Voting Rights renewal likely despite wavering bureaucrats

By Ed Rogers

WASHINGTON (UPI) — It is an open question whether the Justice Department will ask Congress next year for another extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a legislative milestone of the Johnson Administration under which thousands of southern blacks have been enfranchised.

"One of our major projects this year will be to analyze and decide whether to recommend to the Attorney General that the Voting Rights Act be extended, enlarged or modified," said James P. Turner, deputy assistant attorney general in charge of voting rights enforcement.

Turner refused to say which recommendation Attorney General William B. Saxbe is most likely to receive for his final decision, but he made clear that one option would be simply to let the law expire.

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Turner characterized the law as an "extraordinary remedy for an extraordinary problem" in the South in the 1960s when only 7 per cent of voting-age blacks in Mississippi were registered.

"We were having to litigate with individual county registrars, obtain injunctions, the case would be appealed and maybe in two or three years get five or 10 people registered," he said in an interview.

"Then they would go back to using a different system, some different type of device, so the record in 1965 was total exclusion and continual frustration."

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Today, Turner said, voluntary compliance is the overwhelming rule, and he sees little danger of backsliding by local voting officials if the law were to die.

"I am pretty optimistic they would not," he said.

Enacted nine years ago and extended in modified form in 1970, the law empowers the attorney general to dispatch federal voter registrars and polling observers in designated areas, outlaws literacy and tests, and requires advance approval by the attorney general or a U.S. district court panel in Washington, D.C., for any changes in a local election system.

A jurisdiction was automatically covered if literacy tests had been required in the past and if less than half the voting age population had registered or voted in the 1964 presidential election.

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The law originally covered Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia and 37 counties in North Carolina.

In 1970, Congress outlawed literacy tests everywhere and amended the formula to use the 1968 presidential election as a base.

The 1970 extension added several jurisdictions outside the South, including the New York City boroughs of the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan, and later some sections of New England, nine counties in Arizona, two in California and one each in Idaho and Wyoming.

Clarence Mitchell, chief Washington lobbyist for the NAACP, said it would be a "calamity" if Congress failed to renew the law when it expires Aug. 6, 1975. But he does not believe Saxbe will propose that, regardless of what Turner recommends.

"The attorney general as a senator was a strong supporter of civil rights, including the Voting Rights Act," Mitchell said. "I've talked with him and I believe he will continue to have his personal commitment . . ."

In any event, he added, "I don't believe the Justice Department position will be determinative. We had to get the law extended (in 1970) over the opposition of then Attorney General Mr. (John N.) Mitchell."

A source on the House Judiciary Committee said the panel definitely will propose an extension no matter what Saxbe proposes.

By last August, the attorney general had reviewed 3,799 proposals for such local changes as qualificatious for or abolishing political offices, time and place of registration, annexation, redistricting and switches to at-large elections or open primaries.

Of these, he has disapproved 165 proposals on the ground of an intent or effect of discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1969 that the law covered any kind of change, no matter how small.

"That meant the slightest little annexation, the slightest polling place change," Turner said.

"We decide those things every day. We are kind of reluctant bureaucrats. We don't like to stick our long federal nose into things like that but the law requires it and, of course, we do it."

Voter drive set for 100 cities

NEW YORK (NBNS) — A drive to register additional black voters in 100 target cities across the nation has been launched by three national civil rights organizations.

Speaking for the groups, Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, said, "With limited resources, we decided to coordinate our efforts to reach the largest number of minority voters without costly duplication of effort."

The NAACP, which has 1,800 affiliated groups across the country, is being joined in the project by the A. Philip Randolph Institute in New York and the Atlanta-based Voter Education Project.

Their combined efforts will part of Operation '74, a voter mobilization project which will include canvassing, workshops, rallies and publicity "to dramatize the necessity for minority involvement in politics."

John Lewis, head of the Voter Education Project, estimated that black voter registration lags "10 to 15 per cent" behind that of whites.

The "target" cities include Miami, Atlanta, Baltimore, Newark, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, San Francisco and smaller communities such as New Rochelle, N.Y., and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The represent areas where black registration is 50 per cent or less of the potential black vote.

Bayard Rustin, executive director of the Randolph Institute, said he felt "obstacles" to registration rather than "apathy" accounted for the high rate of unregistered minority voters. He cited such things as inaccessible registrars and polling places that close "before people get off from work."

TREE PRUNERS — While Horatio Brooks (R) looks on with approval, Vernain Lacewell tries his hand at pruning a tree at the National Arboretum. The two junior High School students participated in a program sponsored by Widening Horizons to learn about gardening, landscaping and careers in horticulture. Over a hundred students took part in the three sessions held at the Department of Agriculture's National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. during the summer. Horatio, who attends Roper Junior High is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Brooks of Washington. Vernain is the son of Mrs. Geneva Lacewell of Washington and attends Evans Junior High School.

Boost for SBA voted despite fraud claims

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House has voted to increase the trouble-ridden Small Business Administration's loan guarantee authority to $8 billion, a boost of $1.1 billion over the current ceiling on the agency.

The authorizing legislation was cleared on a voice vote and sent to the Senate, despite congressional investigations in recent months that showed fraud on the part of some SBA sub-level executives and lower echelon employes.

The SBA, conducting its own investigation, turned up evidence of fraudulent loans by the agency's Richmond office and is probing complaints of similar activities in other areas.

The measure would require the SBA to keep both the House and Senate banking committees informed of results of the agency investigation and turn over a list of all audits SBA makes as part of the inquiry.

Rep. Robert Stephens, D-Ga., manager of the bill, said small business firms, including newly emerging minority businesses should not be panallized because of the revelation of fraud in some cases.

Rep. Frank Annunzio, D-Ill., said the SBA "is more interested in covering up than in cleaning up its operations. I detect a 'Watergate mentality' within the higher echelon of the SBA."

The one saving grace in the bill, said Annunzio in support of the measure, is provision for creation of a chief counsel for advocacy who would act as an ombudsman on behalf of small business firms.

The banking committee report accompanying the bill said that the fact small businessmen pressed for the advocacy position "merely confirm's the committee's . . . findings of mismanagement and criminal activities within SBA."

Dinner convenes Young's campaign

ATLANTA — Congressman Andrew Young D-Ga., said one of his primary functions of his campaign bid for re-election for a second term will be to get people out to vote.

Young was speaking at a $50-a-plate campaign kick-off dinner in his honor at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta hotel. Several political figures and famous Atlantans were among the 1,000 well-wishers at the dinner.

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Although young has no opposition in the State's Aug. 13 primary, he will face Republican Wyman C. Lowe in the November general election.

"Richard M. Nixon is in office now because in 1960 people felt it wldn't make much difference . . . " Young said. "And Lord have mercy, haven't we paid for it?

"Good people don't stand a chance" unless there is a large voter turnout, he said.

He said his first campaign for Congress developed into an effort "to mobilize a coalition of good will," and he vowed that he will continie that effort this year.

Tom Offenburger, Young's press secretary said the funds from the dinner would go toward paying off debts from the congressman's 1972 campaign and to help pay for the publication of a district newsletter.

Oldest church in 109th year

WHITEVILLE, N.C. — The St. Paul Baptist Church is celebrating her 109th anniversary Aug. 11, at 3 p.m. The Rev. N. B. Benjamin will be the guest speaker.

St. Paul is the oldest black church in the town. The Rev. Boykins is the pastor.

SUPREMACISTS TAKE ALL

Rhodesian whites 'possessed by demon of fear'

SALISBURY, Rhodesia — Why did Premier Ian Smith's white supremacist party sweep all 50 whites seats in the country's House of Assembly in voting last week?

African nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa has labeled the win for the Rhodesia Front Party the result of a vote for "white supremacy." He said Rhodesian whites are "possessed by a demon of fear."

In last Tuesday's parliamentary elections Smith's main white opponents, the more moderate Rhodesia Party, were eliminated.

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The 1961 constitution provided for 65 seats in the House of Assembly assigned according to economic power rather than population. The 250,000 whites elect 50 members while the 5 million blacks pick 15.

In reaction to the sweep Premier Ian Smith said he is now in a stronger position to negotiate a new constitution with the country's black majority.

Smith said he had sent invitations to attend a planned constitutional round table conference to various African groups including the African National Council, although its leaders have said they will not attend.

"This government has received a mandate from the people," Smith said in a radio and television interview on national elections in which whites and blacks voted separately.

The Africans "must negotiate with this government — and we hope that this message has gone home very strongly," Smith said.

"I want a settlement as much as you do but it would be silly of me to say I can give you a settlement tomorrow unless you want a sellout and a settlement."

Smith said he had been in "constant" communication with the British government on a settlement of Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence, which is recognized by almost no one around the world.

On the promise of self rule to the black majority in the neighboring Portuguese territory of Mozambique, Smith said his government "hoped for the best but was planning for the worst."

He did not elaborate. Many supplies for landlocked Rhodesia pass through Mozambique ports.

Smith said his government was in close touch with South African authorities and received complete cooperation from them but he denied Salisbury press reports that he would visit Pretoria soon for talks with Premier John Vorster.

Plane crash kills four, injures many

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (UPI) — Four persons were killed and more than a dozen injured when a twin-engine Navy plane smashed into a fiberglass shop near the end of the runway at the Coast Guard station here.

The plane exploded into flames, and 12 to 18 persons, most of them firefighters, were injured.

Among the dead was Joseph Spruill, a 53-year-old black civilian who was inside the shop. Spruill, of 1311 Winston St. here, was married, the father of four children who lived at home.

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Other dead civilians were identified as Gilberg Spitzer and Mayton Jones, also of Elizabeth City.

Also killed was the pilot of the ET2 Hawkeye anti-submarine plane based in Norfolk, Va.

The plane was on a training mission from Norfolk Naval Air Station and was apparently only a few seconds airborne when it went down.

"The aircraft was in a practice touch and go pattern in the takeoff phase when something unusual happened to the aircraft," said Cmdr. Peter Rots of the Coast Guard

MILWAUKEE (NBNS) — The Rev. James Groppi, civil rights activist and a highly controversial cleric, is returning to the Milwaukee inner city to operate a storefront mission.

CANDIDATE ON THE JOB — Nebraska State Senator Ernest Chambers trims hair for a customer in his barber shop in Omaha's north side. Chambers, the first black candidate ever to seek the governor's office here became an official candidate July 31 through a petition drive. He challenged his opponents' positions concerning taxes, penal reform and the food tax which he has tried to do away with.

A CONSTANT STREAM OF VISITORS enter the portals of the Afro-American Pavilion at the Expo '74 in Spokane, Wash. More than one quarter million fairgoers have toured the pavilion.

Expo pavillon stages black history

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Afro-American Pavilionat the Expo '74 World's Fair until August 9 is hosting an art show tracing the development of black American artists.

The donations of the Schomburg Collection of the New York Public Library and Southern University, Baton Rouge, La. are providing visitors a wide scope of artistic expression.

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"There are oils by Henry Ossawa Tanner, the first black to achieve international status in the art world, and Archibald Motley; lithographic collages by Romare Bearden sculpture by Camille Billops and Frank Hayden and much more," pavilion art curator Mikelle Egozi Fletcher said.

Many of the paintings are by members of the Harlem Renaissance. This was the first school of Black American artists to express themselves with truly black images, according to Ms. Fletcher.

The school was founded by the black writers Elaine Lock and W. B. Dubois a black philosopher. It was given impetus by Marcus Garvey, an early "back to Africa" politicain in the 1920's.

"It wasn't until the depression, paradoxically, that the school was a success. The Works Projects Administration provided the funds to allow the artists time to work on their paintings," Ms. Fletcher said.

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The Pavilion itslef represents the first comprehensive display of the history and culture of the Black American on a world stage.

Its "Heritage Tunnel" traces in multi-media form the historical passage of blacks from pre-slave times through the present. Using pictures, slides, movies, charts, and music, the Tunnel instills in the visitor a sense of the black experience.

The Program was written by Lisbeth Gant; West Coast Editor of 'Essence' Magazine. Tom McIntosh composed the original musical score for the Tunnel. Vik-Winkle Productions, Inc., Los ngeles, developed the multi-media show.

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Soms three years ago the need for the pavilion was firmly supported by Frank H. Russell, pavilion director and president of the Pan-African Foundation; Garcia Massingale, treasurer of the foundation; and Warren Marr, II honorary national chairman of the Pan-African Foundation and assistant editor of the NAACP 'Crisis' Magazine.

Since then, one of the most significant persons in the development of the Pavilion has been Washington State Sen. George Fleming.

With his help the Pan-African Foundation was able to secure a $200,000 grant from the State of Washington to build the Pavilion.

The fund was matched by contributions from organizations and individuals includin the Washington, D.C. Afro-American Bicentennial Corpoaation, Friends of Amistad, the presidents of Eastern Washington State College (EWSC) and Washington State University (WSU), the Black Studies Departments of EWSC, WSU, and Portland State University, and the Afro-American Newspapers.

The Unmaking Of The President

THE AFRO-AMERICAN, AUGUST 10, 1974

A timetable to infamy

..1946 — Nixon emerged on the political scene as a scarcely noticed House member from California's 12th district after an election in which Republicans won control of Congress for the first time since the days of Herbert Hoover.

..1948 — The Alger Hiss-Whittaker Chambers case surfaced and provided Nixon with his chance to move into the limelight. Nixon staked his fledgling reputation on the belief that Hiss was lying and a jury ultimately convicted Hiss of perjury.

..1950 — His next step up the political ladder was a successful race for the Senate seat in California against Helen Gahagan Douglass, a staunch new deal Democrat. In winning, Nixon inurred the bitterness of leading Democrats who claimed he had conducted a smear campaign against Mrs. Douglas.

..1952 — His Senate service was brief and Nixon's star was still ascending when Dwight D. Eisenhower picked him as his vice presidential running mate. At that point, the "checkers" crisis occurred and almost finished off Nixon.

..1952 — The Eisenhower-Nixon ticket was elected by a landslide.

..1955 — During the fall, Eisenhower suffered a serious heart attack and Nixon was in the limelight as an unofficial "acting president" while Ike convalesced.

..1958 — Nixon and his wife were threatened physically by a hostile communist mob while in Caracas on a Latin American good-will mission. They were praised for meeting the situation with courage and coolness.

..1959 — He and Soviet Premier Khruschev engaged in their widely publicized "kitchen debate" at a Moscow trade fair. Nixon emerged as a firm and skillful defender of the free enterprise system.

..1960 — At 47, Nixon captured the Republican presidential nomination without difficulty and entered the campaign as favorite over the Democratic rival, John F. Kennedy, for the first time his political fortunes faltered. On Nov. 8, he lost an election for the first time by a margin of 118,550 votes.

..1962 — Nixon's fortunes took a further downward turn when he was defeated for the California governorship by Incumbent Democrat Edmund G. Brown.

..1963 — A disheartened Nixon moved to New York to practice law. He asserted testily, "Anybody who thinks I could be a candidate for anything in any year is off his rocker."

..1965 — A less confident but more mature Nixon returned to the public scene. In the hinterlands, he spoke at local party meetings in school gyms atteneded by 40 or 50 people.

..1966 — He was in full swing by the mid-term elections campaigning on behalf of congressional candidates in 82 districts.

..1968 — With no active opposition, Nixon shed his loser's image in the primaries. At the Miami beach convention, he thwarted a Rockefeller-Reagan bid to stop him and won the nomination on the first ballot. On Nov. 5, Richard M. Nixon was elected President by a heavy electoral college majority but with a only 43.4 per cent of the popular vote.

..1971 — The President switched economic signals to impose controls to deal with rapidly accelerating inflation. He obtained from Congress legislation for revenue sharing with the states and localities - a precept he deemed a keystone of his "New Federalism." Cited by year ending polls as Most Admired American.

..1972 — On Nov. 7, Nixon and Agnew swept to re-election on a tidal wave of votes that carried 49 states and won 60.7 per cent of the total vote. The arrest of seven men for the burglary and bugging of Democratic National Headquarters in the plush Watergate apartment complex June 17, had stirred relatively little public interest during the election year.

..1973 — On sentencing day, March 23, Judge Sirica announced that James McCord had written him a letter charging the trial had been marked by perjury, pressure and cover-up attempts by higher ups. On April 17, Nixon announced he had instituted a new White House investigation of Watergate on March because of "serious charges which came to my attention." Nixon's nominee to the FBI director, L. Patrick Gray, admitted he had destroyed Watergate material surreptitiously. Presidential aides Haldeman and Ehrlichman resigned. White House counsel John W. Dean was fired. Attorney General Kleindienst quit. The White House tapes came to light and Special Prosecutor Cox was fired. Stans and Mitchell were indicted on bribery charges. Agnew pleaded no contest to federal charges of income tax evasion and resigned. In May, 14 per cent of those polled said he should resign. By November, the number had grown to 43 per cent. Launched Operation Candor. Calls for impeachment begin.

..1974 — Judiciary Committee granted broad powers to conduct impeachment investigation including subpoena authority for Committee chairman Rodino. Judge Sirica rules committee may have grand jury's secret Watergate report and any other material dealing with Nixon's possible involvement. Transcripts of 42 tapes ever to committee by St. Clair, Nixon's Watergate lawyer. Committee votes 33-3 to subpoena 42 tapes, sets April 25 deadline. Rodino rejects compromise on tapes. Committee rejects Nixon offer of edited tapes and sends letter saying he has failed to comply with committee subpoena. Subpoena challenged in Supreme Court. Court rules against Nixon. The committee holds six days of nationally televised debate. The committee votes to recommend three articles of impeachment while refusing to recommend two others. House leaders disclose that impeachment seems imminent. Unofficial headcounting revealed that Senate conviction and removal from office is a near certainty. The President refuses to step down facing political and economic ruin.

PRESIDENT NIXON gestures during a White House meeting with Treasury Secretary William Simon. Mr. Mr. Nixon acknowledged he sought to limit the FBI Watergate investigation under the pretense it would reveal CIA Involvement in the Bay of Pigs landing in Cuba and create a domestic and foreign policy fiasco.

"We, the people make the decision, to impeach"

Black citizens have taken part in the impeachment process through the ages, even before the nation began. Highlighting the historic impeachment of President Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was the presence of three black members of the House Judiciary Committee. Their names are now famous.

Among the 38 members are Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Texas; Congressman Charles Rangel, New York and John Conyers, Michigan.

Congresswoman Jordan's oration during the July 25 debate (printed in full in this edition) begins with the opening phrases of the Constitution of the United States, "We, the people," thus resting all power in the citizens of the nation regardless of race creed or color.

In the scholarly speech Cong. Jordan also referred to the Federal Convention of 1287 which set guidelines of Impeachment and Hamilton's Federalist Papers No. 65 which outlined the prosecutions.

REP. BARBARA JORDON

REP. JOHN CONYERS

REP. CHARLES RANGEL

The last days of Nixon

As the final impeachment momentum moved inexorably toward presidential resignation, Washington appeared to tingle with rumor and speculation.

All Washingtonians seemed gripped by pervasive apprehension, openly fearful of impending national political collapse.

For days no one knew if the President would yield to pressure to step down or face certain conviction and ultimate removal from office in a Senate trial.

As each successive nerve-racking day passed intense national attention focused on one man and one question: "When would Nixon announce his resignation?"

Then seeping through the mire came first reports of the President's decision. Finally, after two years of bitter controversy, he would submit, surrendering the reigns of authority to a reluctant Vice President Gerald R. Ford.

In the waning hours before the official, almost anti-climatic announcement came, the White House was a virtual buzzsaw, rumors, unconfirmed stories, bantered about at whirlwind speed.

Stocks Up, Nixon Down

Treasury Secretary William E. Simon says the U.S. economy would get a "psychological" boost if President Nixon resigned, The Los Angeles Times reported Thursday.

Simon did not say he was encouraging the President to step down. Only Nixon can make that decision, he said. He cautioned that even the momentary improvement that resignation might bring would do nothing to remedy the root causes of American financial troubles.

"I would assume, with the current malaise, that there would be a psychological effect" from Nixon's resignation, and the succession to the presidency of Vice President Gerald Ford, Simon was quoted as telling a Times reporter in an interview in Washington.

To The Bitter End

A White House official says while President Nixon's family has remained silent, his daughter Julie is "sticking by her father" and does not want him to resign.

Julie remains one of the President's most ardent defenders, the official said, but she, the First Lady and sister Tricia Cox, have remained out of the public eye recently.

Julie, a $15,000 a year editor for the Saturday Evening Post, has been visiting the White House frequently. She told a friend last weekend that "Everything is going to be all right."

To Our Neighbors

The world-wide public relations apparatus of the United States is trying to report the political agony of Richard M. Nixon and those who sit in judgment on him in as fair and factual manner as possible.

At the same time, the two parts of this massive apparatus — the U.S. Information Agency and the Voice of America Radio — are assuring foreign audiences that American foreign policy will not change no matter what the outcome.

The cite, in support of this assurance, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's declaration that U.S. Foreign Policy "is always and continues to be conducted on a bipartisan basis in the national interest and in the interest of world peace."

Ford Waits

At this point, Vice President Gerald R. Ford gives no sign of preparing for the presidency, or even anticipating it.

His office has denied reports that he ordered his staff to begin making contingency plans for a transition to power in case Nixon steps down.

And Ford went ahead Thursday with plans to leave Washington for an 11-day trip to the West Coast to campaign for Republican congressional candidates.

But Ford assistant, who did not wish to be named, conceded the trip "may be cut short."

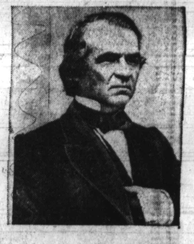
The Presidency Fades

Gloom, a sense of unreality and feverish activity filled the White House and the executive offices Thursday as President Nixon prepared for a nationwide television address that was expected to bring his resignation.

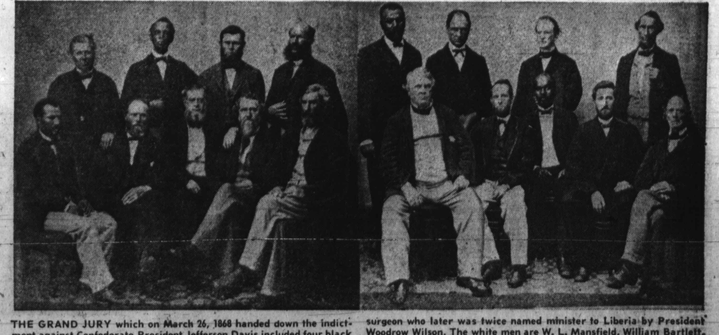
The White House staff struggled to maintain the appearance of "business as usual," a policy which the president had ordered during a cabinet meeting Tuesday. The press office issued a sheaf of routine "notices to the press" announcing a variety of presidential actions, messages and reports.

But the facade of normalcy failed to hide many indications big and small that the U.S. Government was going through an unprecedented process of transition.

Large crowds gathered at each of the black wrought iron gates to the White House, hoping to catch a glance of history in the making. Callers from across the nation jammed the White House switchboard, most of them imploring the president not to resign.



PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON
Impeached but not removed from office



THE GRAND JURY which on March 26, 1868 handed down the indictment against Confederate President Jefferson Davis included four black men and 14 whites. President Davis was never tried. In this photo courtesy of the Confederate Museum, Richmond, Va., the black men are (from left) John Oliver, great uncle of AFRO President, John J. Oliver Sr.; Fields Cook, George Scaton and Cornelius L. Harris. Mr. Oliver, was the uncle of the late Dr. Jacob B. Oliver, Brazil, Ind. physician and surgeon who later was twice named minister to Liberia by President Woodrow Wilson. The white men are W. L. Mansfield, William Bartlett, David Lupton, John Hankhurst, James W. Gregg, R. D. Beckley, T. S. Pennis, John Minor Boots, Michael Uberger, Joseph Seager, J. P. Baldwin, Jeter Couse, George W. Simms and Thomas Davy. Museum files say the motion to quash the indictment came Dec. 5, 1868 and the indictment dismissal made effective Feb. 16, 1869.