

Bigotry resolution rouses many, divides House

WASHINGTON (AP) — A simply worded Republican resolution denouncing bigotry of all kinds turned into a nasty exchange on the House floor and ended in defeat Tuesday.

"This bill is a ruse that is totally characteristic of Republicans who want civil rights on the cheap," thundered Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich.

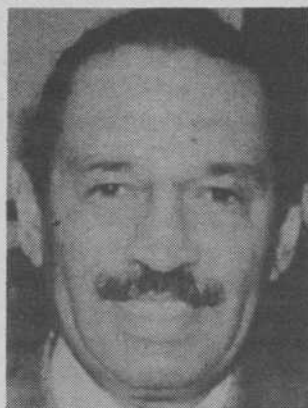
"When I have had racist attacks made about me," retorted Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, the only black Republican in Congress and the author of the resolution,

"no one ran to the floor to condemn that."

The resolution was brought up under special rules requiring a two-thirds vote for passage. It failed to reach that, with 254 in favor, most of them Republicans, 152 opposed and 24 voting "present."

It stated that the House "reaffirms the determination of all its members to oppose any individuals or organizations which seek to divide Americans on the grounds of race, religion or ethnic prejudice."

The Republican leaders-



JOHN CONYERS

hip, over Democratic objections, crafted the measure as a substitute to a Democratic resolution that would have condemned a particular group, the St.

Louis-based Council of Conservative Citizens, accused by critics of having a racist agenda.

The CCC gained national attention after it was revealed that Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., had addressed the group.

Barr said he condemned the teachings of the CCC and accused the Democrats of hypocrisy for not criticizing a fellow Democrat for addressing the same group. He alleged that Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., spoke to the group.

However, a CCC spokesman denied that, as did Democratic lawmakers.

Watts said there were 537 hate groups recognized by the Southern Poverty Law Center and his resolution encompasses all of them.

"To be so particular would be to commit a crime of omission by giving a pass to other groups that espouse prejudiced racist views, in effect saying that their bigotry is not so offensive as to be worthy of our condemnation," Watts said.

But Rep. Bob Wexler, D-Fla., who sponsored the

measure condemning the CCC, said the GOP proposal was "nothing but a sham." It "confronts nothing," he said. "It is designed only to derail our resolution and if successful hand the CCC an unconscionable victory."

CCC Chief Executive Officer Gordon Baum, in a statement last week on the Wexler bill, denied that the group supports white supremacy and anti-Semitism, and called the resolution "the product of left-wing partisans who seek to silence all conservative expression."

Two California communities sue over crack epidemic

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — City residents who claim the federal government did nothing to stop crack cocaine sales in their neighborhoods in the 1980s sued the CIA and Justice Department on Monday.

The complaints were filed on behalf of mostly black residents whose babies were born addicted to crack, whose relatives died in drug-related drive-by shootings and whose communities were affected by crowded emergency rooms and gutted business districts, the lawsuit said.

"This is not some sort of litigation lottery ticket," attorney Katya Komisaruk said. "The government contributed to what happened to us, so now we need the government to come and help us."

The federal civil rights lawsuits, filed in Oakland and Los Angeles, were partially prompted by last year's disclosure of a 1982 agreement between the late CIA Director William Casey and former Attorney General William French Smith that the spy agency had no duty to report drug crimes to the

Justice Department. Komisaruk said she wants a judge to declare the agreement illegal, order the CIA and Justice Department to report crimes they are aware of and issue reparations to cities affected by cocaine sales.

Justice Department officials had not reviewed the lawsuit and will not comment on it until Tuesday, spokesman David Slade said. The CIA did not return a telephone message left by The Associated Press.

The complaints are the latest result of a

1996 San Jose Mercury News series that claimed a drug ring funneled profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels for the better part of a decade. The series traced the drugs to traffickers who were also leaders of a CIA-run guerrilla army in Nicaragua during the 1980s. The executive editor of the Mercury News later acknowledged in a letter to readers that the series had shortcomings.

Last summer, an 800-page internal Justice Department report exonerated the department and the CIA.

Corrections

In our March 11th issue, in the article entitled "Protest targets conduct" (page 1), We Rise did not co-sponsor the rally at the West Las Vegas Library. Vanessa Williams, founder of We Rise, did participate in the event, but not as a representative of the organization.

Also, in the same issue, we incorrectly wrote that Galaxy Glenn would be modeling for "Baltimore Hats" (page 2). The actual name of the company is Biltmore Hats.

In "Act hopes for chance and stardom", March 18 (page 11), we mistakenly printed the wrong name of By Chance's new album. "Gotta Get That Lovin'" is the name of the latest release, their second album. We also misidentified producer Rick "Dutch" Cousin as William Campbell.

We apologize for any confusion we may have caused.

Brutality

(Continued from Page 2) spokesman Myron Marlin said afterward.

"She also said she'll look for opportunities to speak about the issue, but has to avoid anything that could harm any prosecutions," Marlin added.

The group asked Reno to draft guidelines for police in the use of racial profiling, stop-and-frisk and strip search procedures.

National Urban League President Hugh Price said in

the last two years in New York City, 45,000 people have been stopped and frisked but 37,000 of them were released without charges. Courts later threw out the charges against half of the 8,000 who were charged, Price said.

Federal and state authorities recently expanded their investigation of the New York City Police Department to include the Street Crime

Unit, four of whose members shot and killed Diallo.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani "has set a very explosive climate in New York," Jackson said.

At a city council hearing Thursday, Giuliani's police commissioner, Howard Safir, testified that despite criticisms of its tactics, the Street Crime Unit has an excellent record for removing guns from violent

neighborhoods. He said the entire 380-member unit has taken refresher courses in cultural diversity, courtesy and respect training, and tactics.

In Chicago, there were 41,000 arrests in one recent year under an anti-loitering statute that uses personal appearance as a basis for arrest, said Yvonne Scruggs Leftwich of the National

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no chance of probation and a fine of no more than \$5,000.

Assembly Bill 577's sponsor, Chris Giunchigliani, said people convicted on drug-related crimes constitute 1/3 to 1/4 of the prison population.

Teen-agers subject to rigorous training under bill If Assembly Bill 552 passes, Nevada teenagers' current driving freedoms will be drastically abridged.

The bill's goal is to cut down the amount of teenage car accidents and deaths. Last year 51 teenagers died in car accidents in Nevada.

AB 552 would force students to undergo an instructional permit period with 50 hours of supervised driving, with at least 10 hours taking place at night.

Once the teen-ager has completed the six-month period for the instructional permit, a provisional license will be issued to the teen for one year.

Along with the increased training, teen-ager's driving hours will also be diminished during the provisional period. First-time drivers under the age of 18 will not be able to drive between the hours of 5

to 10 p.m. unless he or she is escorted by a licensed driver over age 21.

This rule will only apply during the driver's first year. If a teenage driver is caught with another teen-ager as a passenger during the driver's provisional period, a \$35 fine will be issued along with 8 to 16 hours of public service.

If the teen-ager commits a

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