

A SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE:

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR DOUGLAS WILDER

PART II

(Continued from last week.)

By Muhammad Abdullah

This week in a Sentinel-Voice Exclusive, Governor Douglas Wilder will be addressing questions on the budget, David Duke, his challenges as Governor of Virginia and other areas of politics as we conclude our interview that took place on December 6, 1991 at an Awards ceremony held recently of Ceasars palace during the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) Convention in Las Vegas.

ABDULLAH: "What were some of the major challenges you were faced with when you were inaugurated as Governor of Virginia?"

GOVERNOR WILDER: "The budget, no money, the inability to provide services, innovative programs. We were not able to speak to some of the problems that we were faced with relative to young people. That's why I was forced to do what George Bush has failed to do, and that is balance the budget, not raise taxes and end up with a surplus."

ABDULLAH: "There is now all across America a movement that is promoting 'Put America First'...certainly President Bush's domestic policy is in shambles or for all intent-and-purposes 'nonexistent.' What are your thoughts on changing or adjusting if you will our foreign policy focus to a domestic policy focus that will put America first and start tackling our problems at home again?"

GOVERNOR WILDER: "Well, you should 'Put America First!'"

I have proposed to spend fifty-billion dollars immediately "without raising taxes," "without cutting anything out of the budget, other than waste, and jump-start the economy, thirty-five-billion-dollars for tax cuts and fifteen-billion-dollars to the cities.

These are things that we have not done and they need to be done and the President seems not to have an idea at all about it."

ABDULLAH: What is the present state of the economy in Virginia?"

GOVERNOR WILDER:

"Well, I am facing short-falls of 1.6 billion-dollars piled on to a 2.2 billion-dollars short-fall that we already have met with, so it's close to some 3.8 billion-dollar total short-fall that we have and that I still think we can handle without raising taxes.

But the federal government is putting more pressure on our states every day. More eligibility in terms of aid to dependant children, mental health, corrections etc...So we need to make a lot of corrections."

ABDULLAH: What is your position on David Duke as a candidate for President of the United States?"

GOVERNOR WILDER: "My position of Mr. Duke as a candidate is that there is no position for Mr. Duke! He doesn't exist to the extent that he should be given the forum for articulating the poisonous views that he spews out to the American public, to the extent that he receives the kind of publicity, free publicity, that hearkens to his cause, plays right into his hands.

It is exactly what he wants, and it doesn't hurt him at all to say that "Well if you ignored him

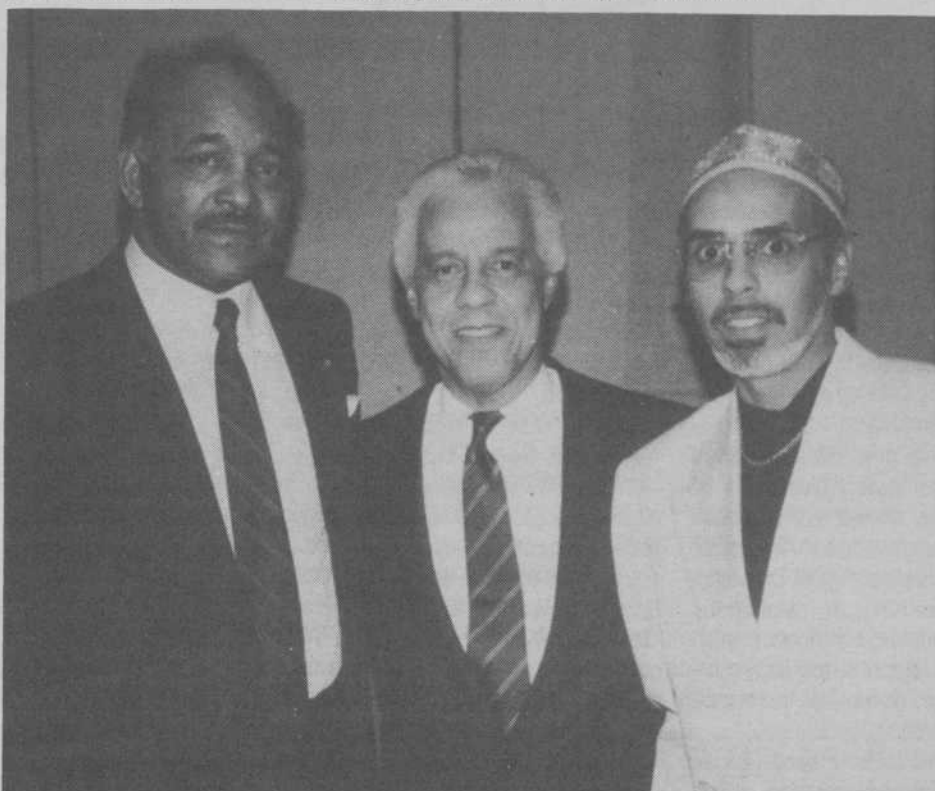
he would do better."

"You can't think of another candidate nationally that could get that type of exposure and you say it hurts him."

ABDULLAH: "Do you think that David Duke's candidacy will hurt Mr. Bush?"

GOVERNOR WILDER: "His candidacy hurts America! Mr.

Bush and his kind knows how to move that element away when it is time for hurt. But I think it hurts America. It is something we don't need!"



PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Governor Douglas Wilder, (Center) talk with Newspaper Publisher Cloves Campbell Sr., of Arizona and Ramon Savoy of Las Vegas. Governor was in town for the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

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