

# Jackson to meet with airline brass about discrimination

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

SEATTLE (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson will be meeting with Boeing Co. Chairman Phil Condit to discuss allegations of racial discrimination and retaliation that some employees have raised in lawsuits.

Condit called Jackson on Friday after seeing a *Seattle Times* article on Jackson's desire for a meeting. They scheduled one next week in Seattle, Boeing spokesman Peter Conte said.

The call was "to reaffirm with Reverend Jackson that we do take this issue very seriously, we do share the same concerns and we're all working toward the same goal," Conte said. "We agree with Reverend Jackson that inclusion leads to growth and where there's growth, everyone wins."

Jackson, who supported black Texaco workers in their successful racial-discrimination complaints, told *The Times* his meeting with Condit is

part of a broader effort to ensure that minorities are treated fairly at Boeing. He also plans to bring Boeing employees to Chicago in mid-September for a news conference to discuss the discrimination allegations.

Jackson said his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition may open an office in Seattle to keep pressure on Boeing and other Northwest companies.

"Boeing is a private company that is government-endowed and therefore must honor the rules of inclusion, fairness and equal protection," Jackson said. "The (discrimination) complaints are severe. The question is whether management will be forward thinking, open and earnest and seek resolution, or will it seek to deny and delay."

Boeing faces nearly a dozen lawsuits alleging racial discrimination at its sites in the Puget Sound area and elsewhere.

In one of the most recent, filed in

March, 42 blacks and one American Indian allege that Boeing management has repeatedly denied qualified minority workers the same advancement as whites. The lawsuit alleges that blacks and other minorities endure racial slurs from co-workers and supervisors and that, when they complain about it, Boeing punishes them instead of the culprits.

Boeing denies the allegations and contends it treats all employees fairly. The company has said it would take corrective action if it found racial discrimination.

Jackson was alerted to the discrimination claims by one of the lawyers on the case filed in March, Oscar Desper. Jackson has read the lawsuit filing and interviewed some of the 43 plaintiffs.

"The quality of the people doing the complaining has real credibility," Jackson said, citing their long work histories at the company.



*Sentinel-Voice file photo*

*Jesse Jackson will push airline officials to combat discrimination.*

## Leaders rally for minority candidate

*By Susanne Youmans  
Special to Sentinel-Voice*

NEWHAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Democrats have just one black candidate for statewide office this year.

But church and civic leaders say that is no reason for black voters to stay away from the polls.

"We have to dismiss the notion that any African-American is secure enough that he doesn't need to vote," Rev. Franklin Richardson told the more than 100 people gathered at Immanuel Baptist Church for Saturday's Connecticut African-American Leadership Summit.

"We are cofounders of this country," Richardson said, bringing the audience to its feet. "We have paid our dues. We should not be shy, we should not be timid about taking our place in society."

Richardson was joined at the Connecticut African-American Leadership Summit by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Barbara Kennelly, U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd and others who stumped for state treasurer candidate Denise Nappier.

The speakers told blacks that the only way to have their voices heard is to speak up.

"Educational and economic empowerment are not going to happen unless you have political empowerment," Dodd said.

Getting that message out is vital to ensure blacks are well-represented in the state's strongholds of power, said state Rep. Wade Hyslop.

The election of Nappier, who won the party's endorsement at the July

convention, would silence those who believe minority candidates make it onto the ticket because of affirmative action, Hyslop said.

"We are not just putting up a minority, we are putting up the most qualified candidate," said Hyslop, D-New London.

Nappier, who has been treasurer of Hartford for eight years, faces a Sept. 15 primary against West Hartford businessman Frank Lecce. If Lecce wins the primary, the Democrats will put up an all-white ticket, something Hyslop and his alliance have said they could not support.

Minority leaders protested when an all-white ticket seemed likely before the convention. Kennelly gave her 11th-hour support to Nappier.

"We're not the party that puts the ticket together and says how great we are," said Kennelly, referring to Republicans who have dubbed their slate "The Rowland Rainbow" with minority candidates for U.S. Senate, secretary of the state, attorney general and comptroller. "It's more than putting together a ticket in an election year. It's a record of commitment."

The "Rowland Rainbow" has seen troubles.

Antonio Serbia dropped out of the race for comptroller after it was revealed he was acquitted of bank fraud charges in Puerto Rico and had embellished items on his resume. Secretary of the State candidate Ben Andrews then went public with his ongoing battle with the IRS.

Dodd backed up Kennelly, saying it has been the Democrats, not the

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## Supervisor wants to expand affirmative action

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A city official wants to expand the San Francisco's affirmative action program to include Arab American and American Indian contractors, in spite of California's ongoing struggle to comply with Proposition 209.

Currently, blacks, Asian Americans, Hispanics and women are given a leg up in bidding on \$2.5 billion worth of municipal contracts.

But opposition to the city's plans appears just around the corner, coming from a lead proponent of the proposition which bans race or gender considerations in public hiring, contracting and education.

"I, for one, am just drooling at the prospect of challenging the city on this issue," said Ward Connerly, a University of California regent who chaired the "Yes on 209" campaign. "San Francisco is still a part of California. It can't pick and choose what laws to follow. This is really an in-your-face move, saying, 'screw you' to the voters of California."

Connerly, a national spokesman for abolishing affirmative action programs, said there's sure to be a legal fight should San Francisco implement its plan.

The proposal, unveiled Monday by Supervisor Amos

Brown, comes nearly two years after voter-approved Proposition 209 seemed to ban preference hiring.

The city's current program is set to expire Oct. 31. But city officials said that although the state may say no to affirmative action, federal law requires it to continue.

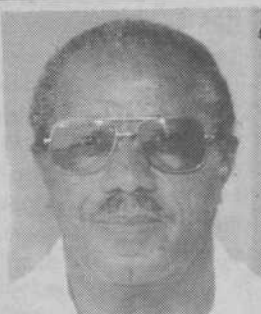
"The board (of supervisors) finds that many city departments continue to operate under an 'Old Boys Network,' dominated by Caucasian males, that creates a barrier to entry of women- and minority-owned businesses," Brown's proposal said. "San Francisco is actively discriminating against women and minority groups in its contracting and is passively participating in discrimination in the private sector," it said.

San Francisco's existing law does not set any numeric quotas, but calls for targets.

It also requires city departments to take extra steps to involve minority- and women-owned businesses in the bidding process. These firms also get a 5 percent bonus when they bid for work.

All these provisions are illegal under 209's provisions, said Lance Izumi of the Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy, a think tank that supported the ban on preferences. "Other localities have been forced to change their ways. Why should San Francisco get a special dispensation?" he said.

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