

Bayless Appeals to Trustees Against School Termination

Clark County School District officials have scheduled the final stage of level 4 hearing in the case of Kermit Bayless, who he claims, was terminated by the School District while on medical leave.

A closed hearing is set for Thursday, August 28 at Clark County School District.

A one time Olympic Class track and field star, Bayless was a counselor and former teacher in the Clark County School District for 10 years. He was dismissed from his position, he claims, because of an error with forms submitted to him to sign while under medical treatment.

Recently inducted into the Hall Of Fame at Cal State Univ. Hayward, Bayless was top 400-meter sprinter and Olympic Candidate in 1972. He has charged that discrimination within the Clark County School System denied him a chance to coach track and field -- claiming others with little or no experience in the sport were given coaching assignments while he was denied.

Bayless claims his problems with the District stems from his allegations of discrimination over the coaching positions. He claims that while promoted from teacher at Roy Martin Junior High School, the promotion could have been a way to pacify him while still denying him the opportunity to be involved in his chosen coaching profession.

His recent clash with the District brought him several

denials to appeals with the School System, where District Officials are supporting his termination even though he never signed a resignation form. Now as he reaches the final stages of his grievance, the decision rests in the hands of the School Board Of Trustees.

Bayless recently received a favorable decision in his claims against the District by the State Unemployment Dept., which awarded him benefits over the District's objections.

State Officials agreed with Bayless, saying "Your employer chose to consider your negative reply as to whether you intended to return to duty for school year 1985-86 as a resignation... Since you were uncertain if you could return to duty for the 85-86 school year as you were on medical leave which could have, with an

Number of Black Elected Officials Up 6.1 Percent

The number of black elected officials in the United States rose by 6.1 percent last year, reports the Joint Center for Political Studies, which has conducted an extension, gone beyond that period, the negative response was the best of two poor choices," officials stated.

The State Officers concluded that, "Since substance must always override form, and your actions indicate it was not your desire to resign, you were discharged while on medical leave and no disqualification is assessed. You are eligible for benefits..."

Bayless believes that State decision will help School Board Officials see the School District fault in these last stages of appeals and that it could result in backpay and re-instatement.

annual census of blacks elected to public office since 1970. Between January 1985 and January 1986, the total number of black elected officials increased from 6,056 to 6,424. The previous year's increase was 6.2 percent.

The growth in the number of blacks elected to office occurred in every region of the country and in every category of office for which elections were held in 1985. In addition, 102 blacks were elected in jurisdictions where no black American had ever held elective office.

L. Douglas Wilder became the first black lieutenant governor in Virginia and the first black candidate to win a statewide election in the

South since Reconstruction; and

*Alyce Clarke became the first black woman ever elected to the Mississippi state legislature.

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