Young makes bid to be governor of Ga.

ATLANTA — Andrew Young, former Atlanta mayor, U.N. ambassador and congressman formally started his bid to become the first Black governor of Georgia, on Feb. 12.

Mr. Young, 57, who has one of the most varied careers of any Black politician in the nation, has been actively pursuing the governor's mansion for months.

Going into the contest, Mr. Young is considered a slight underdog to Democratic Lt. Gov. Miller in the race to succeed Democratic Gov. Joe Frank Harris.

Although better known nationally than any of the candidates, Mr. Young is facing what many state political experts believe may be a serious challenge to appeal to White voters in the mostly conservative southern part of the state.

"Right now, Andy has a tremendous uphill battle in front of him," said Clairbourne Darden, a pollster and longtime Southern political analyst. "He is doing well in the polls, but the great majority of his vote comes from Black supporters. To get the other votes necessary to win it'll be like pulling teeth out of a snake."

Early in his career, Mr. Young served as a staff member of the National Council of Churches before joining the Rev. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference as its executive director in 1961.

In 1972 he was elected to the House, becoming the first Black congressman from Georgia in 101 years. He was re-elected in the 1976, but stepped down, at President Carter's request, to become the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

NATION OF ISLAM leader Louis Farrakhan addresses a record audience of 16,500 at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles on Feb. 2. The controversial minister calls for the establishment of an independent police review board in the wake of a month of violent encounters between Muslims and law enforcement officials in the California city. One member of the Muslim sect, Oliver Beasley, was recently shot and killed during a confrontation with police.

New civil rights bill introduced in Congress

WASHINGTON — Legislation designed to overturn a series of Supreme Court decisions that limited the scope of civil rights laws in employment discrimination cases was introduced in the House and Senate Jan. 7.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D.-Mass., and Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D.-Calif., introduced the Civil Rights Act of 1990 in both the Senate and House and promised quick action and prompt passage.

Mr. Kennedy, joined by civil rights leaders and some Republican members, said at a news conference called to announce the legislation that in the past year the "Supreme Court has issued a series of rulings that mark an abrupt and unfortunate departure from its historic vigilance in protecting civil rights.

"The fabric of justice has been torn," he said. "Significant gaps have been opened in the existing laws that prohibit racism and other types of bias in our society."

Mr. Kennedy said he was "hopeful of gaining the president's support.

"The Bush administration has expressed a wait-and-see attitude about the need for this legislation," he said. "But our case is strong and our cause is just. As our bill moves through Congress, I urge the president to join us in enacting it thisyear. This is no time for Congress, the White House or America to retreat on civil rights."

Coretta Scott King

Mr. Hawkins added that it would be "very difficult for (the president) to veto" the measure.

Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, said "we will not allow ourselves to be denied.

Sammy Davis, Jr. battles throat cancer

LOS ANGELES — Sammy Davis, Jr., dubbed "Mr. Entertainment" for his long and versatile stage and screen career has suffered a setback in his battle against throat cancer, a spokeswoman said Friday.

Diagnosed with throat cancer last fall, Davis underwent surgery to remove a malignant tumor. Davis spokeswoman Susan Reynolds confirmed the cancer has returned.

"Sammy Davis, Jr. has been hospitalized in Los Angeles and will undergo the appropriate treatment for recurrence of carcinoma of the throat," Reynolds said in a one-sentence statement.

Rep. Harold Ford says: 'I'll be acquitted'

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rep. Harold Ford, the only Black congressman in Tennessee history, predicted acquittal Monday as he went on trial on charges he took $1.5 million in fraudulent bank loans in return for backing a candidate for governor.

Ford, a flamboyant eight-term democrat who controls a political machine with the power to deliver the votes of Tennessee's most populous city, strode smiling confidently past reporters into the federal courthouse for the start of jury selection.

Asked whether he was confident of acquittal, Ford replied: "Very much so. I feel like the day look outside. It's beautiful."

Ford has insisted on his innocence since his 1987 indictment on 19 counts of bank fraud, mail fraud and conspiracy to defraud the government.

He has accused the government's chief prosecutor in the case, Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Clancy, of racial and political motivation.

"It's a fight between Dan Clancy and Harold Ford," Ford, 44, who faces 95 years in prison if convicted of all charges, said earlier. "Clancy is a racist. He is a liar and he is a coward. I'm going to put a whipping on Dan Clancy."

Ford said he has trained like a boxer for the trial, jogging five miles a day and shunning alcohol.

"Now we will have our day in court," he said. "We will show the jury, and the constituents that I represent, that what I have said all along is absolutely correct."

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati refused Wednesday to hear the last round of two years of defense appeals, clearing the way for the start of the trial of Ford, attorneys Douglass Beaty and Karl Schledwitz and accountant David Crabtree, who were indicted along with the congressman.

U.S. District Judge Odell Horton, the only Black on the federal bench in Tennessee, will hear the trial, which is expected to last at least six weeks. The latest appeal challenged Horton's refusal to overturn the indictment.

Ford said he would spend more than $1 million for his defense, including $215,000 in campaign donations, a legal expenditure under congressional ethics rules. Friends have collected $305,000 for a "Trust Ford Fund."

The indictment alleges that Ford took $1.5 million disguised as loans from banks controlled by brothers Jake and C. H. Butcher, Jr. in 18 payments between 1976 and 1983.

In return, Ford delivered the votes of his congressional district to Jake Butcher in the banker's unsuccessful race for governor in 1979, the indictment says.

Ford maintains the loans were for his legitimate business interests, including his family's funeral home.

The Butchers controlled a billion - dollar network of 20 banks in Tennessee and Kentucky until the collapse of the flagship United American Bank in Knoxville in 1982, the fourth-largest bank failure in U.S. history at the time.

All their banks eventually were declared insolvent and sold, and the Butchers are serving 20-year federal prison sentences for funneling millions of dollars in fraudulent loans to themselves.

Jake Butcher is an unindicted co-conspirator in Ford's case, and C. H. Butcher, Jr. pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud in the indictment. Schledwitz, Beaty and Crabtree are charged with helping the Butchers pay Ford by passing loans through bogus channels.

In 1978, Jake Butcher, the Democrtic nominee for governor, captured Ford's district by 26,149 votes over Republican Lamar Alexander, who won the election with heavy support elsewhere in Tennessee.

The indictment says the loans let Ford lead "a lavish lifestule well beyond his personal means." It says Jake Butcher paid Ford's home mortgage and bills from Neiman-Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue and placed his wife on the Butcher payroll as a consultant for $1,800 a month.

During this time, Ford was claiming taxable income of less than $20,000 a year, and he claimed no taxable income in 1982, the indictment says.

Black appeals court nominee says he will be impartial jurist

WASHINGTON — Clarence Thomas, head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and President Bush's nominee to be a U.S. appeals court judge, told his confirmation hearing Feb. 6, he would not apply his personal views on the law in reaching judicial decisions.

"My personal view, when there is precedent, when there is case law, is irrelevant," Mr. Thomas told a generally warm but sometimes skeptical Senate Judiciary Committee.

"In the policy arena, one has options," Mr. Thomas said. "In the judicial arena . . . the rule of law applies."

Mr. Thomas, nominated for a seat on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, also said judges below the Supreme Court level who are "roaming unfettered in judicial fields" can cause constitutional problems.

Mr. Bush picked Thomas to served on a 12-judge panel that has often been characterized as the second most important court in the land behind the Supreme Court.

Because of its location in the nation's capital, it handles some of the country's most important cases arising out of federal prosecutions and disputes over federal law.

There was no indication when the committee would vote on the nomination, which must be ratified by the entire Senate.

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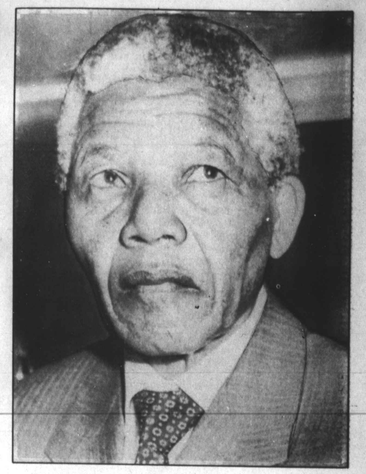
CAPE TOWN, S. Africa — Nelson Mandela (2nd from left) poses for a group photo with his wife, Winnie (R) and Walter Sisulu (L), Albertina Sisulu and grandchildren in the garden of the Bishop's Court.



Portrait of Nelson Mandela taken immediately after his release from 27 years in prison.

NELSON MANDELA: FREE AT LAST!

SOWETO, S. Africa — Some of the throng which gathered in a stadium during a rally celebrating the release of Nelson Mandela.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Nelson Mandela, showing no signs of bitterness or wavering on his political ideology after 27 years in prison, said Monday he believed obstacles to power - sharing negotiations with South Africa's White government would be removed "very soon."

On his first full day of freedom, Mandela spoke with reporters during a 45-minute news conference and fielded more than 30 questions in the garden of Bishops Court, the official residence of Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

SOWETO, S. Africa — Bishop Desmond Tutu (L) shares a laugh with some visitors in his home after the announcement that Nelson Mandela would be released the next day.

Addressing a rally marred by violence on Sunday in Cape Town, Mandela had said South Africa's 28 million Blacks must not yet abandon the armed struggle to end White domination. He defended the struggle to reporters Monday, defining it as a "defensive act against the violence of apartheid."

Mandela said, however, that once the political situation was normalized in South Africa, the movement was "ready to make a positive contribution" to reaching a peaceful settlement with the White minority.

"We will seize the earliest opportunity to settle our problems by peaceful means," Mandela said.

If President Frederik de Klerk succeeds in convincing the country's ruling National Party that reforms are vital, Mandela said, "very soon the obstacles to negotiations will be removed and it will be possible for us to sit down and talk."

Shortly before his news conference, Mandela walked down the steps of a terraced garden filled with wild flowers, hibiscus and tall conifers behind Tutu's residence and posed for dozens of photographers. Obliging their requests, Mandela raised a clenched fist.

Near his side were his wife, Winnie, wearing a long white kaftan adorned with a tribal pattern and a colorful turban, his daughter, Zindzi, and three grandchildren. Mandela was flanked during the news conference by his wife, ANC colleague Walter Sisulu and Sisulu's wife, Albertina.

Speaking in a firm, strong voice in answering questions, Mandela said he was "absolutely excited to be out" after 27 years and seven months of incarceration.

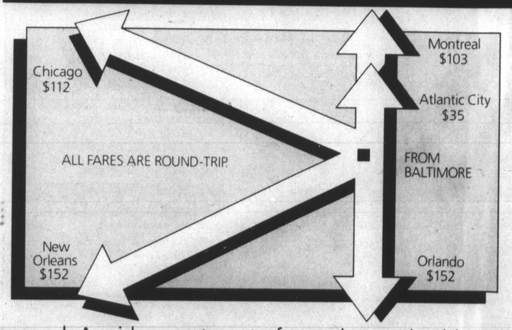
He believed the original intention of the government was "that we should be forgotten" in prison, but that continued internal and international pressure played a part in his release, Mandela said, however, that it was "too early" for nations to consider lifting sanctions against South Africa.

Mandela also reiterated his calls for the government to completely lift its 43-month-old state of emergency and release all political prisoners.

On his future role, Mandela said it would be determined by the ANC and that he intended to go to the movement's headquarters-in-exile in Lusaka soon to receive his instructions.

"Now that I am released, it is for the ANC to determine what role I will play," Mandela said.

All the directions you need for packing a suitcase.



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