. Can you tell us a little bit about the situation?
5 We've had questions earlier about: What is the the state of
6 racial tension in the communities; particularly, communities
7 that have had church burnings? Can you talk to us a little
8 bit about what's happening in South Carolina?

9 MR. HAM: What we really mean, when we say
10 "we are monitoring them" is, for instance: As the matters
11 to Greelyville, we just sent a person there to listen to the
12 dialogue. And, again, we weren't called, so we don't have
13 any direct -- there was no direct presence; just an
14 indication of who is saying what and who is doing what and
15 what implication it might have for us, should we be called
16 in. And that is the full extent of our monitoring right
17 now. So, we have no direct information. There is nothing
18 we could feed you, in terms of information in writing or
19 verbally now, to say that Human Affairs has done --
20 specifically.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: That goes back to
22 '91. The beginning of the -- I guess, the first church
23 burning was in '91 here?

24 MR. HAM: Well, let's say this: The church
25 burnings, as Chief Stewart said earlier, was not a front

1 page issue. And subsequently, it was not being dealt with
2 by any forces that would pull us in; the Governor's office
3 or the General Assembly or what-have-you.

4 You will recall that around '92, we had a
5 very pervasive issue involving race and South Carolina and
6 it's known today in some places intimately as Conway. And
7 it had to do with thirty black student athletes walking away
8 from a football program, because presumably the coach had
9 made an action on the part of the coach to replace a senior
10 quarterback who happened to be black with a freshman
11 quarterback and white, and considered a racist act.
12 And Human Affairs was brought up by then Governor Campbell,
13 and that in 1992 was perhaps the most pervasive ordeal.

14 And Buffalo man not allowed to come into the
15 happy hour period or any other period for that matter, and
16 to buy drinks and socialize at the club. And Human Affairs
17 got in on it.

18 Lake City, happened to be black Boy Scouts
19 allowed to clean the pool at the Jaycees establishment but
20 were not allowed to play in the pool or swim in the pool
21 after they had done the work.

22 So, when I say we cover a broad spectrum, we
23 have been in on a number of things. And Fairfield County, a
24 teen was not allowed to play in a softball tournament. One
25 of the teams that came in was -- had a black ball player.

1 Human affairs called in.

2 There is enough for us to do and provided
3 we're called, and early statements and not now, and called
4 in on the church burning issues. And something like the
5 baseball scene --

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Did the Governor call
7 or local community?

8 DR. HAM: Governor Campbell was picking up on
9 anything that had the racial overtones and he called. But a
10 citizen can call under the public accommodations and ask us
11 to investigate a local recreation department, because they
12 feel decisions being made on a day-to-day basis was
13 racially motivated and not healthy.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: A pastor could call
15 you to get your involvement?

16 MR. HAM: Exactly right. Not everyone knows
17 that. Still ironically, we do education and outreach to the
18 extent that manpower and finances will allow. But I would
19 submit to you that not everyone in South Carolina knows that
20 today.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Well, let me ask you
22 then: Based on your broad experience -- and not because you
23 haven't been called in to the church problem -- in your work
24 in South Carolina, how would you assess the state of racial
25 relations and climate that these actions are occurring in

1 now?

2 MR. HAM: We maintain a watchful eye and
3 regard it in the sense that you would never hear us say
4 carelessly that race relation is deplorable and worse in the
5 country, but we are not blind. We are not inclined to say
6 that there are no real problems. We maintain that a
7 constant vigil must be maintained. One thing, you can
8 legislate anything but attitude.

9 We have to monitor the attitude of various
10 counties, 46 of them in South Carolina, and trying to build
11 the Community Relations counseling and through them get our
12 assessment of what is going on. And we have counties doing
13 extremely well, and others not made it to this particular
14 century. So it's relative, I would say to you, overall.
15 But the need to maintain a constant vigil.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Okay. Thanks.

17 MR. HAM: And that's everything and number.
18 But that's pretty much the way we see it and not number to
19 point to, and it's high or low based on 1991 reading or '90s
20 reading versus '96.

21 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Miss Matthews, I would just
22 recommend that you would say to the Governor he has an
23 organization here that has a very good track record
24 throughout the state of South Carolina, and especially at
25 the African American community and he needs to utilize them

1 more effective visionary, as far as task force and Race
2 Relations concerned. I'm sure they would have valuable
3 information and expertise that they can use and more
4 effective than your ability to carry out your mandate.

5 MISS MATTHEWS: Thank you very much.

6 BISHOP SMITH: I don't know when I need
7 that. I just want to also mention the fact that I have
8 worked with the Human Affairs Commission. In fact, I served
9 on the board for over six years, and I know about these
10 cases that are referred to by Mr. Ham. The Commission --
11 and maybe I'll put on a Commission hat; although no longer
12 there, and very much aware of what is happening.

13 And in fact, when Governor Campbell was
14 Governor, he talked about a special group, statewide group.
15 And now Congressman Clyburn and I discussed it at length and
16 some of the people on the Board plus community people were
17 going to head up this kind of Commission. And with the
18 expertise and support of the Human Affairs, we were going to
19 tackle it then, and it never happened. I guess the church
20 burnings and other things have caused Governor Beasley to
21 now come and start this Commission.

22 I think has been stated, perhaps other people
23 need to know what this group does and they are not only
24 equipped and well-trained in dealing with all of these
25 issues, and perhaps Governor Beasley and whomever should

1 talk about that and that would be my recommendations.

2 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Smith.
3 I think when you look at it Governor Beasley has the best of
4 both worlds and Mr. McLawhorn and Mr. Grant along with Miss
5 Matthews and Mr. Zemp and as I refer to Mr. McLawhorn, there
6 are good people with lots of ability, when Miss Matthews or
7 Mrs. Matthews stated that they didn't have staff.

8 It seems to me that this is a good time that
9 the Human Affairs Commission with its know-how working with
10 the race relation Commission, you get more for the money,
11 and suggestions and observation.

12 And I'm not being negative, because I am
13 proud we have two forces here. And I think when we come
14 together and put our forces together, we might get some
15 better results. Thank you, Doctor Ham and Mr. Brown. Mr.
16 Earl Brown. Did you tell them who you are Mr. Earl Brown.

17 MR. BROWN: I'm Earl Brown, Jr., executive
18 assistant to the Commissioner; external affairs.

19 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: I notice some of you
20 going out. That's what we intended for you to do. If we
21 stop with a break, we'll never get through; and we're not
22 going to leave, though, until everyone who has something to
23 say has an opportunity to say it. Because when do you get a
24 chance to have the members of the Civil Rights Commission
25 here and all being recorded, and it simply means that what

1 you say here will go further than just this room. And thank
2 you for being patient.

3 If you have to get some water and go to the
4 restroom, just feel free to. Please make as little noise as
5 we can. We are going to continue to go.

6 (The 3:00 p.m. list was read with no
7 response).

8 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Didn't get any of those
9 and at least a way to get rid of them. Now, down to the
10 religious community. Director of South Carolina Christian
11 Action council, Wayne Bryan.

12 MR. BRYAN: Mr. Chairman. I didn't have a
13 chance -- the letter said no more than 15 minutes each. So
14 I am taking the opportunity to remind them. I don't have a
15 regular coalition, so I'm not in that habit and go on and on
16 and on.

17 I'm Wayne Bryan. I'm the Executive Minister
18 for the South Carolina Christian Action Council.

19 The South Carolian Christian Action Council
20 is hte statewide ecumenical body of 16 denominations who
21 have been working togethr in issues of public policy and
22 social justice for more than 60 years. You can see the
23 breadth of our membership by looking at the denominations
24 whose representatives are listed on our letterhead which you
25 have.

1 My comments today come from our observation
2 of the burning of houses of worship in South Carolina, a
3 work whcih has been particularly intense during the last 4
4 months.

5 Let me hasten to tell you at the beginning
6 that neither I nor the Council are researchers so as to
7 report precise data about the players involved in the
8 episodes of burning. Nor are we mind-readers so as to
9 report all of the motivations of all of the perpetrators of
10 these crimes.

11 Rather, we come as observers and listeners to
12 talk about the atmosphere of South Carolina and the
13 responses of which we are aware to the assaults on houses of
14 worship in our state.

15 I come, not to give a litany of evil. Such
16 evil, indeed, exists in our state. I come, not to name
17 names, because such is more adequately done by Chief Stewart
18 and everyone deferred.

19 Come rather to speak in a more general word.
20 A more general description and to give, what I hope will be
21 at the end, a mild word of warning for all of us.

22 Before I get into the actual report, let me
23 explain to you that the South Carolina Christian Action
24 Council has specifically chosen a language and a focus in
25 this issue. Our language is to talk about attacks on houses

1 of worship. That's also our focus. For we're concerned
2 about burnings, paintings, threats, all kinds of attacks on
3 houses of worship: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu,
4 others.

5 As we said in a press conference, during the
6 past five years, the people of South Carolina, have been
7 experiencing an assault upon one of their most precious
8 treasures; their houses of worship. Five such fires have
9 occurred in this year alone.

10 Destruction of a house of worship is an
11 attack upon which the society finds most fundamental. It is
12 in these sanctuaries, which have been set aside as places of
13 refuge and of praise, that the communities define themselves
14 and proclaim their allegiance to their creator.

15 We denounce any such attacks, but when these
16 attacks are motivated by prejudice against race, creed,
17 ethnic origin, or class, we find it to be particular
18 reprehensible.

19 Now, we were joined in that statement and in
20 the press conference where we issued it, by 19 Christian
21 denominational leaders, as well as representative from the
22 Jewish community and the interfaith community. So, with all
23 that as the basis, let me speak to a couple of three points.

24 The first point is this: Yes, there is
25 racial basis to the attacks. There's also a basis of hate,

1 a basis of frustration, a basis of ignorance, a basis of
2 fear. Chief Stewart said, and we agreed with him, that the
3 best news that we could almost have is that there is a group
4 in a conspiracy, one group orchestrating. If that were
5 true, then law enforcement could fair out the group, arrest
6 them and put a stop. But it's not that easy.

7 An official policy statement which the South
8 Carolina Christian Action council made in early April,
9 before the sudden on slot of burnings. We said, we're
10 severely disappointed that after all these years of
11 struggle, we have come such a short distance toward respect,
12 tolerance and Race Relations.

13 We're ashamed that some people cannot live in
14 and secure environment, trusting that they and their houses
15 of worship will be safe from acts of violence and
16 destruction. Likewise, we're ashamed that others have
17 found no avenues for their insecurity other than lashing out
18 in hatred, prejudice and destruction.

19 We're sensitive to the fact that the politics
20 of our day are divisive, and encourage power, violence and
21 punishment as solutions to problems, and that our society
22 allows violence to be an acceptable norm. We note that such
23 expressions expressions on the public level encourage
24 personal expressions, such as the bombing of
25 African-American churches on private level. We know that a

1 language of intolerance will cause acts of intolerance.

2 It becomes increasingly clear to us that our
3 state and nation need religious communities and other people
4 of good will to concertededly against such bigotry and
5 savagery. We cannot rest secure in our own places of
6 comfort, while God's children, who happen to be racial,
7 ethnic, or religious minorities, are threatened or abused.

8 Then, as you see, with the last paragraph, we
9 call upon all the members of the religious communities to
10 join us to work in those issues.

11 The second point is this: As you have been
12 discovering today, the attacks have released in South
13 Carolina a flood of caring, of civility, and of
14 neighborliness, which lay dormant. Supporting our
15 relationships to each other but not always overt. Suddenly
16 in the past few months, this flood has overwhelmed us with
17 its reality and its intensity.

18 When Rosemary Baptist church burned in April,
19 they found neighbors appearing from all over the state,
20 asking how they could help. When Effingham Baptist Church
21 burned, Catholic, Lutherans, Baptist, an outpouring of white
22 and black people from Florence County, immediately were
23 present with hammers and money.

24 During these four months, our telephones at
25 the Council have gone crazy; fielding and directing calls

1 from people all over South Carolina and all over the U.S.
2 who want to help.

3 So, my second point is this: If those who
4 attack houses of worship want to separate our citizens from
5 each other, they've accomplished quite the opposite. There
6 is a solidarity and support evident in our State which is
7 enormously larger than anyone dared dream existed. I could
8 read to you from a long list of public statements by which
9 the religious community has expressed itself and its
10 solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have been
11 attacked, but I'll refer you to the two that are on your
12 sheets here. One from the Presbyterians in South Carolina,
13 who, after deploring the violence, say we stand with our
14 Christian brothers and sisters who have been threatened by
15 the use of destructive force to violently take from them
16 places which have been set aside as houses of sanctuary and
17 refuge. Similar statements of that have come from one
18 community after another from the religious -- of the
19 religious groups in South Carolina.

20 I would want to read for you the one from
21 Partners in Dialogue. Partners in Dialogue is a coalition
22 of individuals representing Muslim, Christian, Jewish,
23 Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i, and Unitarian Universalist
24 communities, and they wrote the following:

25 The recent burning of several churches and a

1 Mosque in South Carolina is an outrage to every noble
2 instinct of the human family. All houses of worship,
3 mosque, churches, synagogues, temples, are sacred places and
4 must be kept inviolate from the destructive acts of
5 misguided persons. These acts of violence, whether inspired
6 by racism or other forms of prejudice, assault the human
7 spirit and contract the teaching of our religious tradition.

8 Partners in Dialogue, therefore, calls on
9 peoples of all faiths, and the leaders in this state, to
10 stand up against these destructive acts, to denounce the
11 prejudice that fuels them and to enact stronger legislation
12 to discourage such acts. We also encourage the citizens in
13 South Carolina, community by community, put themselves in a
14 building of a society which affirms the oneness of human
15 family amidst the valued diversity of its many racial,
16 ethnic and religion forms.

17 I want to take a short side from the printed
18 copy which you have in front of you, to draw attention to
19 some way in which this unity has been expressed. —South
20 Carolina Christian Action Council and the Bishops and
21 Executives of the various denominations and those of us from
22 the rest of the religious communities, called for the last
23 weekend of June to be a sabbath of support across the state.

24 So, religious communities of all
25 persuasions on that weekend, spoke about the issue, preached

1 about the issue, took offerings, volunteered themselves in
2 ways to help; so it became a very big and bold item.

3 Along with that, we discovered our concerns
4 here was being picked up across the country, so that at
5 least ten other state from our urging, also celebrated that
6 time as a sabbath of support. One of those ask that a
7 symbol be made on the front of all the worshipping
8 communities that weekend. This is the United Church of
9 Christ out of Illinois, by putting a piece of burned lumber
10 on the doors of churches and synagogue for people to arrive.

11 I noticed when I was down in Charleston, the
12 week afterwards, that one of the Lutheran churches had gone
13 further than that. When worshipers came to their place on
14 that Sunday morning, this was a white church which had not
15 been attacked. But when they came that morning, there was a
16 church this size (indicating) with the back half burned
17 away. Every worshipper had to walk past that to go to
18 worship that morning. South Carolina Christian Action
19 council subsequently has now approved the action of a
20 sabbath of support project, which we hope will be a two to
21 three year project, working specifically upon the societive
22 issues which give rise to racism; to separation; to
23 violence; to those things which tear us from each other; and
24 many of the folks in this room, are people who are already
25 going to be serving on that steering committee, which meets

1 for the first time this Thursday. But I wanted you to see
2 that kind of illustration of what's coming out of this.

3 Now, the third and final point is a note of
4 warning. In its briefest form and note is this: In our
5 intensity to identify the source of this evil, we must not
6 separate ourselves from each other by accusations or
7 interest which are too narrowly drawn. Such separation will
8 accomplish exactly what the burner set out to do and we must
9 not let them win, even if by default.

10 Let me say it another way: At the beginning
11 of the report I noted for you that we've talked about
12 attacks on houses of worship. By that we mean the entire
13 religious community is under attack. Black and white.
14 Christian and Jews and Muslims and all. Sometimes it's very
15 hard in the pain of our own loss, to see larger issues.
16 Larger issues of hatred and violence. The smoke from black
17 churches burned by white supremacists fills our eyes with
18 tears. Those tears also flow for churches which have been
19 burned by persons angry at their pastors. Those same tears
20 are there for the smoke of houses of worship destroyed by
21 those who fear that new immigrants will displace them in the
22 work place. In all these instances, we must be dilligent
23 both to solve the crimes and to transform society by
24 changing root causes.

25 In all of these instances, we must be

1 dilligent to say, Purveyors of hatred and violence will
2 not win. Our mandate is broad: To build a society where
3 children of every race are accepted and grow into citizens
4 whose talents and potentials flourish, so as to benefit the
5 whole community. And to build a society where everyone
6 walks the street in safety, arriving at their houses of
7 worship in joy. To touch where -- to touch the history
8 which makes us individuals. Which makes us people. Which
9 makes us a nation. We must be very careful that in our own
10 pain of our own losses not to lose sight of that mandate.
11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN KIMPSON: Questions or comments?

13 DR. BERRY: I had one. I understand being
14 down here that this issue of the Confederate flag is rather
15 polarizing issue, apparently, in the state.

16 Does the Christian action council have any
17 position on this issue or its - -

18 DR. BRYAN: Yes. We have had a policy asking
19 for it to come down for about eight years.

20 CHAIRMAN KIMPSON: Thank you very much.

21 DR. BRYAN: I leave you in the tender
22 mercy of the AME and others.

23 CAPTAIN SHEA: Mr. Chairman, would you be
24 interested in hearing from local Local law enforcement? I
25 stepped out of the room for a moment.

1 CHAIRMAN: Which?

2 DR. BERRY: You got called. What was your
3 name?

4 CAPTAIN SHEA: I'm Captain Larry Shea from
5 Lexington County Sheriff's Department.

6 CHAIRMAN KIMPSON: Are the ministers here?
7 We'll be with you in a moment. Shea, Captain Shea. I'm
8 glad to see you. We didn't have the local law enforcement
9 people.

10 CAPTAIN SHEA: Well, I had an emergency page.
11 And I knew if I stepped out of the room, you would call me
12 and sure enough that's what happened.

13 Mr. Chairman and Committee members, I, too
14 would like to thank you for the opportunity and sorry that
15 you called when I was out of the room for a moment.

16 I am here representing Lexington County
17 Sheriff James R. Metz, who very much would very much would
18 like have been here and feels very strongly about these
19 issues, but he had to be away at another meeting and ask me
20 to be here today.

21 Lexington County, I think, more than many in
22 our state, sort of feel that we've been the focal point of
23 interest concerning the epidemic of the church burnings
24 across the country, because we have had two in our county
25 and one of them, the burning last August of St. John's

1 Baptist church in Dixiana was among the first to get some of
2 the national publicity. And also because this church had
3 had such along history of criminal activity targeted at it
4 for some time before.

5 So for that reason we feel that the entire
6 issue has had and pretty significant impact on citizens of
7 Lexington county and also on law enforcement in Lexington
8 county. One of the reasons is that, in some of the
9 published media reports, law enforcement, in particularly,
10 those in Lexington county were singled out as being
11 apathetic in the investigation of the church burnings in our
12 county. We felt strongly about that. Sheriff Metz was
13 particularly incensed and I think all of the officers in our
14 department were as well. Because we've been very aggressive
15 in investigating the crime, but also working with the
16 churches in our area. And I thought it would be useful to
17 your Committee to have a local prospective on what we've
18 done; where we're going and how we see the situation in
19 Lexington county. And I would be happy to address your
20 questions and I had several more things to--

21 MRS. SNEAD: Captain, I don't know if you
22 were hear, but the earlier reports --

23 CAPTAIN SHEA: I have been here the entire
24 time except for the few moments that I stepped out and, of
25 course, that's when you called me.

1 MRS. SNEAD: That's Murphy's Law. Would you
2 agree with some of the reports on the numbers and activity
3 of the klan in South Carolina; specifically, in your area?

4 CAPTAIN SHEA: Yes. Unfortunately, in
5 Lexington county, we not only had the distinction of having
6 one of the early church fires, but we also have the -- we
7 have a very vocal member of our community who is a member of
8 the klan and very vocal about it. —

9 I would agree with the other law enforcement
10 representatives who have spoken that the activity is very,
11 very limited in our county. We believe that he does not
12 have a great deal of influence among the citizens there.

13 If anything, we in law enforcement and I
14 think certainly the citizens of Lexington county, feel
15 strongly that our county and state not be judged on the
16 actions of such a small minority of people. And we have
17 been, and I think the members of the church and the members
18 of our community will tell you this, is this particular
19 church has been targeted for at least ten years. — And we
20 have been very aggressive working with that church to try to
21 solve some of the problems. Clearly some of the activities
22 directed against that church were racist. There were cases
23 of KKK being written on the doors and evidence of racial
24 hatred present as part of the crime.

25 Many of the crimes are what we call

1 vandalism. And these were mostly teenagers. And it seems
2 some years ago, a myth had gotten started at one of the
3 local high schools and persisted to this day and that this
4 particular church in a very rural area and also had a
5 cemetery with it, was haunted. And this is one of the cases
6 where we had some limited satanic cult activity. Although
7 our best guest is that this was teenagers dabbling and not
8 an example of very serious adult satanic cult and
9 operation.

10 So we've had all the wide spectrums directed
11 at this church. Of course, culminating with the first last
12 August. We did arrest three people in connection with that
13 fire. And the only other church arson we had in the county,
14 we made an arrest in that case. So, we are very proud of
15 the fact that while there's a 16 percent solve rate in the
16 nation and 67 in South Carolina, we are at 100 percent solve
17 rate in Lexington County.

18 And Sheriff Metz feels very strongly about
19 this. He's been very aggressive in pursuit of the
20 investigations. We worked very closely with SLED and ATF,
21 and very closely with the churches. In Lexington county, we
22 have a program called the resident deputy program which is
23 our equivalent of community policing in some of the urban
24 areas. We use our resident deputies to work with the
25 churches to help make sure that there are church watches set

1 up where we can. That churches are offered an opportunity
2 for crime prevention inspections and meeting with their
3 congregations and making suggestions and we've also made a
4 very aggressive effort to insure that rural churches are
5 patrolled as frequently as we can.

6 DR. BERRY: How many churches do you have in
7 your county, do you know?

8 CAPTAIN SHEA: I do not know the exact
9 number. But sitting on my desk is a list of every single
10 church in Lexington County along with the pastor, which was
11 just recently compiled and I didn't bring it with me. We
12 know. I don't know off the top of my head. I do know that
13 we had a very difficult time compiling that, because many of
14 the churches in our county are rural and many of them are
15 part-time pastors. During the day time, the pastor is a
16 plumber, and only on the weekends. So, we've made a very
17 conscious effort to find the pastors and to contact each of
18 them through our resident deputy program, and that's
19 ongoing.

20 DR. BERRY: And you have in fact contacted
21 all of them, whatever the number is?

22 CAPTAIN SHEA: It's ongoing right now. We
23 have contacted most.

24 DR. BERRY: Would you submit to us the
25 list, the list you have on your desk of how many there are?

1 CAPTAIN SHEA: I would be happy to, Dr.
2 Berry.

3 DR. BERRY: The other thing is this
4 complaint made by some people that your department was not
5 as aggressive or apathetic, as you put it. From what you do
6 you think this complaint stemmed? Where did this unfair
7 slam again your department come from?

8 CAPTAIN SHEA: The published report and the
9 only allegation that we were apathetic was a report
10 published in the State newspaper and in some of the TV
11 broadcast that was done but the national council of
12 churches. And I have no idea on what they base their
13 allegation. I think had they talked with members of St.
14 John Baptist, I think, a couple of whom I see are here today
15 and perhaps, they might be the better persons to ask.

16 I think our arrest record speaks for itself
17 in terms of aggressiveness. We probably arrested 200 people
18 in connection with the church over the last 10 or 15
19 years. Now that is a little bit misleading, because that
20 may indicate a greater problem in terms of racism in our
21 county than we think is actually there. That is because
22 again, we've had such a wide variety of problems associated
23 with that church. Many of which, in fact, most of which we
24 believe were teenage vandalism and not necessarily typed, at
25 least not directly to racial hatred.

1 DR. BERRY: Is there any systematic attempt
2 by leaders in the community, black or white or together to
3 sit down and deal with racial antagonism in the county to
4 the extent that it may exist?

5 CAPTAIN SHEA: Yes, Sheriff Metz has been --
6 specifically, with regard to the church. Sheriff Metz has
7 met with the leaders of the church, and is a member of the
8 save St. John committee. We've worked very closely with
9 leaders in the community, and it is a matter of great
10 concern to us.

11 DR. BERRY: I meant beyond the issue of the
12 fire and the church itself. Is there some kind of ongoing
13 Committee or leadership group or grass roots group that is
14 trying to identify sources of racial antagonism in the
15 county and ways to heal it and ways to make people work
16 together and feel better about whatever is going on? Using
17 the church fire as an opportunity to do this. I'm not
18 saying you shouldn't be doing it.

19 CAPTAIN SHEA: Not specifically that I am
20 aware of.

21 DR. BERRY: The other thing is how much klan
22 activity is there in Lexington county?

23 CAPTAIN SHEA: We have one citizen in our
24 county--

25 DR. BERRY: One person?

1 CAPTAIN SHEA: One person who is very vocal
2 about his membership and role, and claims to be leader and
3 frequently host klan rallies on his property.

4 We have monitored these activities carefully.
5 They range in size -- typically there will be twenty-five to
6 thirty people that will attend. We typically will look at
7 license plates and try to find out who these people are.
8 The vast majority of them are from -- many of them are from
9 out of state and most of them are for outside of our
10 county. So there is not a great number of them inside the
11 county.

12 They do tend to congregate because of his
13 role and that is of a concern to us.

14 DR. BERRY: Is he an imperial wizard or
15 whatever it is called?

16 CAPTAIN SHEA: I don't remember what his
17 title is.

18 DR. BERRY: Okay.

19 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you, Dr. Berry.
20 Yes, Ms. Lee.

21 MS. LEE: Captain Shea, can you tell us what
22 kind of material your department used to determine whether
23 hate or bias has anything to do with any given crime?

24 CAPTAIN SHEA: Yes. I will try. Like
25 anything else, if there is very clear cut evidence. If

1 someone has scribbled K K K on the door during the
2 vandalism, obviously we can draw the conclusion that that is
3 likely to be racially motivated. With many of the other
4 target acts of vandalism that have been targeted toward that
5 church, it was a little bit more difficult to tell. Many of
6 the cases people will not talk to us.

7 We do know because of the statements made by
8 the people that we have caught there, that much of it has
9 not been. Many of the arrest made are teenagers; high
10 school kids. Most of them -- many of them were there on
11 dates. This is a group of two or four or even six
12 teenagers, three of who are boys and three of who are girls.
13 And we suspect that they are there in response to the rumors
14 that their church is haunted. The vast majority of the
15 vandalism and problems have occurred on Halloween night.

16 We attribute much but not all to the the myth
17 that got started and the satanic activities that were
18 there.

19 MS. LEE: Does your department receive any
20 training, at all, on the -- on the issue of hate crime like
21 the interpretations and definitions?

22 CAPTIAN SHEA: Yes, our department has one
23 specialist who deals exclusive --we are a relatively large
24 department, as Chief Stewart mentioned. They are available
25 to most of the department that don't have helicopters and

1 forensic units and that sort of thing. We're fortunately
2 large enough that we have most of that stuff. Still we rely
3 on a great deal on assistance from SLED, and we have invited
4 SLED to participate with us on all these crimes as well as
5 the Federal task force. And each of the church fires has
6 been turned over to the Federal task force for them to
7 evaluate, as well.

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Doctor.

9 MR. DOCTOR: Captian Shea, first of all, I
10 would like to commend you and the Lexington County Sheriff's
11 Department for your positive response to our invitation.
12 And perhaps it's a bit unfair to ask you this question, but
13 I'm going to do it anyway. You are the only public official
14 out of some dozen public officials we invited to participate
15 in this particular meeting.

16 DR. BERRY: Local.

17 MR. DOCTOR: Local. I certainly want to
18 make that point. Local public officials to participate in
19 this meeting. Again, you are to be commended. We have had
20 this same kind of response with the racial tension project
21 that we held in Greenville and Charleston and, of course,
22 right here in Columbia initially. The mayor was responsive
23 second time around. Initially, not a positive response.

24 What do you think accounts for this lack of
25 willingness and publicly talk about issues that have to do

1 with Race Relations. Is it apathy? Is it denial? What do
2 you think it accounts for?

3 CAPTAIN SHEA: Mr. Chairman, frankly I'm
4 shocked I'm the only one here. I certainly expected my
5 colleagues from other local law enforcement agencies to be
6 here. One of the things that I noted that Dr. Berry said at
7 the very outset of the program, was that many communities
8 were in denial. I suspect that is partially true; certainly
9 among law enforcement. I don't think there is a community
10 anywhere that would like to admit racial tension in their
11 community or that crime, particularly unsolved crime is
12 attributable to that racial tension. I think it's a sad
13 fact that that does happen and certainly happens in some of
14 our communities. We don't believe that the people that set
15 fire to St. John's Baptist church in Dixiana were a part of
16 any organized racial hatred activity. Or religious
17 antagonism or certainly any organized group.

18 I think obviously the underlying question
19 that you mentioned as well, Dr. Berry, is, I think that
20 concerned us the most and that is, are there things present
21 in our community that may contribute to the underlying
22 climate that will allow things to happen, and that concerns
23 us. That concerns Sheriff's Metz very much and I agree that
24 I think that what Ms. Lee mentioned is that perhaps that
25 needs to be addressed in a very broad spectrum community

1 effort.

2 I can tell you that we, in law enforcement,
3 are very much aware of it and Sheriff's Metz is committed to
4 making sure that any hate related crime is aggressively
5 pursued and we do everything we can to prevent it from
6 happening, so that we don't have to investigate it.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I've asked several
8 other the witnesses similar questions. So let me ask you as
9 well. Do you see this climate? Well, let me put it this
10 way: Do you see the climate changing towards greater racial
11 tension conflict in Lexington and in South Carolina?

12 CAPTAIN SHEA: No, just the opposite. I have
13 seen particularly in the wake of the St. John fire and the
14 other fire we had, which by the way was clearly not racially
15 related. It was the -- the subject that we arrested was
16 white and it was a white church that he attempted to set
17 fire to, and this guy probably just got bored perhaps, and
18 he wasn't very smart. He used his own pay voucher stubs to
19 set the fires, two of them and was relatively easy to track
20 down.

21 I have seen just the opposite. I think than
22 a deteriorating racial climate or racial tensions that that
23 the silver lining in all of this, that there had been a
24 greater cohesion. That people have tended to come together
25 more. I think perhaps you may want to address that question

1 to the members of the church. But we have tried very hard.
2 We've tried publicizeing very much. We have asked the local
3 TV stations to cover the efforts that we've made with our
4 resident deputies to provide crime prevention services and
5 they, and also the State newspaper covered our efforts to
6 contact local ministers and local congregation to offer our
7 services, so that if we did miss anyone in that list, that
8 they would perhaps see that in the media and contact us and
9 say we would like to be part of this. We're providing crime
10 prevention up tips. I believe that the community has come
11 together and there has been a considerable show of support
12 and the understanding of the problems that have faced that
13 small congregation in Dixiana and in Florence. I think
14 people were shocked and angered by it.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: The two church
16 burnings that you've talked about that occurred in
17 Lexington, apparently, were not racially motivated in terms
18 of the attacks on the church; is that right?

19 CAPTAIN SHEA: Not directly. The three young
20 men that we have arrested in conjunction with the Dixianna
21 church, we found no overt clearcut evidence that racial
22 hatred was a motive. We think it was probably more -- more
23 likely to have been the result of teenage vandalism.
24 However, we are, of course, concerned that there is an
25 underlying climate. That like someone else mentioned might

1 have contributed to their selection of the target, even
2 though they probably did not go out that evening intent on
3 burning a church.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We've heard other
5 evidence, however, there are a number of churches burned in
6 South Carolina as a result of a racial motivation in other
7 communities, not necessarily the ones you have talked
8 about.

9 Now, is it your impression that racial
10 tension in other maybe other areas of the state where there
11 is clear evidence or enough evidence that the church
12 burnings are a result of racial motivation; that there is
13 greater tension in other parts of the state?

14 CAPTAIN SHEA: I'm sorry, Mr. Anderson, I'm
15 probably -- I'm not familiar enough with the crimes in the
16 other locations to be able to make that comparison. I'm
17 very much familiar with the fires we've had. And I know
18 that our arson investigators are working closely with SLED
19 and ATF in those comparisons, but I'm not familiar enough
20 with the other fires other than what I have read in the
21 paper.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I'm sorry I'm asking
23 you this, but you are the only one here. And finally, your
24 sense, it would not necessarily be based on first hand
25 experience, necessarily, because you've solved your cases.

1 But in some of the cases that have not been solved, looking
2 at it from the prospective of local enforcement, do you
3 think there is a greater Federal role that needs to be
4 assumed here? In other words, are there other ways that the
5 Federal government, in whatever area, could assist in this
6 problem in South Carolina? Maybe not Lexington county, but
7 in other parts of the state?

8 CAPTAIN SHEA: I think traditionally there is
9 a desire, if not an insistance on the part of most
10 communities to retain most law enforcement services at the
11 local level, except where resources mandate that a higher
12 echelon of law enforcement be involved.

13 So, I certainly would not advocate seeing
14 church burning become a Federal crime. I think it's a local
15 phenomena and investigated locally. I think the role that
16 the Federal government is taking in trying to help
17 coordinate and provide intelligence information and such
18 things as profiling and investigative support, I think is
19 very useful. Of course, the problem we get in with local
20 law enforcement is that many of the smaller communities do
21 not enjoy the degree of support that we have in our county.
22 The size of the department and the resources that they can
23 devote to such an investigation. Of course, that's the role
24 that SLED plays in South Carolina.

25 And if it's a small department that did not

1 have those resources, they can ask SLED to come in and
2 assist them. I think also the emphasis placed, stay in
3 Federal does play a major role in how aggressively local
4 enforcement would pursue an investigation.

5 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you. Thank
6 you Captain Shea for saving the day for local law
7 enforcement. Now, we are back to our religious community
8 and my good friend Reverend Joseph Darby.

9 MR. DARBY: Let me first thank you for this
10 opportunity and invitation. Let me apologize for leaving
11 not soon after I speak to you. But I have an active
12 pastoring, and I have vacation Bible school tonight. So,
13 I've passed to the Commission the unabridged version of the
14 sermon, so I will present the abridged version of it.

15 My name is Joseph Darby. I appear before you
16 a Board Chairman of the South Carolina Coalition of Black
17 Church Leaders. The Coalition, founded in 1986, is South
18 Carolina's ecumenical organization for historically
19 African-American denominations. Member denominations
20 include the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African
21 Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Bibleway Church, Baptist
22 Educational and Missionary Convention, Christian Methodist
23 Episcopal Church and Church of God in Christ.

24 The coalition has a direct link to over
25 twenty-five hundred churches in the State of South Carolina.

1 The mission of the coalition is for to address through
2 interdenominational cooperation the most serious problems of
3 contemporary life, that impact negatively on the total
4 community, but are particularly devistating to
5 African-Americans, unquote. That mission statement made it
6 a moral imperative that the coalition take action to address
7 the burning of churches in our state.

8 That action has taken the form of a church
9 watch program. Church watch program is not a vigilante
10 exercise, but is designed to serve as an aid to law
11 enforcement and as a deterrent to those who would seek to
12 destroy the houses of God. Participants do not carry
13 firearms but carry cell phones and cameras to note and
14 immediately report suspicious activity. The basis of the
15 plan are as follows:

16 Key pastors identified in each county of the
17 state are asked to organize and chair a local steering
18 committee of ten clergy and our lay leaders to include the
19 local NAACP president and at least one white clergy
20 representative.

21 The committee then meets with representatives
22 of the local law enforcement community to identify churches
23 that need to be monitored. Sets the date for a general
24 meeting and sees that the general meeting is publicized.

25 At the general meeting, the list of

1 identified churches is reviewed for inclusiveness, patrol
2 volunteers are solicited, and a surveillance schedule is
3 agreed upon.

4 Steering committee then meets to develop
5 routes, control times and reporting procedures, and holds a
6 second general meeting to make final adjustments.

7 The final plan is then implemented in the
8 county and regular reports are being made to the executive
9 director of the coalition to monitor the plan progress.

10 I wish I could say that this was being done
11 across our state. It is not. We have done this on a trial
12 basis in some areas. In those areas, the plan has met with
13 modest success.

14 The greatest obstacles we've encountered, the
15 implementation so far have been selection of the proper
16 county representatives to coordinate the plan and the
17 solicitation, a sufficient numbers of volunteers to
18 effectively carry out the plan.

19 Church watch has been one response to a
20 tragic and troubling series of events. Results of the fires
21 have been varied. The obvious negative has been the many
22 small churches in rural areas no longer feel secure and
23 members of those churches have a very real fear of losing
24 what is often taken years to build.

25 It has been suggested by some of the churches

1 that have been burned getting monetary windfalls. The
2 congregation is visited -- this in itself reflects a
3 ludicrous and ignorant attitude. Most of the churches
4 destroyed by fire are small churches, that evolved in the
5 plantation worship of the Antebellum south. The churches
6 destroyed have been small in membership and of modest means.
7 They're also the same churches that are not -- that most
8 major insurers by my personal experience, will not cover.
9 As a result are often uninsured or woefully underinsured by
10 companies that charge higher rates for much less coverage.
11 There is no financial gain for any such congregation to
12 destroy what has been built over generations, as the labor
13 of love and faithful devotion.

14 The positive result has been that many
15 African-Americans have been wakened to the necessity of
16 self-help in the face of residual bigotry, apprised of the
17 sobering fact that even 1996 we must take care of ourselves.
18 Another hopeful less positive has been the multi-racial
19 response to the church burnings. There has been
20 overwhelming national and state condemnation of the burning
21 of churches and offers of assistance have come from
22 historically white churches and organizations traditionally
23 labeled both as liberal and conservative. Lasting progress
24 depends upon an expansion of the last positive effect.

25 Those African-American churches reduced to

1 rubble are only the visible senders of a larger struggle.
2 Many have argued against a racist cause for the burning of
3 African-American churches, attributing those fires from
4 everything from satanism to teenage pranks. If those are,
5 indeed, plausible explanations and they may well be, the
6 lingering question is: Why are those acts of destruction
7 most often still visited on African-American churches?

8 I believe that those burnings are the result
9 in large measure of racism. And I would offer you my
10 personal theory in support of my contention. Politics in
11 our nation and within our state, is focused in large measure
12 on so-called wedge issues that undeservingly lay the blame
13 foundation woes at the feet of select groups of Americans.
14 Weak minded people simply responding to those divisive
15 political games, by taking direct action to destroy the last
16 identifiable institutions of influence in our nation
17 controlled and financed by African-Americans.

18 It should be noted in South Carolina the
19 burning of African-American churches has literally not taken
20 place in a vacuum. Our state is the only one to still
21 officially fly the battle flag of the Confederate states of
22 America. In this past year, our state has seen the
23 establishment of a business that glorifies the Ku Klux Klan
24 that is not mercifully going out of business. The brutal
25 treatment of a black woman stopped for a traffic offense.

1 The murder of a black man in the upstate married to a white
2 woman, at least one lynching; and the burnings of numerous
3 crosses.

4 Those who decry the burning of
5 African-American churches should not disregard the climate
6 of racism that is still pervasive in our state. I do hope
7 that the response to the burning of African-American
8 churches will go beyond the offering of financial bandaids
9 or the building of unity over one issue. And will go
10 forward to treat the cancer of racism that is at the root of
11 those verdicts. It is my hope that our state and people of
12 faith in our state, will deal honestly frankly and in
13 Christian love with the root problem. We must encourage the
14 kind of frank dialogue, keeping profit Isaiah had in mind,
15 when he said, come now, let us reason together so that we
16 can go beyond flaming churches to deal with the fires of the
17 very polite racism that still fuels much of our life. We
18 cannot extenguish burning churches until we deal directly
19 and openly by his Grace. Thank you very much. —

20 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Questions and comments.
21 Mr. Zimmerman.

22 MR. ZIMMERMAN: I'd just like to say, if the
23 other ministers weren't here, I'd just say out, Amen. I
24 think you have said it all. It's very clear that you
25 understand what is happening.

1 I did want to say before leaving earlier the
2 community. I don't want us to be disallusioned. I think
3 that's what you were alluding to. Because quite afternoon
4 when there are heights of -- how should I put it? Crises,
5 we all come together. It's just like the hurricane. When
6 the storm was raging over and people are in crises and
7 whatnot, they seem to come together for loss. And it's a
8 superficial kind of their coming together. Because after
9 the winds are blown over and we get back and have a climate
10 of calmness, we go back to business as usual, and I'm
11 concerned about that. Because after this blows over and we
12 go back to 11:00 on Sunday morning being the most racial
13 segregated hour of the week. Or will we have churches
14 coming together to worship, to get to know one another? To
15 stay in contact one another.

16 I attend United Methodist Church in Beaufort,
17 South Carolina, three blocks from -- three urban blocks from
18 the white United Methodist Church in Beaufort, South
19 Carolina. I have been a member of that church for 23 years.
20 Not ones have those two churches invited one another to
21 worship together. That's what we have to deal with. And I
22 applaud you for being honest about it. Thank you, sir.

23 REVEREND DARBY: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you.

25 Commissioner Anderson.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: And I must I say
2 apologize. I have flight that's leaving in about 55
3 minutes, so I need to leave to go back to Washington. I
4 suppose by now that I should have known better than to trust
5 the adjournment time on one of our Commissioner or even one
6 of our SAC committee hearings. But I did want to thank the
7 chairman of the South Carolina Advisory Committee, Dr.
8 Kimpson and the other members who have been here, as well as
9 everyone who has come and testified. I think this is
10 terribly important for us.

11 I think the issue -- it has become a symbol,
12 the pictures have become a symbol and we miss not less that
13 symbol just stand for a moment. It has got to crystalize in
14 people's mind or some of the more fundamental problems that
15 we face, that Reverend Darby has reminded us of. I
16 apologize that I'm not to able to stay for the rest of the
17 minister, because I particularly wanted to hear what you
18 have to say about that. I hope you have made prepared
19 statements, because I think myself and the other members of
20 the Commission who have not been able to be here will review
21 that material or we will see the transcript. But I think
22 before we are able to get the transcript, it would be good
23 to have the statements. And I, for one, intend to read them
24 and maybe back on the phone to some of you, individually.
25 Once, again, I want to thank you all.

1 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Commissioner Anderson,
2 I would like to also thank you for coming to South Carolina.

3 We are especially privileged to have you
4 important members of the United States Civil Rights
5 Committee to come here and spend -- it's going to be six and
6 a half, at least, hours; but we appreciate that. And I was
7 going to mention that we have some pretty important
8 statements coming up and I'm happy that the reporter is here
9 such that you can have the benefit of these statements that
10 will be read to us. But thank you again and hope for a safe
11 trip.

12 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Dr. Berry.

13 DR. BERRY: Thank you. I have more to say
14 than thank you. Thank you, Reverend Darby. But more than
15 thank you, for the record, and so the information is there.

16 You gave a list in your talk of bad things
17 that have happened in South Carolina. You said something
18 about the black woman who was arrested and then you said
19 something about at least one lynching. And then you said,
20 you listed some things.

21 Now, why, is it that when we ask law
22 enforcement officials if they knew anything about hate
23 crimes or knew anything about racially motivated crimes and
24 burnings and so on, they seemed not to be able to figure out
25 how to answer the question. I mean, wouldn't a lynching, if

1 it did happen -- and I trust you, you're a man of the cloth
2 -- I guess it was in the media or something and I sort of
3 missed it or something.

4 Why do people have so much trouble when we
5 ask them, trying to figure out that there were some bad
6 things that have happened, other than the burnings in the
7 first place? Is that they don't read the same things you
8 read or they don't know? What do you think?

9 REVEREND DARBY: Dr. Berry, I have two sons.
10 Both of them are typical boys. Neither of them is fully
11 angelic. Of all those things that they have done that have
12 not been angelic, they have had excellent reasonable
13 plausible explanation for them, that dare surround the fact
14 of what they actually did.

15 I think that part of our traditional problem
16 is that when you admit to a problem, you have to admit that
17 you are part of the problem in some way. And none of us
18 like to make that admission, so it's much better to cover up
19 with other explanations and other reasonings and waive the
20 flag of Cumbaya-unity, than it is to actually deal with some
21 things directly. I believe that's why in many cases, things
22 are not identified as what they are unless there is
23 overwhelming evidence that it cannot be explained in any
24 other way.

25 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you. Yes, Mrs.

1 Snead.

2 MRS. SNEAD: Two or three questions, Reverend
3 Darby. Your church watch program that certainly is a
4 successful-sounding program and the kind of thing that we
5 think has to take place in the community. One, I'd like to
6 know: How many people are involved? And two, I would like
7 to know: Does law enforcement endorse your program?

8 REVEREND DARBY: The program has been shared
9 with Chief Stewart, and we talked this past week with the
10 folks from the ATF, Special Agent Logan, I think, in
11 particular and they were supportive of it.

12 The participation right now is less than 100
13 people. The problems that we have had, number one is the
14 problem of amassing enough people power to effectively do
15 this on a regular basis in the wee hours with the large
16 number of rural and remote churches that we have.

17 The other is that even though those of us in
18 the clergy, of course, have no ego whatsoever, we do have
19 the consideration of making sure that we approach people in
20 the right community, to make sure that the right support is
21 there. So, we're doing that and doing that slowly, and
22 hopefully, that's going to continue to gain momentum as it
23 goes.

24 CHAIRMAN KIMPSON: Anyone else? Thank you
25 Reverend Darby, as usual. Excellent report. We want to

1 move on now to Reverend Mackey. I'm sorry. Reverend
2 Mackey just a moment, because I skipped Ms. Joanne Emerson,
3 Executive Director of the Interfaith Community Services of
4 South Carolina. Is she here?

5 (no response)

6 CHAIRMAN KIMPSON: All right. Reverend
7 Mackey.

8 DR. BERRY: AME. —

9 REVEREND MACKEY: Yes. Mt. Zion AME:
10 It's good evening now. Unfortunately, the
11 law enforcement when I was in Washington on the 13th before
12 the Judicial Committee in Washington, the same thing
13 happened to us there as pastors, and you say, the grass
14 roots of the problems. They went first. We went last.
15 They left. So they didn't hear the problem that existed in
16 the grass roots without hearing the hooplah from the
17 office.

18 But in South Carolina, at this time, the
19 problem with racism is racism still exist in South Carolina.
20 We can shimmer it down and say what we want to say about it.
21 It exist. When I can sit into the courtroom of this
22 country, and see a guy hold a card in the air and say I'm a
23 KKK member and proud of it, there is a problem somewhere.
24 Okay.

25 I'm the pastor of Mt. Zion AME church. I've

1 been for the past five years. June 20th of last year, the
2 the church burn down to the ground, totally destroyed. To
3 learn that the church had burned down was bad down enough.
4 But to learn it had burned down by the hideous crimes of
5 others; hatred of others, broke our hearts at Mt. Zion.

6 To know that Race Relations in this country,
7 particularly in South Carolina still exist to this day, to
8 that magnitude. It tells us, as pastors and as members and
9 as people, that we have a long ways to go in South Carolina
10 and the southeast and in this country, to mend the fences
11 that have been broken down. Back in the early '50s, late
12 '50s, '60s, we saw Brother Martin Luther King and other
13 civil rights leaders to March for the rights to be humans
14 and to be treated as a man and as a woman.

15 And their houses were up burned and crosses
16 burned in their yards, and churches were desecrated and
17 burned down. But they had the hope in their heart that one
18 day things would get better, so it was worth it to them to
19 do that.

20 Now, here 1996, I have two children myself,
21 and have to explain to them why things are happening all
22 over again, seems to be. We say to our children, things
23 will get better. But yet burning churches and burning
24 crosses and bombing homes of African-Americans. We say to
25 our children, things will get better one day. But

1 unfortunately, my children ask me the question: When,
2 Daddy?

3 So, we deal with that these days at the
4 churches where I pastor. In Mt. Zion where I pastor, about
5 200 members. I share those burdens every Sunday morning of
6 those news of living in fear in Williamsburg and Clarendon
7 County. The ATF earlier said earlier and so did the FBI and
8 the SLED, that the office and local officials have a good
9 relationship together, law enforcements. My question would
10 be to them today: Where are they? To support what you are
11 sayingM they should have been here. That tells me that
12 there is a problem somewhere.

13 Living in a state of denial. We have to
14 accept the fact that there is a problem in our country.
15 It's a problem in South Carolina. For as long as that flag
16 flies over the state house, you breathe and create a climate
17 of racial tension in South Carolina. And it's been flying
18 for years.

19 I would like for people in South Carolina and
20 we talk about that we have together in communities and cross
21 racial barrier lines, so to speak, and aware of these fire
22 burnings and these churches. I'd love to see the voters of
23 South Carolina come together once again, and tell the
24 officials of this state: That flag must come down. We're
25 the voters in this state. The power is in our hands.

1 If we can only talk about it when there is a
2 tragedy, and live with it as business as usual on tomorrow,
3 then the burning of the churches and these meetings will
4 fall by the way side. And churches will still be
5 terrorized. And people will be afraid to go out at night in
6 their neighborhoods and be afraid to speak out against
7 certain things in the neighborhood in fear of retaliation.

8 A member came to me on Sunday after Sunday
9 service and said to me: Pastor, I want you to pray that the
10 people in the community will leave me alone. They are
11 throwing bricks at my houses and writing on my car and all
12 kind of nasty saying. Just pray that they will leave us
13 alone. What I do I tell her? That SLED is doing the best
14 they can. FBI is doing the best that they can. ATF is
15 doing the best that they can, and there's no problems --
16 racial problems in South Carolina. What do I tell her?

17 I tell her things will get better. She want
18 to know, too; when? So I ask you, since you are here.

19 DR. BERRY: When?

20 REVEREND MACKEY: When will things get better
21 for the people in South Carolina and how are we going to
22 attack this problem. The Governor's office, I wish they
23 were here. They have a task force they said and they go to
24 the grass roots. I would love to know, what do they do?
25 I've never heard of it before, and my church got burned

1 down. They should be going to the communities that was
2 devistated by these fires and giving those persons on these
3 task forces to find out what is going on in these
4 communities. But yet, they do it all in one place.

5 So, we have a task force in South Carolina.
6 That's on the record. I would like to know what they are
7 doing. And when is the next meeting going to be publicized?
8 I never seen a publicized yet in South Carolina from the
9 Governor's task force. If there is one publicized, I would
10 be glad to attend it. I haven't heard -- I even called and
11 asked about one, and I was told they would get back to me,
12 and that was back in first part of the June. Now, it's the
13 middle of the July. And hadn't gotten back to me as of yet.

14 So, the question, I end this with this
15 statement: When will things get better. Thank you.

16 AUDIENCE: Amen.

17 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you. Questions or
18 comment.

19 DR. BERRY: My goodness, Reverend Mackey. I
20 wanted to say that every where we've been -- everywhere I've
21 been to the states, we have problems with the local law
22 enforcement coming. And all the state people and the FBI
23 and so on, they all say, we're working together very
24 closely. But then they don't show up.

25 REVEREND MACKEY: Exactly.

1 DR. BERRY: Which makes me wonder what
2 they're doing and the local law enforcement people. And I
3 very much appreciate your comments about the Governor's task
4 force. I told the press that I thought it was a white-wash,
5 because I haven't heard anything clearly about what it's
6 supposed to do. And I hope this meeting and your testimony
7 and the other testimony that we hear will encourage the
8 Governor to make it something more than a white-wash and to
9 something serious and involve people like you whose churches
10 were burned. Now, why do you think -- you're not -- what
11 county are you in?

12 REVEREND MACKEY: Williamsburg County.

13 DR. BERRY: You are not in Lexington County.

14 REVEREND MACKEY: No, thank God.

15 DR. BERRY: Thank God. Why do you think the
16 ku klux klan is still running around here in South
17 Carolina?

18 REVEREND MACKEY: Because a state of denial.
19 When a Governor -- a former Governor, whose name I won't
20 call at this time, but he's in the Senate. I said I
21 wouldn't call his name and I did not. --said to me in
22 Washington about a month ago, we was talking about the
23 racial problems in South Carolina. He said to me, he said
24 to me, the first day he came and took the oath of office as
25 Governor, he went back to the Governor Mansion, to his

1 office. There was a nice big envelope on his desk trimmed
2 in gold. He opened it up and looked at it, and it was
3 lifetime membership to the ku klux klan. He said, but I
4 didn't join. I said, but, Governor, excuse me, sir, but
5 shouldn't that tell you that there is some problems in your
6 office? Infiltration that can get this close to you to put
7 an envelope on your desk. The average guy on the street
8 didn't come off the street and do this. Somebody had to do
9 this to have access to your office. Doesn't that tell you
10 something? Well, I'm not the Governor anymore. That's
11 true. But the flag is still flying in South Carolina, and
12 that's our problem. Everybody wants to do something about
13 it before they get there. And when they get there, get to a
14 state of denial and say it does not happen in South
15 Carolina.

16 They brag about sixty percent rate they have
17 of these fires that's solved. One fire not solved is an
18 insult to this country and to this nation.

19 DR. BERRY: Now, if they were to solve all
20 the fires. Tomorrow, you woke up and there was an
21 announcement that they had all been solved in South Carolina
22 and arrested somebody for each one. Would that solve the
23 race problem in South Carolina?

24 REVEREND MACKEY: No, it would not solve the
25 race problem in South Carolina. I don't feel the fires

1 brought all the problems. They were there all the time.
2 The fire just was the fuel that ignited so everybody could
3 see what was going on. If the klan's movement is so small,
4 as the Attorney's General office said to us, then something
5 is wrong with the figure. Somebody had what I had. The
6 figures that we have, they are around three or 4,000 people
7 strong, so something is wrong somewhere.

8 When a city can open up a redneck shop and
9 get license to do this, I understand free enterprise, but
10 license to create tension, racial tension in South Carolina
11 and it's more tolerated in Lauren, South Carolina?

12 I have questions for that man and I went to
13 that town to talk to the man and he wouldn't talk to me,
14 incidentally. That's one of my problems with the members is
15 I've got a big mouth. I wouldn't be quiet when people are
16 treated unjustly and unfairly, it's time somebody speak out
17 just hide behind and stick the head in the sand any longer,
18 and say I'm not going to say anything about it. I'm afraid.
19 It's time to stop being afraid and it's time to speak out
20 against these problems in our country.

21 DR. BERRY: Your member who said why didn't
22 people leave them alone. What are the local law enforcement
23 people doing to see to it that they are protected and left
24 alone?

25 REVEREND MACKEY: My understanding nothing,

1 because she has not told them. To get the members of these
2 rural areas to go and talk to the local police department,
3 you won't get them to do it. They're just not going to do
4 it. The law say, trust us, trust us, but they have broken
5 that trust that we had with them. Now, they got to build it
6 back and it haven't been built back yet, I'm sorry. But
7 they'll talk to their pastor, but they won't talk to chief
8 of police. I never met the guy.

9 DR. BERRY: That tells you something.

10 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Reverend Mackey, Dr.
11 Ham mentioned that his Commission is there and that the
12 Governor could direct them or a local citizen could invite
13 them in. Have you attempted to invite them in to help you
14 with your problems in Greelyville?

15 REVEREND MACKEY: No, I have not, sir.

16 DR. BERRY: Maybe you could.

17 REVEREND MACKEY: I will after we adjourn.

18 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: You may -- even though
19 you didn't know where the meeting was, you may want to
20 appear before the Race Relations commission.

21 DR. BERRY: If they tell you where it's
22 meeting. If they respond. They don't respond to ours.

23 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Okay. Anybody else?
24 Okay. We want to thank you, Reverend Mackey and we
25 appreciate it. And certainly we appreciate the struggles

1 you are going through. We'll pray, but we're going to do
2 more than pray.

3 REVEREND MACKEY: Thank you, sir.

4 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: All right. I'm going
5 to run down -- I can't pronounce this: Muchelavicks,
6 Islamic Temple Mosque. Okay. Dr. Henry Probst, Allen's
7 Temple Baptist Church. Reverend Troy Shaw, Effingham
8 Baptist Church. Pastor Joe Abstance, Mt. Olive Baptist
9 Church. Pastor Aiken Routh, Rosemary Baptist Church.
10 Pastor Patricia Lowman, St. John Baptist Church, Eastover.

11 PASTOR LOWMAN: Here.

12 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Come right up.

13 PASTOR LOWMAN: Good evening to all. I am
14 Reverend Patricia Lowman from the St. John's Baptist
15 church. The church is located in Dixianna, South Carolina.

16 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Oh, we had Eastover.
17 I'm sorry.

18 PASTOR LOWMAN: Yes, that's all right,
19 because--

20 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: I am sorry about that.

21 PASTOR LOWMAN: --let me finish. The way we
22 get Eastover in here, it's not really an error because I'm
23 from Eastover. Dixiana and South Congaree, over that way,
24 about fifty miles from Eastover is my hometown. I was
25 raised there. And after I gotten older and got married and

1 went to school, whatever, and I reside in Eastover.

2 Over the years, I saw a need to move back and
3 draw my interest back to the St. John's Baptist church,
4 after many years of being away.

5 Even being away, I would come in and work
6 with the church on my times off and my days off. I'm a
7 minister of music, so how ever, between concerts and my
8 seasons of ministry, I would come back and work with the St.
9 John church. I would see them on the news from time to
10 time. I could be in Oklahoma or somewhere and see that this
11 church was vandalized real bad. And it kept bringing that
12 attention to me that I could not really keep my interest
13 where I was totally for seeing and knowing of this church
14 and the history.

15 St. John Baptist Church was founded in 1758.
16 The property was donated to the slaves in 1758. However, at
17 that time, they could not own property. Over in the 1800s
18 around 1860-something -- all of this is documented. I don't
19 have the documents right before me. --the slave owners
20 documented property, a deed and gave the property to our
21 anestors at the St. John Baptist Church. However, since
22 then we have been occupying and operating that ground. That
23 church was burned by the British in 1800s, also. The Army
24 came through, and evidently the general whatever his name
25 was--

1 MR. DOCTOR: Sherman.

2 PASTOR LOWMAN: Burned by the British. He
3 and the pastor of the St. John Church at that time,
4 evidently didn't see eye-to-eye, so they burned it. They
5 moved away and they left the slaves and our ansestors there
6 worshiping on the grounds. Brush harbors were their roof.

7 Over the years after that, they had gotten
8 materials and built a church. I'm comfortable in saying
9 that St. John is one of oldest existing African-American
10 church in history. This is all documented, of course.

11 However, in moving right along speedily,
12 bringing your attention to August 1995. I got a call around
13 9:00 -- no, no, 6:45 a.m., telling me that my my church was
14 on fire. I live, like I said, about 50 miles from it; about
15 45 to 50 miles since they put the new beltway from 48
16 Highway to 321. However, I got over there as quick as I
17 could. Finding that the church was burned about to the
18 ground; all but blocks were standing around the wall. And
19 the front steps and the breezeway still stood. Where you go
20 right inside right before you walk into the church.

21 However, I believe, it burned slow because
22 your attention back to about 1985, we started documenting in
23 1985, however, before then approximately three or four years
24 before '85, '81, '82, '82 or '83, the church had started
25 being vandalized. Slowly, and it gradually picked up.

1 In 1985, was one of the worst periods of our
2 life. I saw this on the news and I came home as quick as I
3 could to work with the church. The congregation is a fairly
4 elderly congregation of people. Over the last two years
5 since I've moved my membership back there, I've been
6 generating in other people, other interest. And we've had
7 three or four families to join since the church burned.

8 However, in '85, the church was vandalized
9 beyond anything I have every known. Lights jerked from the
10 ceiling. Piano chopped up with an ax. The sacrament cloths
11 desecrated on. The pews shot holes in, and holes shot all
12 in regard the church and whatever, and much much more. I
13 just won't talk about it for the sake of time.

14 However, in '85, we got -- there was a young
15 -- there was a lady who was interested in the church and to
16 see what was happening, because at that time our secretary
17 was working for her. Her name is Amy Murray. She came into
18 the picture and began to work with St. John. She came down
19 and saw the problem with the church. So, therefore, she
20 said I'm going to start a save St. John Committee.

21 Okay. Her back ground is out of the
22 Lexington county police force and the school districts and
23 all these kinds of organizations; so therefore, she went
24 back to her colleagues and other people and said, join my
25 Committee to save St. John. People came from all over. All

1 areas of background to work rebuilding St. John. We had to
2 literally build the church inside. It was destroyed that
3 bad. Carpets, everything had to be taken up.

4 What couldn't be destroyed, they just put
5 graffiti all over everything. All kind of Nazi symbols and
6 KKK and all this and all kind of writings. So, over that.

7 Since '85 we got this Committee together and
8 rebuild the church over about a year or so period of time.
9 And this time we had to end up putting bullet proof windows
10 around in the church. We had to end up doing all kind of
11 things to save the church; cutting down the trees around the
12 church so it could be visible. However, we continuously, we
13 got -- we have vandalism every Halloween since '85. New
14 Year's and other holidays when people wanted to party out
15 there.

16 Now, one thing I do want to say, they are
17 saying that the place was haunted, the reason they wanted to
18 vandalize it. I happen to be walking along the grounds one
19 day after just looking at the ruins around there and I
20 picked up a paper like this with instructions of what to get
21 from a grave, how many steps to take, what to do with it,
22 and all kind of things. These people who were vandalizing
23 the church, they robbed the graves. They broke the
24 tombstones they couldn't take with them, they were broken.
25 We had archeologist to come out and mark the graves again

1 and to give us a stake of some kind or some kind of marker
2 and looked legible, and they marked our graves and put all
3 kinds of little things out there to give us our cemetery
4 back again, where our ancestors were buried. However, that
5 didn't stay there long before all of the Markers were moved
6 and destroyed; thrown away. So, we got to we got to mark
7 our graves again.

8 Any way, after the church burned and we've
9 called in different -- okay. During the time that the
10 church was being vandalized, I do salute our Sheriff's
11 department, Sheriff Metz from Lexington county. They would
12 have stake outs every Halloween. They would be in the
13 church, lights, hiding out. They would be out around the
14 grounds. And the cars would come in by the groves to have
15 their beer party. And they would arrest thirty-five or
16 fifty people each time, you know. So, this went on.

17 My question to me and the saints who ask me
18 and the members ask me since I became involved, why is this,
19 repeat, 200 people, why would they continuously keep coming
20 out. The penalties wasn't stiff enough at that time.

21 However, I had an opportunity to speak with
22 Governor Beasley since our church burned. And I had an
23 opportunity to talk with him concerning the penalties. I
24 have talked with the President when he came to Greelyville
25 here and I spoke with them at length, and they decided to

1 double the penalty finally, you see.

2 Now, after all of this is done, we are still
3 without a church. We have donations. We worship and we
4 have the doors open to us for a Seventh day Adventist church
5 and they gave us a church to worship there for a few
6 months.

7 However, we overstayed our boundaries, three
8 months over and, therefore, they started occupying that
9 little space there. So, we eased out of there. And now we
10 are worshipping in our senior Deacon's home, who totally
11 remolded the front part of his house and made a sanctuary in
12 his home. At least in that way, with the congregation as
13 small as it is, we do not have the overhead expenses to get
14 a church or whatever.

15 They are very reluctant about getting a loan
16 to build the church because of the congregation is not as
17 large as some of the churches to pay back. We are believing
18 that -- well, there is a gentleman who bought the property
19 all the way around the St. John site. Our church is a
20 historic site, and it is located facing the State Road.
21 Used to be an old state road like I said where the Army came
22 threw. And this is a government road here, a state road, a
23 dirt road. St. John faced it to about from where you're
24 sitting to where I am. This is the old state road.

25 Now, over the last 10 or 12 years that road

1 has been -- even before that, they closed up that road from
2 going straight through. So, therefore, there is no traffic
3 through there. That's one of the reasons that the church
4 was such a target. However, about from here to about the
5 twice length of the wall, they curved the old state road to
6 go out another way. So, St. John sets on a dead-end. Okay.
7 We put a big fence, a metal fence down there, a gate to
8 block off this vandalism from coming in. That helped some,
9 but it didn't stopped the burning. However, we had that
10 gate there about ten years.

11 When Governor Beasley came out and spoke on
12 the 7th of June, I believe. He had a conference on our
13 grounds. Speaking about his time -- his plans to stop the
14 arson -- so anyway, keep in mind this road is building and
15 curving to the left. It's no-thru traffic anymore. Trees
16 grown up. St. John is the last part of the old state road.
17 We put a fence there.

18 Now, the people who come through that fence,
19 they were arrested for trespassing. All but one attorney
20 came through and said, no, this is an old state road. He
21 got a lot of people off the hook from being arrested. All
22 right. That's the old state road. We have no problem with
23 that.

24 When Governor Beasley spoke, he gave us -- he
25 said, he see no problem giving up that piece of property

1 right in front of where the church is, so we could put our
2 gate back up there.

3 Since then in the last week, I have
4 discovered that the same gentleman from Blanchard Trucking
5 Company, who about 100 acres around St. John owns the old
6 state road in front of St. John's church. This is really
7 something that I went before our church and told them,
8 saints we must pray, because here this is an expensive
9 lawsuit here or something.

10 The Governor saw reason to give us strip of
11 property so we could own that piece right there. And so
12 when we rebuild, we don't have to build the church out of
13 view, we could turn it round where the old state road is
14 kind of let it be more visible. Now we find out that the
15 gentleman that bought all property around St. John owns the
16 old state road; so, therefore, we'll trespass if we go on
17 his property to get to our church. This is heart breaking
18 to St. John members right there. I do my best to try to
19 encourage them as much as I can.

20 I've been to St. John church all my life,
21 other than the time I move away and went to school or
22 whatever. And I'm back to work be them as much as I can and
23 to see that justice is done with this, with the problem of
24 this old state road. Now, we have our members here. If we
25 do build there, now they don't want to build it. They're

1 scared to build there, because we can't get in and out
2 there. The next 10 or 20 years -- we've had this property
3 since the 1700s. But this gentleman who bought the property
4 around there, that says he's going to give us right-of-way
5 there, said don't worry about it. We'll give you
6 right-of-way to there or donate you some property elsewhere
7 and put a fence around your cemetery and keep it clean for
8 you. You just don't bury anybody else there. That's where
9 I stand this afternoon. I didn't have to write anything. I
10 go through this 24 hours a day, everyday.

11 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON1: Doctor Berry.

12 DR. BERRY: What is the Governor's office
13 -- did you tell the Governor about, did somebody tell the
14 Governor's representative about the fact that this land,
15 this road that he said he was going to give you. I
16 recognized Mr. Zemp, he might have left. We spoke with him,
17 the lady of Save St. John Committee Chairman. She's the one
18 who's handling this. However, she brought the information
19 back, I believe we just don't have that property,--we've lost
20 that. And that's where I stand today how. Now, I have to
21 go to Lexington and find out how did we lose that. We had a
22 gate there for ten years --

23 DR. BERRY: And now all of a sudden, you lost
24 it.

25 PASTOR LOWMAN: We don't have it. Don't have

1 a right-of-way to get there even if we wanted to build
2 there.

3 DR. BERRY: How about money to build your
4 church? All of these organizations have been collecting
5 money; nationally, and say that they are giving the money to
6 the churches to rebuild. Have they given you any?

7 PASTOR LOWMAN: I have to look down my list
8 and see who all has given.

9 DR. BERRY: Have you got enough to build the
10 church?

11 PASTOR LOWMAN: No, we don't have enough to
12 build the church yet. We have around 50,000 or something
13 like that.

14 DR. BERRY: How much will it cost?

15 PASTOR LOWMAN: They appraised the church
16 that we had standing there, around, they said, approximately
17 75 thousand to do the structure. And not the inside.
18 However, we got -- we have a lot of things were donated to
19 us, the pews and different things. Now, I believe what we
20 have to do, if we use the pews so that were so nicely
21 donated to us, we have to change the width of our building,
22 because these pews came out of a bigger, much wider church.

23 DR. BERRY: In other words, you got a problem.

24 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: You didn't have
25 insurance?

1 PASTOR LOWMAN: We had insurance on this
2 structure over the years. What happened in the last year or
3 so -- I think, now, I have to really find out about this.
4 By the ten years of vandalism, somehow we lost insurance. I
5 really have to go back to the senior Deacon and speak on
6 this and find out the details about this.

7 DR. BERRY: Mr. Jedzinak, maybe you know
8 something about this?

9 MR. JEDZINAK: I don't know particularly
10 about this church--

11 DR. BERRY: Will you look into it?

12 MR. JEDZINAK: Yes, ma'am, we'll look into
13 it. Some of this may go back to your concerns that after
14 repeated violations of repeated vandalism, repeated acts,
15 and I think your question was, will not there be a problem
16 for some of these places of worship to get coverage and the
17 answer is yes. I'll talk with her and get with her after
18 this and hopefully we can resolve this.

19 DR. BERRY: So, you need some more
20 contributions and you need a lawyer to help you resolve this
21 issue over the right-of-way? Those are two things you
22 need?

23 PASTOR LOWMAN: Yes.

24 DR. BERRY: Governor said you could have
25 that, so somebody needs to lean on the Governor. He hasn't

1 answered the letter our regional director sent. He hasn't
2 answered Reverend Mackey inquiry, so I don't know whether to
3 get any answers. You at least talked to him you said when
4 he was out there and he said you could have the land.

5 PASTOR LOWMAN: He said, he see no problem
6 with that. He saw the land there and I'm --

7 DR. BERRY: I'm sure he'll see to it that
8 you will get it. But you need a lawyer and you need some
9 money?

10 PASTOR LOWMAN: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: I think there is -- a
12 lawyer just left here. There is a law if you own property
13 some property and somebody buys around you, it's required to
14 give you right of way. They cannot stop you. They have to
15 give you right-of-way. And maybe that's what the Governor
16 had in mind. Ask the Governor to use his powers to do that
17 for you.

18 PASTOR LOWMAN: That old state road was like
19 a main highway. The man who bought the property around us
20 didn't have to give us that. We paid taxes for that,
21 anyway. That's the part that I can't quite understand.

22 DR. BERRY: From what you have seen of the
23 vandalism and then the fire, do you think that the people
24 who did this that racial motivation, you know, to actually
25 burn a black church, played any role in their doing it, you

1 just think that all this vandalism and all these things have
2 happened to the church or not?

3 PASTOR LOWMAN: There is no question about
4 it. I do know that racial -- there is a racial problem with
5 this. Because you don't just play with the words KKK. Why
6 don't you put AAA or BBB or something else. You don't play
7 with these things and these slurs and all that and writing
8 the stuff up there unless you want to get a message across
9 or whatever. There is no question in my mind that that was
10 not racially motivated. The actual burning of the church,
11 however, we met in court last Monday and I saw the gentleman
12 one of the gentleman, who burned the church, they were
13 trying to get his bail dropped from 20,000 to 10,000. The
14 Judge wouldn't hear of it. As a matter of fact, our case
15 lasted about sixty seconds because he had his mind made up
16 and this was how it was supposed to have been. However,
17 whether what was going on in his -- whether that gentleman
18 had a racial anger against me or against us or whatever,
19 that you cannot pinpoint but it's no question about it. It
20 had some racial tension to it.

21 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Any other comments?
22 Yes, Ms. Lee.

23 MS. LEE: I admire you and your members
24 determination and endurance. I just wish that the Governor
25 and representatives and law enforcement representatives were

1 here to listen to you and other religious community leaders
2 powerful statements. And I am really upset that they are
3 not here. And that's the main reason I came out to listen
4 to the community. Whether we think the Governor's
5 relations commission is a white-wash or whatever. It's
6 established and has a responsibility to the community. I
7 would also ask our madame chair to see if our Commission
8 should get involved to make sure that that Commission is
9 responsible to the community, in addition, to the local
10 State Advisory Committee.

11 I just want to ask you a question. I meant
12 to ask the previous speakers. A large amount of tolerance
13 to these hate activities is generated by elected officials
14 or people who are in the possession to stop it. And they
15 either chose not to or chose to encourage it. Where is the
16 religious, such as the flag and all these other activities,
17 where is the religious community or what plan do you have on
18 working with your leadership in discouraging these kinds of
19 activities from continuing? Because they are getting --
20 it's pretty frightening to hear that a former Governor has a
21 lifetime membership KKK in his office and didn't see that
22 there was a problem. Seems like the religious community can
23 influence some kind of pressure on these elected officials.
24 Your members are voters in this community.

25 PASTOR LOWMAN: I believe what you have to do

1 is, I think, Reverend Mackey, we have said also, we have to
2 really band together more so and be able to pinpoint our
3 leaders after they get in their positions. You know, we get
4 the promises before they get there and then after they get
5 in the position I believe we need to stay with the -- with
6 whoever we put there, and keep them in remembrance of us.
7 It's a job to do. We don't want to stay on somebody's
8 doorstep or whatever, but then I believe we may just need to
9 band together more to let them know that this is your
10 statement prior to election. We need your help in this or
11 whatever. Is that answering your question somewhat?

12 MS. LEE: Are you doing any voter education
13 activities around some of these issues?

14 PASTOR LOWMAN: Well, in the particular
15 community where St. John is, like so many of us living away
16 from the community, I don't know of any activity of that
17 sort as being done in the St. John community. However, I do
18 know as a whole that there are more encouragement to the
19 people, to young people, to the blacks to get out and vote
20 than ever before. That's the language all around me.

21 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Pastor Lowman

22 MS. VEO: Commissioner Lee, I don't think
23 it's fair to the Senator in questio to assume that he has a
24 lifetime membership in the KKK. I don't think that was
25 the--

1 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: May I say this. We're
2 going, after the Commission gets through, we're going to
3 have people in the audience participate, and you may make
4 your statement at that point.

5 MS. VEO: I think that Reverend Mackey did
6 not even say that. It's part of the record.

7 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: I'm saying that you may
8 make your statement at the end, because I'm going to give
9 some time, and we appreciate your concern. If you would
10 identify yourself.

11 MS. VEO: I'm Sally Veo from Rock Hill and
12 I'm a member of Rock Hill Council for Human Rights and an
13 active member of the Palmetto Project.

14 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: If you plan to stay,
15 we'll get to you.

16 DR. BERRY: Chairperson, what Reverend
17 Mackey said was, I think it was Reverend Mackey who said it,
18 was that somebody brought -- the Senator in question told
19 him that there was a that there was a gold KKK membership
20 brought in, offered to him, and that the lifetime
21 membership. And the query Reverend Mackey had was that
22 somebody was able to get in his office and actually offer
23 that to him. And the point is, that Reverend Mackey did not
24 say that the Senator was a lifetime member of the klan.
25 That is correct, he did not say. So, I don't know if

1 somebody said that, I didn't hear that part. If that's your
2 point -- let the record show that no one said that or meant
3 that Senator whoever he was, nobody said his name -- the
4 Senator in question was a lifetime member of the KKK. Is
5 that your concern?

6 MS. VEO: Nor did Reverend Mackey say that
7 he has a member of the KKK working on his staff, that was my
8 point.

9 DR. BERRY: I think we did what you needed
10 to have done. Reverend Mackey's statement will be in the
11 record and I don't think anyone said that he had a member on
12 his staff.

13 MS. VEO: I think Commissioner Lee did.

14 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Well, we're going to
15 get back, because we are way -- we've got people who have
16 been here all afternoon, and I appreciate that. Yes.
17 Briefly go.

18 BISHOP SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have to
19 leave. I have a 7:30 church meeting myself in Greenville.

20 DR. BERRY: We're going to be here all night.

21 BISHOP SMITH: But I wanted to thank Chairman
22 Berry and the Commission for coming to South Carolina, and I
23 wanted to thank all of those who have participated. I
24 believe we're getting a clear picture of what is happening.
25 I wish I could stay and here everybody. But I need to get

1 back and I just wanted to say that.

2 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Appreciate it. Thank
3 you, Bishop Smith, and certainly we can understand that.

4 MR. DOCTOR: One quick question, Mr.
5 Chairman. As a native South Carolinian, I'm familiar with
6 Dixiana. We, obviously, those of us who are from Columbia
7 and work in Columbia at that particular time and attended
8 South Carolina State, and these were the days before
9 interstate. We had to travel through that particular area
10 to get to Orangeburg, South Carolina.

11 Interestingly enough, I recall a one pump
12 small store which received a great deal of notoriety
13 nationwide, which had out front a sign, and I would like to
14 quote the sign. The sign "no niggers or dogs allowed". It
15 was featured in Jet magazine and a number of other national
16 magazines at that particular time.

17 The question I guess that comes to mind at
18 this point. I know what the racial tensions were like back
19 during those days. How would you characterize those; that
20 situation today in the Dixianna area.

21 PASTOR LOWMAN: Well, I would say that that
22 -- I really cannot speak legibly as far as the racial
23 tension now. Now when I visit there and I go through there,
24 and when I happen to stop through there when I was going to
25 church, I didn't see or sense much of a problem as the signs

1 out front "no niggers and dogs allowed" or anything like
2 that. Seems to be the stores have kind of upgraded now and
3 we have national chains in the area, and that kind of
4 activity is not there.

5 MR. DOCTOR: I guess the question speaks to
6 the climate, the racial climate in Dixiana these days. I
7 understand what I describe was a long -- it took place a
8 long time ago. But the racial climate today, how would you
9 characterize it.

10 PASTOR LOWMAN: I would they that it's more
11 more of covered. I don't think it as open as one would
12 think it is, but I wouldn't deny it's existence.

13 MRS. SNEAD: Yes. Quickly, have you ever
14 contacted the Human Affairs Commission at all and ask their
15 assistance at all in investigating the problem? I was
16 curious if you did and didn't get any response.

17 I would have to check my notes. I have some
18 who I did contact and who has been working with us and
19 offering their assistance and who is working with us now and
20 it could very well be this organization. However, I was
21 there when this person in Washington told about this letter
22 was put on his desk. He plainly said he was not a part of
23 that. He just said that this was offered to him. Okay.

24 MRS. SNEAD: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you and

1 certainly we appreciate you coming. Reverend Mouzon.
2 Ron Carter, Covenant Baptist Church, Lexington. Reverend
3 Patrick "Buster" Mellerson, Butler Chapel AME church,
4 Orangeburg.

5 Okay. We're down to the last three. Mr.
6 J.T. McLawhorn, Executive Direct, and Chief operating
7 officer of the Urban League.

8 MR. MCLAWHORN: Good evening. We've been
9 here a long time. I want to greet you this evening in the
10 name of God, who looks beyond our faults and see our needs.

11 I want to kind of focus my comments on a
12 little different -- I think we put alot of emphasis on the
13 church burnings, but what I am really concerned about: What
14 is behind the church burnings? And I think we have to shift
15 threw the ashes and see really what is going on.

16 I have looked at the latest evidence and
17 imperical data that indicated that the church fires are more
18 random than conspiratory; however, there is ample evidence
19 to show that at the heart of these church burnings is
20 racism, mean-spiritedness that is fueled by ignorant. There
21 is some power African-Americans are being made scape goat.

22 I ask myself: Why the church? The church is
23 a symbol that represents the heart and the spirit and the
24 soul of the African-American community. I saw Ted Koppel
25 the evening he did a special on South Carolina. He was

1 talking about church burnings. He opened his show up with a
2 letter that was read to Congressman John Lewis and he read
3 it on the air. I don't know how many of you saw that show.
4 It was signed by a gentleman. He said that I am glad that
5 these "N" churches are being burned because they are a
6 threat to white people. They are a destruction to white
7 people. We are trying to see what's behind that sacket.

8 You know, I started off and made the
9 statement in my prepared statement, there was a quote by
10 someone who was anonymous. But it said this: If you want
11 to defeat them, distract them. So, we're trying to see
12 what's behind the church fires.

13 If you hear this emerging group of racist, I
14 was listening to Jerry Springer this morning with my 11 year
15 old son. It was about the klan. You know what they all
16 said, the bottom line is: That black people are taking
17 something from us. That we are losing our jobs. So, we
18 look at this whole issue of way stagnation. We look at this
19 whole issue of globalization of economy. What we see, we
20 see politicians and other people in high places, giving out
21 misinformation to the masses of people. Telling people
22 somehow that you are being displaced because of affirmative
23 action. And these people are venting these frustrations
24 against African-American people.

25 I want to share with you an article that was

1 in the Monday addition of the "Wall Street Journal", July
2 15. Are all saying the bottom line is. "It's a time to
3 Build" is the topic, the title of the article. And it talks
4 about a church burning in Columbia, Tennessee.

5 This church is the Friendship Missionary
6 Baptist church that was burned on Super Bowl Sunday 1995.
7 And it goes down to say that this is a statement that's made
8 by the black pastor of the Cañon African Methodist Episcopal
9 Church. He says this and I quote,

10 "At the same time, there is something now in
11 the air. A random almost mindless racial hate that is
12 nearly as frightening to African-American as the
13 orchestrated violence of the '60s. There is a different
14 kind of fear--" Mr. Lawson continue, "--power in the hands
15 of the ignorant is dangerous. If these three convicted men
16 are an example of the kind of people who are doing this
17 across the country, we are in serious trouble." He's
18 talking about the people that are African in Columbia.
19 Let's see why these guys said they did what they did do.
20 And this is what they said,

21 "There were three men apprehended. Mr.
22 Johnson identified in Court, Federal Court, as the ring
23 leader, was 33 years old. A self-employed house painter who
24 lived in a trailer park. Among his few assets was a nine
25 hundred dollar car. A few years earlier, he had been

1 convicted and put on probation for burglarizing a
2 black-owned tavern that he was also now about to fire bomb.
3 He apparently lost money gambling there.

4 Michael Wilson Jett, 41 year old, was 41, he
5 nursing a deeper anger that Sunday morning. One of his
6 daughters had run away from home. Unsuccessfully searching
7 for her in Knoxville, he had become insensed at the sight of
8 black pimps managing white prostitutes.

9 The three men began a beer and Valum that
10 lasted 14 hours. And after night fall, they headed into a
11 country side. They were first burning cross."

12 There's that cross again. You know, someone
13 talked about that cross. I heard someone on Jerry Spring
14 saying the cross is about Jesus, but they use it for some
15 other purpose.

16 "They first burned a cross at the Tavern
17 which they then fire bombed. And then they burned a second
18 cross in front of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and
19 fire bombed it. They ended up by throwing Kerosene-filled
20 beer bottles into the Cannon African Methodist Episcopal
21 church.

22 The man goes onto to complain that blacks are
23 getting preferential treatment in the employment place and
24 driving fancier automobiles than they own. He typlified the
25 scarcely conceled racism, sometime fueld by that remain

1 among some luric income whites here, so do the three arson
2 who pleaded guilty."

3 So I think that this Commission has a mandate
4 to gather data. And I would suggest that this Commission
5 look at what's fueling these church burnings. And look at
6 these politicians who are telling people that the reason
7 that you are making less than that \$10 per hour
8 manufacturing job is because of affirmative action. Its
9 because these people are not thinking comprehensibly and
10 want someone to blame and they're blaming
11 African-Americans. And what better symbol to vent this
12 venom at than African-American churches.

13 And the going back to the letter that was
14 mailed to Ted Koppel on nightline. This man said the
15 African-American church is the enemy to white people. Thank
16 you very much.

17 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
18 McLawhorn. Questions or comments. Mr. McLawhorn, you didn't
19 want to mention anything about the Commission, did you?

20 MR. MCLAWHORN: Well, y'all are really
21 pushing the Commission around so much.

22 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: I thought you might
23 want equal time.

24 MR. MCLAWHORN: I do want to say, I'm a
25 former member of South Carolina Human Affairs Commission

1 also and served on that Commission. I was appointed by
2 Governor Campbell. And I'm also serving on the Governor's
3 Commission on Race Relations. I do just want to make a
4 notation. The Governor spoke for the Urban League in
5 November at our annual Urban League Equal Opportunity Day
6 dinner. And prior to him speaking for us at this dinner --
7 and the reason we invited him to the dinner. You know, one
8 of the missions of the Urban League is to build bridges and
9 bring people together. And certainly we felt that the
10 Governor of the State of South Carolina was too important a
11 person, not to have a relationship with the African-American
12 community. So, we extended that relationship. But in the
13 process, we ask that he form a commission to look at Race
14 Relations. This is before to us. Because we felt that Race
15 Relations in South Carolina had deteriorated to the point
16 that we were in a crisis situation.

17 And one of the positive things about a race
18 relation Commission, I think, is that this is the first time
19 that I have known the Governor to acknowledge that we had a
20 racial problem. The establishment of the race relation was
21 in essence and acknowledgement that we have a racial
22 problem.

23 In the past, when we talked about racism in
24 South Carolina, it has -- racism in America, it has been,
25 kind of, pushed to the side; that is your interpretation,

1 are you too sensitive, and things of that nature, you know.
2 So, we think that the establishment of race relation
3 commission, one, was the recognition by the chief executive
4 officer of the state.

5 I do agree that there is alot of things that
6 the Commission needs to do. And I think the comments,
7 observations made by those here today are very valid. These
8 are things that, you know, I'm certainly as a member of the
9 Commission, going to work and be incorporated as we go
10 forward. I'm only one member. I was appointed by the
11 Governor, but I'm committed over the long-term that we can
12 make a difference. And I ask and call on your support, but
13 more importantly, I call on your prayers. We wrestle not
14 with flesh and blood. We do not wrestle with flesh and
15 blood. We wrestle with evil wickedness and we need your
16 prayers and we need your support, and I'm just optomistic
17 and if I wasn't optomistic, if I weren't optomistic, I
18 really would not have agreed to serve on the Commission.
19 You brought that question upon me. I was not going to raise
20 the issue, because I'm here to speak on behalf of the urban
21 league.

22 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: I appreciate that, Mr.
23 McLawhorn.

24 DR. BERRY: I hadn't plan to asked you
25 anything, but now I will. If I understand your comments and

1 I agreed with all the things that you said about, on behalf
2 of the Urban Leaguem the mere setting up of the commission
3 by the Governor and he finally acknowledged that there may
4 be a race problem in South Carolina, is something that
5 should make us optomistic. I'm prepared to be optomistic
6 and I didn't know things were so bad, that even the mere
7 recognition by the Governor that there might be a race
8 problem, was something that everybody jump up and applaud,
9 oh, my gosh, he finally realized there's a race problem.
10 Since I don't live here, I'm prepared to be optomistic. You
11 know better than I do whether that's the kind of sign that
12 you generally optomistic. But I would like to know, how
13 seriously can one take such a commission, if on May 29 we
14 write a letter to the Governor, asking him to even tell us
15 who is on it, and to give us the addresses and when is it
16 meeting and nobody even answers the letter. How seriously
17 can we take it, if Reverend Mackey's church was burned. He
18 wasn't even aware that there was any -- who these people are
19 or what are they doing or if there is no response, how can
20 the people take it seriously. If people in the community
21 are giving me notes because they don't want to say anything
22 in here. They got their own reasons for not wanting to say
23 anything. That happens often when we go places. Asking me
24 to ask, why is it that nobody said anything to him and they
25 don't have any clear idea of what this commission is

1 supposed to be doing.

2 Now, I know you're one member. And I'm aware
3 and I wouldn't criticize you as a person or as chair of the
4 commission or anything for having Governor Beasley or
5 anybody else who wanted to come and speak at your functions.
6 That's not the point. The point is, if there's going to be
7 a commission, well, and good. But if people are to take it
8 seriously, then we ought to at least get some response as to
9 who's on it and what is it doing and people in the community
10 who have problems, and who have two churches have been
11 burned, ought to at least to know something about what it
12 is. Would you agree with that?

13 MR. MCLAWHORN: I certainly will. Certainly
14 will agree with that. Easy questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. McLawhorn.
16 Now, Jesse Washington was here.

17 MR. DOCTOR: Jesse indicated that he had to
18 leave and he's going to try to get back. Obviously, he's
19 not here. We should move on.

20 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: All right. Mrs. Connie
21 Barnes who is the interum director of the South Carolina
22 Conference of NAACP branches.

23 MS. BARNES: Thank you for this invitation,
24 Chairman Berry, Members of the Commission for this
25 invitation. I think there is something real noble about

1 bringing up the rear. So, I am delighted to be the last
2 speaker.

3 Again, I would like to thank the commission.
4 Receiving the invitation very late yesterday afternoon about
5 the Commission being in South Carolina and did not want to
6 miss the opportunity. I was in Charleston thinking that the
7 Commission was meeting tomorrow, so I made my way back just
8 to make sure the NAACP in South Carolina would be
9 represented. Please note that we really appreciate your
10 presence in South Carolina.

11 Again, my name is Constance, Connie Barnes
12 and I serve as interim executive director of the South
13 Carolina Conference of the NAACP. The NAACP is the nations
14 oldest Civil Rights organization in the world having been
15 found 1909. With over 500 thousand members in 50 states,
16 the District of Columbia, and throughout the world, the
17 NAACP is committed to the protection of civil, legal,
18 political, educational and economic, as well as human rights
19 of African-American and other citizens of color within the
20 United States. Presently in South Carolina, we have eighty-
21 eight branches in the state.

22 I have been serving as interim executive
23 director for seven months. And in the past seven months, I
24 have had the opportunity to travel the state of South
25 Carolina. I have investigated the lynching that you have

1 heard mentioned here this evening in Clarendon County.

2 It was during that time regarding that
3 investigation that we were informed briefly about the two
4 churches that burned in Clarendon, one church in Clarendon
5 and other in Williamsburg county. There was not an
6 organized effort to report church burnings, if you will, at
7 that time. So as a result there was no known mention of the
8 church burnings at that time.

9 I have also had the opportunity to talk with
10 those persons who were involved with the female, the
11 African-American female who was pulled out of the car by the
12 white officer. We've had the opportunity to investigate
13 with other branches in the state, the redneck shop in
14 Laurens; as well as the shooting of various persons in
15 Greenville county. The cross burning and various racial
16 kind of episode in South Carolina. The NAACP has been
17 involved in those kinds of area.

18 Also, we have been looking at legislative
19 measures that have been taking place in the state. When you
20 are talking about wanting to change a constitution to
21 include some kind of reading not to provide preferential
22 treatment to anyone based on race and gender, you begin to
23 build up some kind of hierarchal that there are persons that
24 are benefitted as a result of race.

25 The Confederate, flag the NAACP has been

1 working in conjunction with that. We've been investigating
2 issues of schools, problems of school as it relates to
3 African-American students and white authorities. When
4 talking about Supreme Court decision as a result of
5 redistricting and talking about race. I am here to say that
6 this evening also that the Governor's Commission on race
7 relation has not been very receptive to us at the NAACP. We
8 also sent them a letter asking why they have not included
9 the NAACP, an organization that has been working on race for
10 these 87 years; as well as, not including grass root persons
11 in the neighborhood, who are on the ground, who know about
12 these issues in the state. So, I'm not as enthusiastic as
13 Mr. McLawhorn as it relates to the Commission that the
14 Governor has open appointed. In all of that, the words
15 that's flying around about the color blind society and all
16 these kind of making -- the playing field level. Some
17 folk are already on a slope, but with all of these kinds of
18 things being transpired in our state, yes, we have church
19 burnings; but as so many other persons have said, the church
20 burnings is just one, if you are going to lump it and if you
21 are going to make this big pie. It's just one section of
22 what's going on in South Carolina as it relates to Race
23 Relations. So, we do have several problems here. A lot of
24 the problems. The Governor was not willing to admit at the
25 racial Justice task force in Myrtle beach, the question was

1 asked, strictly to the Governor, how did he feel about Race
2 Relations, and he emphatically said that he does not believe
3 that there is a race relation problem in South Carolina. So
4 to come back now to appoint of race a Commission on race
5 relation to deal with race problem when, in fact, we're
6 really not sure where we are in race relation. Something to
7 be desired. However, again, as I said, the NAACP has been
8 working with the church burning as well as other issues in
9 the state. Just out of our national convention, there was a
10 resolution passed in support of the church burning task
11 force that has been developed for the seven states. The
12 southeastern region comprised of seven states: Alabama,
13 Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina,
14 Florida and Tennessee. A task force has been developed
15 around these seven states to monitor the church burning in
16 these states, as well as, to provide some assistance in the
17 regional office to assist with the church burnings.

18 I would just like to commend President
19 Clinton for coming to South Carolina and to bringing the
20 national attention to church burnings. As a result of doing
21 that, brought the attention of racial problems in the state.
22 I also applaud him for assigning the two gentlemen Devalle
23 Patrick and James Johnson to spearhead the church burning
24 task force on the national level. Again, as I said, we, at
25 the NAACP will continue to work as it relates to race

1 relation and our doors, our input are available and we will
2 seek to do what is necessary as we move forward.

3 Again, I would like to again thank the
4 Commission for being in South Carolina, and to continue to
5 work as we move forward trying to bridge the gap as it
6 relates to Race Relations in South Carolina. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Comments or questions.

8 DR. BERRY: Did they answer your letter?

9 MRS. BARNES: They did not answer my letter
10 to begin with. I had an opportunity to meet with the
11 Governor at the Governor's mansion and I mentioned that to
12 him and he promised that he would and I FAXed those letters
13 to him and someone from his office did respond after that.

14 DR. BERRY: That's what you have to do. Go
15 to the Governor's mansion.

16 MR. DOCTOR: I'll go.

17 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Anybody else? Okay,
18 Bobby.

19 MR. DOCTOR: One quick question. --I know it's
20 been a long day and we're all very tired. We certainly
21 appreciate your staying around all day to wrap things up for
22 us.

23 But on a scale of one to ten, where would you
24 rank South Carolina in terms of the race relation? With 10
25 being the worse.

1 MS. BARNES: Based on all that I have been
2 exposed to in the last seven months, I think we're closely
3 heading to a nine plus plus. I see tension rising on every
4 front. Every front. Whenever there is any kind of meeting
5 or any kind of discussion, it appears that the dialogue is
6 not open. We'll come together and put our dollars there,
7 thinking that that is going to take care of the problem,
8 but we're not willing to sit across the table and be open
9 about what we're thinking and feeling as it relates to Race
10 Relations. So, I really do see an increase, if you will,
11 regarding the racial tension at the height and awareness in
12 South Carolina.

13 MS. LEE: Do you work with other community
14 groups; racial ethnic groups in South Carolina?

15 MRS. BARNES: Since having opportunity, I
16 have met with the center for Democratic renewal. The
17 antideframation league, the coalition of Black Church
18 leaders, Christian Action Council, the United Methodist
19 Church with an ethnic minorical local concern. So, we all
20 work in conjunction with several groups and organization.

21 MS. LEE: Will you be trying to outreach to
22 the hispanc and Asian communities, even though there is more
23 in terms of population here?

24 MS. BARNES: In terms of actual organized
25 group. I am not aware of those groups. But if there is any

1 representative, by all means, whole-heartedly, we will be
2 happy to work in conjunction with it.

3 DR. BERRY: Is the NAACP now going to be
4 included in the commission?

5 MS. BARNES: No, they have still denied us
6 access to the Commission.

7 DR. BERRY: You got an answer after you
8 asked, it was a no.

9 MRS. BARNES: Right, we did get an answer
10 and it was no.

11 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: We have a few minutes
12 left since we've extended our time. Carl Oglesby. He is a
13 writer and he came to our conference and he just has a short
14 presentation. Something he has thought about since all
15 these problems. If we can give him about three minutes..

16 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: Ms. Barnes, Connie
17 Barnes. I apologize. In your outreachM this was from our
18 last meeting over in Greenville. I spoke with a Major
19 Willie Brown over there. He's the chief deputy. I
20 understand that they have a large Laocean population. If
21 you might want to -- I can speak to you later about this,
22 but that might be something that you might want to touch.

23 MRS. BARNES: One other thing and I
24 appreciate that. Dr, Berry made a question about in terms
25 of local law enforcement being involved in the community?

1 And what I found and what was told to me when I went to
2 Clarendon county was that the local sheriff there and some
3 of the local officials are involved in the KKK. And for
4 that reason, they are not openly or aggressively taking
5 those leads because they are involved in that area.

6 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: So you are going to get
7 the information.

8 MS. BARNES: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Mr. Oglesby.
10 Thank you, Chairman Kimpson. It's a real pleasure to be
11 here and address this distinguished Committee. All Honor
12 and Glory to my God and my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and
13 the Holy Spririt. This poem was written not only to inspire
14 and encourage those victims of the church burning and those
15 churches, but also, one thing I would like to say is that
16 this problem of racism in South Carolina, as throughout the
17 nation is all pervasive one; that will not be dealt with
18 easily and simply. In addition, I liken it to a birth. A
19 birth that just as a child is in birth canal, it's forced
20 back again and again. And the flames of racism continue to
21 be fanned in in South Carolina as throughout the nation. I
22 think we would be deceiving ourselves if we didn't pay heed
23 to the constant state of denial tht we are in this state and
24 the nation.

25 There has always been an attempt in the

1 United States and South Carolina to maintain the advantages
2 where the economic, socio-economic, political or by every
3 institution in this country, by this state, especially
4 churches. Wwe used to maintain slavery and they were used
5 to maintain this climate of fear and hatred and racism and
6 yes, in South Carolina, it is the most segregated day of the
7 week Sunday. And it continues to be that way. Let's not
8 deceive ourselves. As I spoke with Tom Fieldings, a very
9 great illustrator, the illustrator of the book, Metal
10 Passage. It's been a great great pain to him and to myself
11 as a poet and author and writer and publisher, that
12 sometimes we find as artist we're the ones who we feel God
13 has given us the commission to try and open up the eyes of
14 people, to make them see what they don't want to see. To
15 take the bindfolds off and what have you. Like I said,
16 let's not deceive ourselves. This country is full of hate
17 and still remains full of hate. And everybody in this room
18 has participated in some way in the maintenance of economic
19 systems that put some people at a disadvantage and every
20 institution in this country, every single institution,
21 especially in South Carolina, has been used to maintain this
22 climate of racism and hatred and advantage. I think in some
23 ways we are responsible and I think we need to take a
24 ourselves and at our hearts. We need to all get on our
25 knees and ask God to forgive us, and the hate mongers that

1 we are for deceiving ourselves but we're not deceiving God.

2 The Holy Spirit inspired me to write this
3 poem:

4 Up from the Ashes

5 Up from the ashes like a Phoenix, I'll rise,
6 As gems of God's mercy and grace like the night;
7 Who dare try burn our hopes and dreams?
8 Fruitless warfare against the supreme.
9 How dare you think our God won't prevail,
10 Against the darkness in the hearts of man.
11 But look at the centuries of Our God's reign,
12 Undefeated, invincible, the Great I Am.
13 So, throw your bombs and set your fires,
14 Let the devil dance among the flames,
15 For even before the ashes cool in the night,
16 God's gems of grace and mercy shall arise.
17 Up from the ashes bursting forth from the flames,
18 God's gems of grace and mercy shall arise again.
19 Up from the ashes bursting forth from the flames,
20 God's glory and power will triumphantly reign.
21 Up from the ashes like a Phoenix I'll rise,
22 To chase away the darkness from mens hearts and
23 minds.

24 This problem of racism goes as deep as it can
25 possibly go to our very hearts. It's going to take God to

1 solve this problem and rule out the hatred and decept and
2 denial, that I think we all have in some way been a part of.
3 Yes, I am disgusted with it. And yes, it's a very
4 depressing thing. And as a poet, I have to search my soul
5 daily. As I searched my soul, before I wrote this, I didn't
6 have anything to write. I didn't have anything to say. I
7 ask the Holy Spirit to inspire my words, and this is what
8 the Holy Spirit to say to you and to say to the nation. I
9 say again, let us not deceive ourselves. We are all part of
10 the problem; whether it's on Sunday morning; whether it's at
11 home with our families; whether it's what we teach our
12 children. But every attempt still remains in this nation.
13 There's every attempt still being maintained
14 to maintain advantages. One race over another, where
15 economically finds us. And that's all I have to say. Quit
16 deceiving and true repentance.

17 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
18 Oglesby. And Reverend Frances, I promised the lady from
19 Rock Hill and then come from you.

20 MS. VEO: I don't have anything else to say.
21 I came today to learn and I'm trained in medical
22 transcription, and I listen carefully and I heard what I
23 thought was a misinterpretation of something that was said
24 by someone else.

25 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Are you comfortable

1 with the explanation?

2 MS. VEO: I'm comfortable with what I said.
3 I wasn't taking exact notes, so I hope it was clarified.

4 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: They attempted to try to
5 clear it. That's why I'm asking you. Are you comfortable
6 with the attempts to clarify with what the interpretation
7 was.

8 MS. VOLA: Yes, I am.

9 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Reverend Frances and
10 then you may.

11 REVEREND FRANCES: Thank you very much, Dr.
12 Kimpson.

13 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Since we -- if you can
14 limit your discussion.

15 REVEREND FRANCES: Thank you, Dr. Kimpson,
16 Dr. Berry, and all the members of the Commission for giving
17 me the opportunity to be heard. I'm very much concerned
18 with the atmosphere and the climate within our state as per
19 tables to the racism. Mr. Oglesby said it's a matter for
20 which the devil is responsible.

21 Unfortunately the devil doesn't do things by
22 himself. But human beings serves as his agents. And within
23 this state, the atmosphere and climate has generated
24 substantially. I have been involved in the Civil Rights
25 community for the last 30 years. And in the '70s, many of

1 my white brothers and sisters said to me, if we would start
2 marching and demonstrating, as soon as the older crowd died
3 out, the younger people will be able to clapse hands
4 together and be able to resolve our differences. I want to
5 say this: That in the last 10 or 15 years, bigotry and the
6 hatred and divisive is much more rapid. Unfortunately,
7 the focal point here has been the ku klux klan. Most of the
8 the klansmen are ignorant individuals who have no power.
9 They are merely symptomatic of the greater evil. Oh, for
10 there need not be any klansman in this state for the
11 greatest perpetrators of racism wear three piece suits and
12 black judicial robes.

13 In our state the ATF had a rally. I think it
14 was in Tennessee, but all of the agents from our state
15 participated in that racist rally.

16 The person, Mr. Shea who was the deputy
17 sheriff of Lexington County said he did not understand that
18 there were really any racial problems within the county of
19 Lexington. I presume not.

20 When there was an article in the State paper
21 that stated the Lexington County sheriff's department had
22 planted drugs on this black deputy sheriffs. So if you have
23 law enforcement people who are committing these kind of acts
24 against black law enforcement officers, what do you think
25 happens to black citizens?

1 I am concerned with the fact that we have
2 Chief Stewart and many of the other people in law
3 enforcement, who obviously don't see any racial emputus in
4 these church burnings. If we solve every church burning,
5 the legal lynching that goes on within this judicial system,
6 the wire tapping of phones, every black political leader we
7 have ever elected to that legislature that is not serving
8 there now, went out as a result of a criminal indictment.
9 And there is no way in the world that we are such a
10 degenerated criminal group of people that we are predisposed
11 to commit crimes. If you can wire tap their phones and
12 censor their mail you can almost dictate their behavior.
13 And what I'm saying is the institutionalized racism within
14 our state, it's so pervasive that it isn't considered
15 racism. It's considered business as usual.
16 To take away our freedoms is not considered a criminal act.
17 To burn our churches, to lynch us legally, it's not
18 considered criminal behavior. It's considered par for the
19 course. And truly I suppose folks think that, well,
20 churches -- and churches are very important in our
21 community-- but had not these churches been burned, then I
22 think maybe if anything God works in a mysterious way. The
23 church burning has only brought the Commission here to hear
24 a greater tragedy, and that's the legal Genesi, that is
25 being perpetrated upon every black leader, who have had any

1 any impact within the political arena in this state, has
2 been driven out of office; have been smeared not only by law
3 enforcement, but by the press. Law enforcement in this
4 state controls every aspect. I gave Dr. Berry a copy of an
5 article.

6 When you have SLED, when you have the police
7 force in this state lobbies with the legislature and they
8 determine who gets elected judges. They control the
9 judicial, executive, and the investigative branches offer
10 government. So when they when a commit a crime against one
11 of us, who do we go to? You go to the very same people who
12 are committing the crime against you. And obviously, they
13 don't see anything wrong with what they have done.

14 So, now, you have come here as a Commission
15 and our desire is to find some remedy. We need an
16 independent source of the legal assistance. If you file a
17 complaint against a judge, or a lawyer or a member of law
18 enforcement within this state, you might as well go and give
19 it to the Ku Klux Klan. There is no difference. I would
20 much rather go to them.

21 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: You are sort of
22 rambling now.

23 REVEREND FRANCES: Basically, what I want to
24 say also, before I close. I'm happy that Mr. Lawhorn has
25 enthusiasm and some -- he's optomistic. I know Governor

1 Beasley. Know him very well. As a matter of fact, if he
2 would tell you the truth, when he was a democrat, I was
3 probably one fo the first persons who urged him to run for
4 statewide elective office. But unfortunately in our state,
5 the very same people who used to embrace us when we were
6 demographics and we were supposedly brothers, are the very
7 same people who are now the individuals who are perpetrating
8 the most heinous acts of racism, and who are most
9 insensitive. And we need some regress. The deputy sheriff
10 said that he hoped that the fire burnings don't become a
11 Federal crime, because then the local people and SLED and
12 the FBI, and the ATF, will be able to continue to white-wash
13 especially those situations, where individuals of power, of
14 whites with influence can do whatever they want and get away
15 with it. If there's to be any help in the remedy in this
16 state, it must come from a Federal level. What I would like
17 to do is ask this commission, other than hearing the facts,
18 when folks like myself find themselves in the fight that I
19 am in, where do we go for assistance?

20 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Is that a question
21 for Dr. Berry?

22 REVEREND FRANCES: Dr. Berry, the panel.

23 DR. BERRY: You can final a complaint with
24 the Commission, if you wish and somebody will look into it;
25 if that's your question. We answered, yes, you can and we

1 do that.

2 REVEREND FRANCES: Well, I'm certainly going
3 to do that and I would --

4 DR. BERRY: What's the phone number, Bobby?

5 DIRECT DOCTOR: Area code (404) 730-2476.

6 REVEREND FRANCES: I think I have your card
7 to the house.

8 DR. BERRY: Just file a complaint.

9 DIRECTOR DOCTOR: Let me give you my home
10 number, too, because we may not be in because of the Olympic
11 situation, we're going to be operating from afar.

12 DR. BERRY: I wouldn't give my home phone
13 number out.

14 DIRECTOR DOCTOR: Just call the other number.
15 We'll get to it.

16 MS. VEO: In response to things he said are
17 very limited about what has been happening in South Carolina
18 I'll make it as brief as I can. Thank you. I would like to
19 feel that I am one of those grass roots people. I-serve on
20 the board of the Carolina Peach Resource Center -- Harry
21 Rogers. Rural Southern Boys for peace and Quaker House,
22 we're currently doing bridges reduction draining in
23 Fayetteville and came as a result of the black couple that
24 was murdered by the soldiers on the Fort. I want to address
25 something first. My expectation of leaders and Governor

1 Beasley, and something that wasn't mentioned is that one
2 party used the Confederate Flag as issue and was on a
3 referendum. My expectations of leaders is for them to get
4 on the greyhound bus and need to make some kind of personal
5 that involves some risk, and any of those leaders have the
6 opportunity to make that kind of commitment and didn't. And
7 where, I -- where Ms. Berry characterized as a white-wash, I
8 see the race commission as a political minimalism. What's
9 the least I can do, because there is so much attention drawn
10 to this situation.

11 I wish I could speak with the eloquence of
12 Dr. Bryan and Reverend Darby.

13 MR. DOCTOR: Take your time.

14 MR. ROGERS: The other thing I would like to
15 bring to this Commission is that I watched a video called
16 Shadow of Hate from the Southern Poverty Law Center and I
17 recommend that this commission watch it. It details what
18 this country has done to the Lacota Sioux, what it has done
19 to the Chinese, what it has done to Japanes and internment
20 camps, and certainly African-Americans have suffered the
21 most insidious forms of this type of this type of racism.
22 And I worry that the focus of this Commission is too much on
23 those 400 klansman or those people that perpetrated the
24 crimes and it has been mentioned, the underlying climate.
25 And also I think if we look too much at punitive measures.

1 I've heard it and saw published a number of times and let's
2 increase the penalty and make it from 20 to 40 and find some
3 punitive or some threatening gesture that will cause this
4 racism to go away. And I think -- I'm late to the Civil
5 Rights movement, but I what I appreciated most to it, what
6 was most successful was nonviolence and response of love to
7 to hate. And I feel it with the listening project and ask
8 you to look at it. And this is the way to respond. And
9 that's going to be the appropriate response, is that-- maybe
10 we can't those hating klansman. And the reports I get is
11 it's considerably more than 400, and if it's 4,000 that's
12 not my concern either. It is though seventy or eighty
13 /thousand people that are passively -- no, they are not
14 passively approving. But they're not standing up and
15 speaking out. I think that that's where the commission
16 efforts, the commissions efforts needs to be. It's looking
17 for those type of solutions and not looking -- again, not
18 looking in just the obvious places. I do have a concern at
19 the list of names that you mentioned, the race commission
20 here that the Governor appointed lacked some diversity. I
21 would suggest to the people that you've invited here, also
22 lacked some of that diversity, because I don't see poor
23 people and I don't see the grass roots people here. Some of
24 those grass roots people, I'm sure gave you the question,
25 Ms. Berry, some of them from -- for instance, South Carolina

1 United Actions. Some people that are still outspoken
2 advocate of civil rights. And I sometimes wonder when we
3 got to a position, speaking out does involve some person
4 risk, that we don't search out. That we don't search out
5 for those answers in these other areas and we search for
6 those other people that are just as comfortable as we are.
7 I think you as the Commission need to do that. You need to
8 go beyond that comfort level and even -- and I suggest that
9 the listening project is going to do that, too. I think we
10 have a responsibility to listen to those klanmen, too. I
11 think tht we have a responsibility to ask all of these
12 people, why are you so angry? Talk to me. Why are you so
13 angry? Are there parts of your anger that I can address.
14 Because I want to address those things that I can address
15 and we'll -- hopefully we can set aside those things that's
16 still separated. I think that I can close with a part of a
17 song, Ellis song, sweet honey in the rock. "We all who
18 believe in freedom, cannot rest until it come." And I don't
19 -- but thank you very much.

20 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Mr. Rogers, we
21 appreciate that. Thank you.

22 MR. DOCTOR: Amen.

23 MR. ROGERS: And I would offer from the Rural
24 Southern Voice for peace and from my religious community the
25 Quakers, and the Carolina Peace Resource Center, our pledge

1 to cooperate with the NAACP, and any other group that's
2 working to address these problems. We want to work with
3 you.

4 DR. BERRY: I think it's great you were
5 willing to come and want you to know as you leave, that I am
6 very aware that there are people who don't participate in
7 such forums who have something to say for a variety of
8 reasons. Which is why in every place that we've had these
9 forums, I have gone out and talked to community people and
10 collected information from them and talked to people who do
11 that. There are people who don't participate in such forums
12 and say nothing to say for a variety of reasons and why in
13 any place which have a forum and gone out and talked
14 outside the room, to gather information that is not
15 available in a more formal setting. I hope this Commission
16 on Race Relations, whatever it is, they would follow that
17 kind of pattern, also.

18 MR. ROGERS: I would suggest Commissioner
19 Berry, that there is just an enormous amount of grass roots
20 wisdom and that may be the most -- that may be the benefit
21 of going out there into the community.

22 CHAIRMAN KIMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. VEO: Dr.Kimpson and Chairperson Berry.
24 I am Sally Veo from Rock Hill. I am with the Rock Hill
25 Council for Human Right and the American Association of

1 University Women. I am with the Palmetto Project. I am
2 also speaking up today for gender and for disability.

3 I had cancer twice as a teenager, and again 8
4 years ago. As a woman, I have been discriminated a number
5 of times by men who assumed that they are smarter than I am.
6 Because I was dumbfounded with the remarks that there has
7 not been great progress in this state. I am speaking up for
8 the educators and the students and all the volunteers across
9 South Carolina, who have been working together for decades
10 and decades. This is a great state with a great future. I
11 do not want you to leave Columbia, South Carolina, thinking
12 that the major problem is alone, a few disturbed people.
13 This state is much stronger than you might've had the
14 impression. At the Palmetto Conference in Myrtle Beach on
15 January the 6th, it took a year to prepare for that
16 conference. They expected three hundred people. Over five
17 hundred came and the law enforcement people were among the
18 strongest participants. Newspaper editors came from Rock
19 Hill from Greenville, from around the state. This is a
20 Much better state than you got some impression this
21 afternoon.

22 Thank you for letting me speak.

23 CHAIRMAN KIMPSON: Thank you so much. Any
24 comments. We certainly appreciate that and appreciate you
25 coming.

1 Mr. Tony Grant is the chairman of the Race
2 Commission appointed by the Governor. And Mr. Grant, you
3 have not had the benefit of many of the comments that were
4 made relating to the commission. I called Mr. McLawhorn
5 back and he did a good job as to trying to put in
6 prospective where that you are on there and what his
7 opinions and philosophies might be. So, if you want to give
8 us a few brief remarks about the Race Relations commission
9 and then the commissioners may have a question or two for
10 you.

11 MR. GRANT: First of all, let me start by
12 saying thank you. And if I may offer some apologies for not
13 being here. We talked to one another, I think it was 6:50
14 a.m. this morning. I noted -- indicated to you that I had
15 not received an invitation to attend and told you I would
16 to be here by 1:00, had a funeral at 2:00 and a little one
17 with a temperature of 103 degrees. So, I went to the
18 doctor's office with my son, and -- both my sons. Just
19 returning back to the office. I apologize. My absence does
20 not in any way suggest that there is a lack for respect for
21 this Commission.

22 Let me also say start by saying to you that I
23 think that the work that you are doing is very worthwhile
24 and very meaningful. And certainly to you Dr. Kimpson as a
25 person that I have grown up knowing. I have told you, over

1 the years, of what you have meant to many young
2 African-American males who didn't have a father to grow up
3 in a home. I've recanted to you on numbers of occasions, my
4 visit to your office and the Governor's office, and what
5 that meant to you. So, on a personal note, it's pleasure to
6 see that you convened your group here to talk about a very
7 important issue.

8 As chair of the Commission, I'll say to you
9 that I don't have all the answers. Nor did this Commission
10 come into being by knowing that we would know what the
11 response would be or the end result.

12 The Commission was formed as a result of some
13 discussions with the Governor, some very frank discussions
14 with the Governor about their being issues of concern
15 regarding the racial climate in our state. That led to a
16 meeting at the mansion and thusly, this Commission was
17 formed.

18 The role of the Commission is, as you have
19 seen documentation that created this Commission and
20 executive order, that this Commission is designed to address
21 issues that divide people in South Carolina and build
22 bridges to help bring communities together. We have done
23 that by having, first of all, this Commission met, our first
24 meeting was February of 1996 of this year. This Commission
25 met. We formed an executive committee. Shortly thereafter,

1 we had a retreat. We didn't want to begin dealing with
2 racial issues of the state without knowing one another. So,
3 we had a retreat or a working weekend, if you will, where we
4 all pulled to the side to get to talk about issues that were
5 very simple in nature; but nonetheless, very important to
6 talk about race and what it meant to a number of us.
7 Shortly thereafter, we scheduled meetings around the state.
8 We've had one in Beaufort County. We had another in
9 Florence. Another in Anderson. One was scheduled for last
10 week, but was cancelled because of Hurricane Bertha, and the
11 next is scheduled for, I believe, August 3rd. But,
12 nevertheless, we've got several other hearings around the
13 state. And the mission is simply to go around the state, to
14 hear from the constituents of the State, because there are
15 varying views.

16 There are views that simply say that things
17 are fine, and then there are other views that suggest that
18 this state is on the way to "hell in a hand basket".

19 But as members of the Commission, we feel our
20 role is to listen to all the constituents of South Carolina.
21 To gauge their view regarding issues of race. And what we
22 hope to do after that is, we've formed various Committees
23 within the Commission. We've got a Commission on crimes,
24 crimes, and the legal community. And we have another
25 committee, sub-committee that deal with economic

1 development. Another one that deals with education, and so
2 forth. So, we've broken the commission down into various
3 sub-committees. And after the work is done with the
4 hearings, sub-committee members are beginning to meet now to
5 address issues of health and issues of economic development
6 and so forth. So, that kind of gives you a real brief
7 background.

8 The Commission is -- I have heard a lot of
9 characterizations of the commission being made up of very
10 affluent folk. And I simply say to you, that you know my
11 background and you know from whence I've come. Now, I'm not
12 the only one on that commission. And I'm not the only one
13 on that Commission and I know there are people on that
14 Commission that have a lot to bring to the Commission.

15 We are involving others. The Commission has
16 agreed to go out and reach out and involve others who may
17 not have been appointed by the Governor; however, have
18 meaningful testimony and meaningful experience they would be
19 willing to share with this Commission. So, we are reaching
20 out to bring those in.

21 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: All right, sir. Okay.
22 Questions?

23 MS. LEE: Are the members appointed by the
24 Governor?

25 MR. GRANT: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. LEE: Are they appointed to a set term or
2 at the pleasure of the Governor.

3 MR. GRANT: There is no term that's been
4 specified by the Governor, to my knowledge. First of all,
5 we would do the work and then prepare a report with
6 recommendations to the Governor.

7 So after that report is made to the Governor,
8 there may be some discussion of whether the Commission wants
9 to stay in place on a permanent basis. At this point, that
10 has not been decided.

11 MS. LEE: Do you have any plans on how to
12 get input from the community when you are comparing the
13 report?

14 MR. GRANT: One of the things we have done
15 is, every time we have meetings, we note the meetings early
16 in advance. We have been publicizing Internet addresses.
17 We have been putting in the paper or Post Office box where
18 they can send information to the Governor's office direct
19 that gets to us. There have been a number of ways to get
20 data or information to the commission.

21 MS. LEE: Those are minimum legal requirement
22 that you have to notify other people. I'm just talking
23 about other efforts that the committee or the commission is
24 doing to really reach out to community groups, who really
25 share with you valuable information that you will need to do

1 your report.

2 MR. GRANT: Let me say to you that I have --
3 don't have the sole responsibility, if you will. This
4 Commission intends to get the word out, that is part of our
5 initiative. I'm going out and speaking to groups so are
6 other members of the commission. To talk about the role of
7 the commission and how they might get information to us.
8 So, to answer another way, we are open to suggestions, if
9 that's what you are telling me. And not only that, we are
10 receptive to any information we receive regarding the
11 Commission.

12 And by the way: How are you? Graduate of
13 our school. I'm former chairman of South Carolina State's
14 University board and I recognized one of the members of the
15 Alumni.

16 DR. BERRY: I'm afraid I'm not aware of the
17 members of the Commission or your present responsibilities.

18 You said, talked about where you came from and
19 then you said you were chairman of the board and then you
20 said you had a funeral.

21 MR. GRANT: What would you like to know about
22 me?

23 DR. BERRY: What line of employment are you
24 in?

25 MR. GRANT: I am a Senior vice-president with

1 Nations Bank.

2 DR. BERRY: That's what I wanted to know, no
3 one said.

4 MR. GRANT: Commercial Regional Executive for
5 Nation's Bank. I manage a billion dollar portfolio for
6 Nations Bank. I've got that Columbia that reports to me.
7 West Columbia, Orangeburg, Sumter and Camden. Five Senior
8 vice-presidents and about 45 other folks.

9 DR. BERRY: That's fine, I just wanted to
10 know what you said --

11 MR. GRANT: Finance background. Graduate of
12 South Carolina State University. Former Chairman of the
13 Board of South Carolina State University. Grew up in public
14 housing, public assistance, single parent household, and so
15 forth.

16 DR. BERRY: I am pleasing pleased to know --

17 MR. GRANT: And I'm a democrat.

18 DR. BERRY: -- that we've got somebody who is
19 as experienced as you are heading up this commission. Let
20 me just ask, and I'm glad you came, finally, because we
21 received a great deal of information and a number of
22 questions to ask about the commission. Which if you had
23 been here earlier, perhaps we could have gotten the answer.

24 For example: Does the commission have a staff?

25 MR. GRANT: The commission has a staff that's

1 assigned to work with us from the Governor's office and that
2 is -- we've got Dewitt Zemp, who works with Jenny. And
3 Jenny is working with us. And there is another person,
4 Charles something. Marilyn --

5 MS. LEE: Mathews.

6 MR. GRANT: -- Mathews working with us, yes.
7 So, we've got alot of people.

8 DR. BERRY: Because today, we had testimony
9 from, I don't know the woman's name representing the
10 Governor's office and she told us that there were two
11 people; herself and Mr. Zemp.

12 MR. GRANT: Yea, Zemp, but they report to --
13 I mean Jenny is involved with, Jenny Wolfe, and Charles -- I
14 forget his last name and then Jennifer Sparks.

15 DR. BERRY: But does Ms. Matthews know these
16 people?

17 MR. GRANT: Ms. Matthews has just recently
18 been reassigned to the commission within the last 45 to 60
19 days. So, I couldn't answer that question.

20 DR. BERRY: And I was wondering and somebody
21 should inform her as to who is working at the Commission.

22 MR. GRANT: Again, I can't answer for her,
23 but I would just summarize that she may have assumed that
24 someone would be aware that Jenny Wolfe is the second.

25 DR. BERRY: When is this Commission expected

1 to report to the Governor?

2 MR. GRANT: We began our hearings, so should
3 be completed around fall, September or October. And
4 hopefully 60 or 90 days and may even, in fact, be end of
5 year, early next year.

6 DR. BERRY: Will the Commission have the
7 benefit of research reports on/or about staff investigations
8 concerning the issues before the Commission, so you will
9 able to test the testimony of the witnesses against
10 information that you have, so you can tell the wheat from
11 the chair?

12 MR. GRANT: There is something that we've
13 talked, and someone specifically assigned in the manner you
14 have talked about. And I have talked about involving people
15 from local colleges and university to work with us in order
16 to test some of the data.

17 DR. BERRY: So that principally, what you
18 will be if doing, if I understand it correctly, is listening
19 to people around the state and Commission members will meet
20 and have colaborations written by staff and approved by
21 Commission and make recommendations; is that basically it?

22 MR. GRANT: With a strong emphasis on trying
23 to makes dates available where everyone who would like to
24 get their word in will have an opportunity to do so. I am
25 very conscientious about that. One of the things that I

1 talked about in Florence was having a hearing on Saturday
2 and typically have the hearing on the afternoon 6:00
3 o'clock. People who work got to go home and take care of
4 family and come out. And I think it's important for us to
5 make available to them access to getting their word on the
6 record.

7 DR. BERRY: Little bit concerned about your
8 response to the question about grass roots involvement. Are
9 people getting involved who are not related to -- by giving
10 me and the committee your own background and then talking
11 about your current responsibilities when I ask you. That
12 grew up in an orphanage, who can identify? When in fact
13 haven't been for a number of years, although I did grow up
14 in one. And pinpoint strategy you see?

15 MR. GRANT: Let me respond to that, if I
16 may. I would differ with you. That would be from the
17 standpoint, I'm not here to suggest in any way that, one,
18 that this Commission doesn't hear what's said about it. I
19 know that one of the very kind characterizations of this
20 Commission is that it's an aleduous group and income over
21 50,000 dollars and so on and so on. And I say to you to an
22 introduce, who may not know my background, even though I did
23 grow up from there and still involved in those communities
24 everyday by the work that I do. And not only by that burden
25 of proof, by the other organizations that I am involved in.

1 So I was simply trying to say to you that there is a
2 parallel but however there is also some dichotomy.

3 DR. BERRY: Is it true that member of the
4 commission, I don't know who they are, is it true people who
5 are affluent, you say these criticisms exist?

6 MR. GRANT: Sure.

7 DR. BERRY: Are they factually?

8 MR. GRANT: There would be some truth as to
9 the members of the Commission, but not all of them. But
10 these are the things that have been said about the
11 Commission and am simply saying to you as a person who may
12 of heard it by testimony today. But let's be certain of one
13 point, your analogy or growing up in an orphanage and you're
14 not in one today and still got memories and still remember
15 where you been to know where you are going. And I simply
16 say to you that is part of my history, as well.

17 DR. BERRY: What is the plan? And don't
18 know anything about Reverend Mackey or people from the
19 NAACP, and participate in the affairs. What is the strategy
20 form letting them know about it and giving them access to it.

21 MR. GRANT: I have met with a number of
22 people individually to ask them for their participation and
23 I simply will make an appeal to them here or whatever and
24 always welcome to come and get involved.

25 We're asking people to participate and this

1 isn't a group that is going to be solely directed toward the
2 members of the Commission. I have met with several other
3 people that -- Joe Darby being one of them. And called Joe
4 Darby. I don't know if you know Joe Darby. And had a
5 concern about the Commission and asked him to get involved.

6 So, I'm saying to you that I want to make sure
7 we have all views available for us so we can have some
8 meaningful discussion and dialogue.

9 DR. BERRY: Is it going to take up the issue
10 of the Confederate flag. What is your opinion?

11 MR. GRANT: I cannot disclose that at this
12 point. I don't have a position on it. I will talk with you
13 outside. I don't want to disclose it.

14 DR. BERRY: You don't have a public one
15 that's been made by the Commission.

16 MR. GRANT: You asked me what my view was.

17 DR. BERRY: Yours not made public?

18 MR. GRANT: It has not.

19 DR. BERRY: Do you know or any of your
20 members made public, their views on it?

21 MR. GRANT: Some of the members of the
22 Commission have.

23 DR. BERRY: That's their personal prerogative
24 and the Commission going to take it up?

25 MR. GRANT: Absolutely.

1 DR. BERRY: What about the issue of could ku
2 klux klan activities in the state?

3 MR. GRANT: I will say to you that nothing,
4 absolutely anything that comes before this Commission will
5 be addressed unequivocally.

6 If the issue of Ku Klux Klan comes up and how
7 we deal with it. It gets discussed and how we deal with the
8 Ku Klux Klan and talk about it and recommend with the
9 Governor how to do it.

10 DR. BERRY: You don't know whether Ku Klux
11 Klan is an issue to discuss?

12 MR. GRANT: I will say, it will be an issue,
13 because it's an issue within the contents of the executive
14 order issues that divide South Carolina, that's certainly an
15 issue that divides South Carolina.

16 DR. BERRY: Are you going to discuss Civil
17 Rights issues, or sub-committee?

18 MR. GRANT: We do not have a sub-committee or
19 what have you, do we, about those issues? I'm trying to
20 remember.

21 DR. BERRY: Affirmative action, you know,
22 issues like that.

23 MR. GRANT: No. We did not name a group,
24 other than if it comes up under the confines of employment
25 or economic development, then it will be addressed, yes.

1 DR. BERRY: Do you think the affirmative
2 action is richly polarizing issue in South Carolina.

3 MR. GRANT: I think it's an issue not totally
4 south, but everywhere.

5 DR. BERRY: And your Commission is working on
6 South Carolina, that's why I said South Carolina. Do you
7 believe South Carolina is a racially polarizing issue?

8 MR. GRANT: I think it is, yea.

9 DR. BERRY: Your Committee don't -- do you
10 think discrimination and anti-discrimination and its
11 enforcement in lot of areas of life, are, in fact, issues of
12 South Carolina?

13 MR. GRANT: Let me say to you, I would hope
14 that issues of affirmative action and other issues of
15 concern that employment related sub-committee of -- it may
16 not be specifically delineated as a committee, but it
17 certainly an employment issue that should be addressed at
18 that group.

19 DR. BERRY: These issues have been in the
20 testimony. We've gotten some with the burnings and some of
21 the graffitti and vandalism at the churches, quite
22 explicitly, the perpetrators or, at least, we think there
23 are people arrested who have views about issues of
24 affirmative action; very kind of raw and crude views about
25 the issues as motivating and your other Committee members.

1 When they were testifying about the people
2 taking blacks from -- the jobs from them, affirmative issues
3 polarizing. These are major hot put issues as far as I read
4 the media in this case. And Commission on Race Relations
5 and doesn't explicitly have a sub-committee and take up the
6 Civil Rights issues that people consider as racial devices.

7 MR. GRANT: I'll say to you, Ms. Berry, we
8 did not, again, specifically delineate the issue of the
9 affirmative action as a sub-committee. But I will say to
10 you that I am certain it will be addressed, through --
11 obviously through Mr. McLawhorn and others, through that
12 Commission. But it doesn't mean that because we didn't --
13 we didn't have a committee on unemployment, but it's going
14 to be addressed.

15 DR. BERRY: I'm asking the question because
16 those distrust what the Commission is doing. If explicitly
17 people engaged in the burning and hate crimes and so forth,
18 the query somewhere -- maybe, I don't know what the
19 executive order said. Maybe I'm just ignorant. Why
20 wouldn't it up explicitly have a section devoted to issues
21 that people put out there.

22 MR. GRANT: Okay. First of all the
23 Commission was put together in December and it was the issue
24 of church burnings became front page items, but still issues
25 that concerned them and will be addressed. So consequently

1 as the time has moved on and moved to the front pages and
2 obviously on the minds of everyone, certainly a member of
3 the Commission and me included. So just not a committee.

4 DR. BERRY: I suppose Committee would mean
5 Committee? I would assume that. Is that the correct
6 inference drawn?

7 MR. GRANT: I don't know. I will say to you
8 that I think those are the committees put together that
9 there is no rhyme or reason to them, other than issues of
10 concern at the time when when we formed the Commission.

11 DR. BERRY: I won't pursue this Mr. Chairman
12 and would like a copy of the executive order--

13 MR. GRANT: I'll be happy to get it.

14 DR. BERRY: -- and put it in its place in the
15 record and list of Committees. And Mr. Grant, find out why
16 we can't get an answer to our letter of May 29 asking him
17 for the members of this Commission and other information
18 about it to which we have yet to receive a response. And
19 Reverend Mackey who called the Governor's office and find
20 out something about this and wants to get involved and his
21 church was one that was bombed, staff or something, work on
22 communications. We would appreciate that.

23 MR. GRANT: Let me say this to you: I'm
24 available if anyone has any concern or any issues, I'm
25 available for the phone calls. I can't address the letter.

1 It bothers me some correspondence where we haven't responded
2 to. I can simply say to you, if you copy me on that
3 correspondence, I'll get an answer to you. And I can't
4 address why someone didn't do something if you sent it to
5 me. I'll get it taken care of

6 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: I also demand when
7 Ms. Matthews was speaking, there was no Asians on your
8 Commission. And though small population, why aren't Asians,
9 rich or poor or middle class for that matter. Also we have
10 someone here.

11 MR. GRANT: You have to ask the Governor.

12 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: I recommend that
13 you're asking for recommendations. You recommended talk to
14 him about getting some of that. From the Quaker community
15 or grass roots. Ms. Barnes from the NAACP and in
16 Greenville, there is a large laocian community in
17 Spartanburg that needs addressing. And several other issues
18 that are coming up that haven't been addressed need to be
19 addressed.

20 MR. GRANT: Point well taken.

21 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: Also that you had a
22 meeting in Beaufort. Mr. Zimmerman know? I had no ideas
23 and I live in that county.

24 MR. ZIMMERMAN: I was aware and out of town
25 on business and was on the Thursday and--

1 MR. GRANT: Two weeks apart Thursday and
2 Thursday every two weeks has been the pattern.

3 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: I live there and
4 read the paper and haven't seen it.

5 MR. GRANT: I don't know why you didn't see
6 it and one member seen it, and another wouldn't and put it
7 in the paper.

8 MS. BERNARDO-ALLBAUGH: Like to speak to
9 you.

10 MR. DOCTOR: I have to -- the
11 communications that Chairman Berry referred to are reflected
12 in that letter. You might take a minute or so to read it
13 while I contemplate this next question.

14 I just want to ask why do you think that if
15 the governor wants that commission and executive order and
16 already in place and the Human Affairs and what have you to
17 be doing?

18 MR. GRANT: I don't know the answer to that.
19 I can say to you again, the total speculation is that TJE
20 Governor wanted a cursory review. What is currently in
21 place and recommendations to make a change and if there
22 recommendations, but I can't answer why you did that. I
23 don't know that to be a fact and categorically, he say that
24 I don't know that to be the case. I'm only surprising and
25 speculating. I don't know. He never said I oh to it.

1 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Mr. McLawhorn and Tony grant
2 and known them and known Tony and J.T. since he's been in
3 Columbia and do know I had some concerns. Once I found out
4 that the Governor placed the two of them on there, I felt
5 much more comfortable. And I think Tony the information
6 that had been generated here today and I hope Bobby can get
7 a copy of it because there is some good recommendations
8 especially as it relates to the Commission, the working with
9 the Human Affairs Commission because Ms. Matthews only had
10 two staff and I think that's where you do share the staff
11 and Human Affairs Commission knowledge and stuff. You won't
12 have to replot the ground and knowing you as a chairman, I
13 know you have it that way and make filing for the transcript
14 of this meeting and make certain.

15 MR. DOCTOR: Any other material that you
16 would like to get on the record but make certain every
17 member of the Commission has to include any data assure you
18 they receive it.

19 CHAIRPERSON KIMPSON: Okay. Thank you.
20 Somebody else want to say something. Okay. Thank you for
21 bearing with us. We were scheduled for 1:00 to 5:00 and
22 it's almost it's about 15 minutes of 8:00 clock and we
23 haven't given this young lady a break to go to the restroom
24 since we started. But I want to thank the audience and
25 especially thank the members of the United States Civil

1 Rights Commission and staff. You do United States real good
2 by being here with us.

3 And those not on the agenda and wanted to
4 make statements, we appreciate that also. So this is where
5 we are going to end.

6 (Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 o'clock p.m.)

7 END OF REQUESTED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD*****

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) C E R T I F I C A T E
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON)

I, Lisa Lawson, CMRS, Certified Stenographic Reporter, and Notary Public, certify that the foregoing hearing was taken down by me in stenotype and reduced to typewritten form by me, and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and accurate transcript to the best of my ability, given at said time and place.

I further certify that I am not of counsel ^{nor} 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 18th day of July, 1996.



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