

NEWS CLIPS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SUPPORTS SMALL RADIO LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) — The U.S. Catholic Conference Communications Committee is appealing to the House of Representatives to oppose any legislation that would block non-commercial low power FM stations. Opposition from broadcasting corporations and the National Association of Broadcasters increased when the FCC authorized the onset of low power FM radio last January. The lawsuit has led to the generation of a bill that seeks to deter the FCC from its plans that is up for consideration by the House Commerce Committee. But Bishop Robert N. Lynch, chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference Communications Committee, is against any legislation that will interfere with the rights of low power FM stations. "Low power radio offers a positive alternative to the profit driven, one-size-fits-all programming found on many radio stations. Radio stations have outright refused to broadcast noncommercial community affairs and programming unless paid for their time," he said.

HEALTH STUDY REVEALS DIFFERENCES IN CARE BY ETHNICITY

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) — A study to evaluate differences in attitudes toward primary care physicians among patients of different ethnic backgrounds found that Asian patients rated the performance of doctors less favorably than white patients did. Black patients rated highly the physician's use of the latest technology and of health promotion. The patients were asked to assess their doctor's technical competence, communication skills, accessibility, prevention and health promotion activities, and overall satisfaction. The study included reports from 7,747 white patients, 1,007 Asian patients, 836 Black patients and 710 Hispanic patients. They received care at 13 Kaiser facilities from general internists, internal medicine subspecialists and family physicians. The patients' ages ranged from 35 to 85. The researchers feel that more research is needed to assess whether health plans are meeting the needs of diverse patient populations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT TO EXPAND DATABASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) — Southern Changes is expanding its social justice and civil rights searchable database to the Internet at <http://chaucer.library.emory.edu:8080/schanges.html>. This resource will provide web surfers with information on social justice history and civil rights, and is a venture of the Southern Regional Council and the Beck Center for Electronic Collections at Emory University. "I think it will be a valuable resource not only for people researching civil rights history, but people concerned about current conditions of race relations," said Ellen Spears, managing editor of Southern Changes. This digital archive, a wide array of materials including commentaries and interviews from public figures like director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Julius Chambers, and reviews from historian Dan T. Carter. It will also feature essays and articles on social justice issues in the South. Its current database dates from 1982-1992. Spears views the site not only as a unique resource but also as the ideal location. With an online presence, anyone in the world can access information on the continuing movement for social justice. "We're making links with lots of other civil rights organizations and we did a major fax broadcast about it," Spears said.

STATES DUE \$24.8 BILLION TO BUILD NEW AND REPAIR CRUMBLING SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) — The Department of Education today released state-by-state estimates of the amounts that would be authorized under H.R. 4094, a bipartisan bill introduced by U.S. Reps. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., and Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. The legislation would allocate \$24.8 billion in bonds to help communities build and modernize up to 6,000 schools. President Clinton is committed to signing the legislation if passed by Congress. "From the Bronx to Los Angeles, our nation's schools face serious overcrowding and are in disrepair," Education Secretary Richard W. Riley said. "In the three years since the president asked the Congress to address this pressing need, conditions have only gotten worse. It is time for Congress to approve urgently needed school renovation. Schools districts — whether they are rural, urban or suburban — need the help." A 1995 GAO report found that \$112 billion was needed to bring America's existing schools into acceptable condition.

Denny's agrees to retrain managers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Denny's Inc. agreed Monday to retrain its restaurant managers nationwide to resolve allegations it requested excessive documentation from aliens applying for work, the Justice Department said.

The company also agreed to pay \$89,400 in civil penalties, the department said.

The managers of all 1,700 company-owned Denny's restaurants will be trained how to verify that aliens are eligible to work under the Immigration and Reform and Control Act of 1986.

John Trasvina, Justice's special counsel for immigration-related unfair employment practices, praised the company's "cooperative spirit in resolving the matter."

"Even though the investigation focused solely on San Diego-area restaurants, Denny's is taking steps to ensure that managers at every one of its company-owned restaurants across the country do not make the same mistake," Trasvina said.

Trasvina's office conducted an 18-month investigation of allegations that San Diego Denny's

restaurants requested specific documents from newly hired noncitizen workers to prove they could legally work in this country.

The law prohibits employers from demanding specific identification documents and allows new employees to choose which of several documents to produce to establish work eligibility.

"Today's settlement protects this right for all workers," Trasvina said.

The 1986 act prohibits job discrimination based on national origin and citizenship status.

In 1994, Denny's settled a \$46 million discrimination suit filed by black Secret Service agents who said they were denied service at a restaurant. The complaints were among a series of discrimination claims by black customers at Denny's restaurants around the nation.

As part of an agreement with the Justice Department, the chain agreed to retrain employees in requirements of federal civil rights law covering public accommodations, feature minorities in its ads and hire an outside lawyer to monitor compliance.

Justice lets black Tennessee district stand

It could add a black representative to 99-member Tennessee House.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Supreme Court justice rejected an emergency request by Tennessee's top officials and cleared the way for use this year of a majority-black election district in West Tennessee for the state House of Representatives.

It will be the first such Tennessee district outside the state's four urban counties and could add a black representative to the 99-member House, which now has 13 black members.

Justice John Paul Stevens refused to postpone the effect of federal court rulings that require use of new district lines affecting voters in Madison, Hardeman, Haywood, Chester, Tipton and Fayette counties.

Those lines, adopted by the state Legislature as a contingency in case of a

successful court challenge, created a new district in which a majority of the voters are black.

A federal judge ordered the change in 1998 after ruling that the districts created by the Legislature in 1992 violated the federal Voting Rights Act by diluting black voters' political clout. That ruling was upheld Monday by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In asking Stevens to temporarily set aside that ruling, Tennessee Attorney General Paul Summers argued that the new districts will prove too confusing for voters and potential candidates.

Stevens, who handles emergency matters from Tennessee for the nation's highest court, issued a brief order unaccompanied by any written opinion.

"In this instance, the public interest lies in maintaining stability in the affected House districts, not in changing the district lines for this election — especially since the district lines will be altered in two years for the 2002 elections" as a result of this year's census, Summers said. "To permit the 2000 primary and general elections to proceed under (the mandated plan) will undoubtedly result in voter and candidate confusion for

these elections."

The qualifying deadline for August's primary elections is Thursday.

The request was filed on behalf of Gov. Donald Sundquist, Secretary of State Riley Darnell and other state officials.

In its ruling, the appeals court noted that 31 percent of West Tennessee's voting age population is black but that none of the five House districts from the six-county area is majority-black and no black candidate has won an election in those districts.

"These circumstances simply overwhelm those factors that might favor the state of Tennessee," the appeals court ruled.

The case is Sundquist vs. Rural West Tennessee African-American Affairs Council, A-810.

President urges increased U.S. corporate diversity

WASHINGTON (AP) — As he has with preachers and lawyers, President Clinton urged corporate executives last week to diversify their ranks — and predicted he will live to see a woman and a non-white American occupy the White House.

Clinton gathered dozens of executives at the White House as part of his One America initiative to seek greater opportunity for minorities. In response, 25 companies are each pledging at least \$1 million annually over the next 10 years to encourage women and minorities to pursue high-tech careers.

The president said a key challenge is ensuring that white male workers do not feel alienated or eclipsed as women and minorities move

up. He looked at the men beside him on stage — two white, one black — and said in a decade, a presidential event where all four speakers are "middle-aged, gray-haired guys," three of them white, will be rare.

"In my lifetime, I think we'll have a woman president and certainly an African-American or Hispanic or an Asian-American president, maybe all three," Clinton said. "The point is, it won't diminish white guys. It'll make life more interesting."

"But the struggle is to understand it that way," he continued. "This is not a matter of homogenizing this country. It's a matter of celebrating, relishing our differences."

The companies planned to (See Diversity, Page 5)

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