mem/Ben DeSoto, Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — Houston Police restrain one of many people that began rioting during Memorial Day festivities at Houston's Herman Park. Police reported several gunshots were heard and local hospitals report that at least one person was admitted for a stab wound. Violence started when a few people started throwing rocks and bottles into an estimated crowd of 25,000 people who were watching a free rap concert. It took 150 police to calm the situation and make some 20 arrests.

Boston desegregation case closed

BOSTON (UPI) — A federal judge signed written orders bringing to an end Boston's controversial 16-year school desegregation case, but he said racial quotas must be maintained when teacher layoffs are involved.

The orders include a permanent injunction against discrimination and segregation in the schools.

The action confirmed four key orders U.S. District Judge W. Arthur Garrity issued orally at a May 21 meeting with attorneys from all parties involved, including school officials and the NAACP, clerk Steve Moynihan said.

Judge Garrity also ordered Boston schools to continue hiring minorities until the staff includes 25 percent Black and 10 percent other minorities, and to maintain the racial balance even in the event of layoffs.

The judge also ordered schools to continue using a united facilities plan to upgrade school facilities and keep the present Department of Implementation to oversee desegregation.

Attorneys wishing to reopen the case will have to file a special petition or a new case, Mr. Moynihan said.

Black parents filed the class-action suit on March 15, 1974, charging Boston schools with segregation and discrimination.

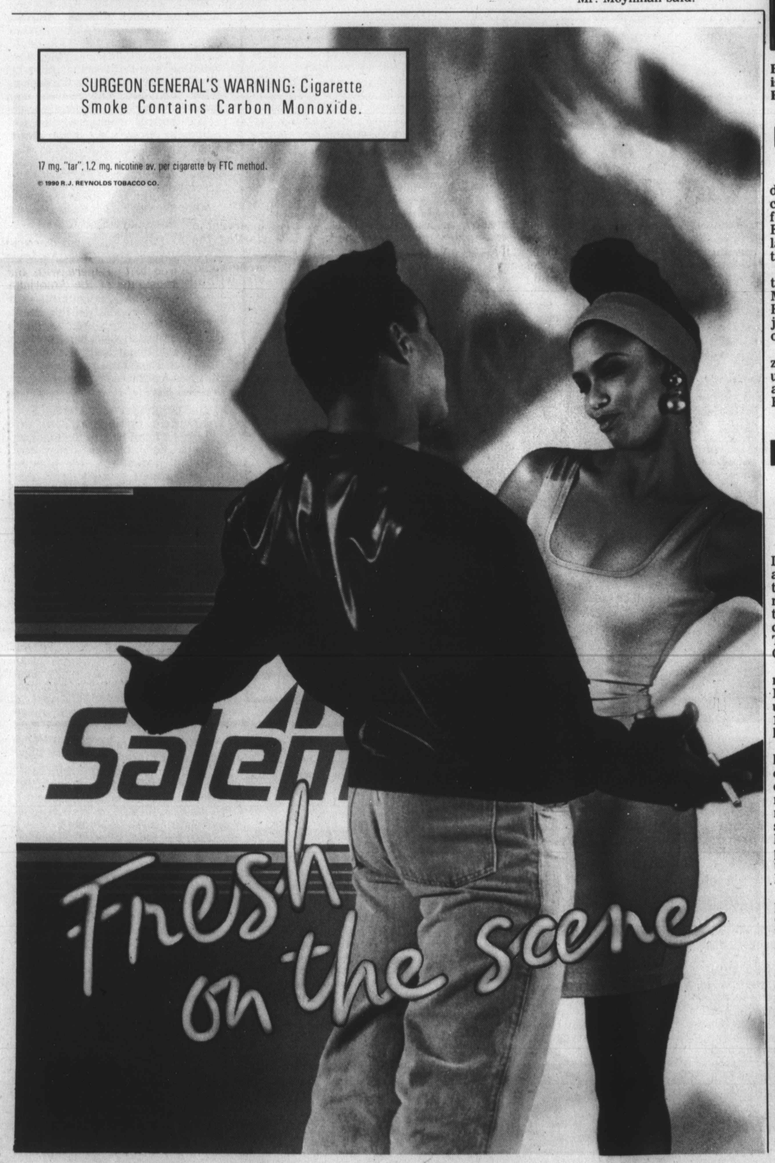
After finding the schools knowingly followed discriminatory policies, Judge Garrity imposed mandatory busing in 1975, which sparked violent protests in the city.

A 1987 federal appeals court ruling that Boston had done everything possible to desegregate schools was followed last year by a new student assignment plan giving parents more say about what school their children would attend.

Several of the affected parties in the long - running case have expressed dissatisfaction with the closing orders.

Some minority groups feared the closing of the case would leave minorities without protection, while the Boston Teachers Union opposed protecting minority hires during layoffs because the plans would undermine seniority.

BLACK ACTIVIST Angela Davis addresses global women's issues at the 14th Annual National Convention of Women for Racial and Economic Equality meeting in Pittsburgh.



Bush picks new Fla. judge

WASHINGTON — President Bush has selected a state circuit judge to succeed a federal district judge in Florida who was impeached last year for allegedly accepting a bribe.

Mr. Bush chose Dade County Circuit Judge Federico Moreno to succeed Alcee Hastings as U.S. District judge for the southern district of Florida.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Moreno was graduated from Notre Dame and the University of Miami. He has served as a county circuit judge since 1987.

Mr. Hastings, Florida's first Black federal judge, was acquitted in 1983 of charges he accepted a bribe to reduce a prison sentence for an organized crime figure.

A special panel of federal judges conducted an investigation and recommended to the Senate that Hastings be impeached.

Immediately following his impeachment, Mr. Hastings announced a bid for the Democratic nomination for governor of Florida.

He later dropped out.

NAACP suit enables 2 to gain council seats

The NAACP's Legal Department recently scored another victory in the association's long - standing commitment to full political participation when two Black candidates were elected to the Tulsa (Oklahoma) City Council.

The election came as the result of a suit filed by the NAACP in 1988 charging that under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Black voting strength had been unlawfully diluted.

Prior to its filing, the city had, since its founding in 1909, employed a commission form of government for the management of city municipal services. Commissioners were elected on an at-large basis, effectively precluding representation of the predominantly Black North Tulsa community.

In the suit, the NAACP proposed a single - member district plan providing Black voters with an effective voting majority in at least one of the proposed nine districts.

Faced with the suit, the matter went to a referendum and voters approved the single member district proposal and the establishment of a new mayor - city council form of government.

As a result of the lawsuit in which Dennis Courtland Hayes was the NAACP's attorney of record, two Blacks have been elected to the council. Until the election, only one Black had ever won citywide office, said Herbert H. Henderson, Interim NAACP General Counsel:

"We are encouraged by the results of the lawsuit. The Tulsa Black community now has a seat at the table where decisions are made on the allocation of Tulsa's limited goods and services. The Black community will have its hand on the knife that cuts the pie."

The NAACP's involvement in these cases stems from the fact that in a number of instances the election of local officials on a city - wide basis, virtually precludes the possibility of a Black candidate being elected to office.

Conversely, if elections are held on a district basis, Black voters are in a much better position to maximize their voting strength.

Some of the jurisdictions in which the NAACP has recently successfully challenged at large elections include Bennettsville, N.C.; Dover, Del.; and in South Carolina - Spartanburg, Saluda and Union.

Though many of the voting rights challengers are being fought in the Old South, the NAACP Legal Department carries on its battle for full political participation in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Intriguingly, the NAACP was founded in Niagara County, Canada. Also utilizing at-large elections, no Black has ever served on Niagara Falls' City Council.

S. Africa bill would abolish separate accommodations

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The government presented legislation to Parliament June 1 intended to scrap a 37 - year - old law segregating buses, trains, toilets, libraries, swimming pools and other public amenities.

The bill, which was proposed by President Frederik de Klerk in November when he outlawed segregated beaches, rescinds all discriminatory legislation dealing with separate public amenities for Blacks and Whites and would take effect Oct. 15.

It was referred to committee for study but is expected to be approved soon. Only the right - wing conservative Party is certain to oppose the bill, branding it the first step toward forced integration in the racially divided country.

The National Party, which has ruled the country since 1948 on a platform to protect minority White interests, introduced the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act in 1953 partly in response to a defiance campaign led by Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Then a partner in the first Black law firm in Johannesburg and a member of the African National Congress' youth wing, Mr. Mandela sent groups of Blacks into "European Only" entrances to railway stations and Whites-only counters at post offices.

After losing several court cases that ruled segregated facilities must at least be equal, the "Grand Apartheid" government of Hendrik Verwoerd passed the act specifically stating separate amenities did not have to be equal.

A defiance campaign similar to the 1952 protest was held across South Africa in the run-up to last September's parliamentary elections that returned the National Party to power. Blacks entered Whites-only hospitals for treatment, boarded Whites-only buses and went swimming in Whites-only pools.

A memorandum attached to Friday's bill submitted in the segregated Parliament in Cape Town declares the legislation's intention to scrap all laws which "authorize differentiation between persons on a racial basis in relation to public amenities."

De Klerk suspends U.S. visit

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — President Frederik de Klerk has canceled a June trip to Washington in the wake of criticism that President Bush was meeting him before meeting with Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Senior government sources said it was unlikely Mr. de Klerk would visit the United States this year.

In Washington, White House spokesman Bill Harlow said the invitation remained open for Mr. de Klerk to visit Washington at "a mutually convenient date" but said no date has been set.

In a statement, Mr. de Klerk said he had decided to postpone his visit because of "a controversy that has arisen in the United States as regards the possible timing" and that he would follow up Mr. Bush's standing invitation at a later time.

The announcement followed an uproar among anti-apartheid leaders in the United States over reports Mr. Bush would receive Mr. de Klerk June 18, before meeting with Mr. Mandela during his three-day visit to Washington starting on June 24.

ANC leaders planning Mandela's visit to the United States said earlier it would be a "slap on the face" for the White House to receive Mr. de Klerk before Mr. Mandela.

But government sources said that Mr. de Klerk, fresh from a successful nine - nation trip to Europe, wanted to avoid a controversy in the United States that could overshadow his racial reform initiatives.

It would have been the first trip to the United States by a South African head of government since the National Party assumed power 42 years ago.

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VA. GOV. L. DOUGLAS WILDER meets with a group of Black South African students at the State Capitol in Richmond. The students from the Master's of Law program at Georgetown University will return to South Africa after completing their studies. The governor recently signed an order prohibiting the use of state funds for investment in South Africa.

U.S. Marines sent to Liberia

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said June 1 that four U.S. warships carrying more than 2,200 Marines would arrive "shortly" off the coast of war-torn Liberia in West Africa to evacuate Americans if necessary.

The Pentagon's public affairs office said that the flotilla involved six ships, but it later said it was mistaken and that only four ships are headed to Liberia.

"The ships will arrive shortly. We can't say any more than that," said Pentagon spokeswoman Marine Maj. Robin Higgins.

"There's no order for them to do anything more than to be in position and to be prepared to help evacuate American citizens if that should become necessary," Maj. Higgins said.

The State Department recommended that all U.S. citizens leave Liberia immediately and said it has ordered non - essential government workers and the dependents of U.S. government personnel to leave.

There are about 1,100 private U.S. citizens and 102 government personnel and dependents in Liberia, the State Department said.

Liberia has been in the throes of a civil war for the past six months. Rebel leader Charles Taylor told United Press International his fighters are poised to capture the capital's airport, and vowed he would personally shoot Samuel Doe if the beleaguered president resists guerrillas advancing on Monrovia.

Mr. Taylor, who studied economics in the United States, was a civil servant in Liberia before starting the rebellion six months ago.

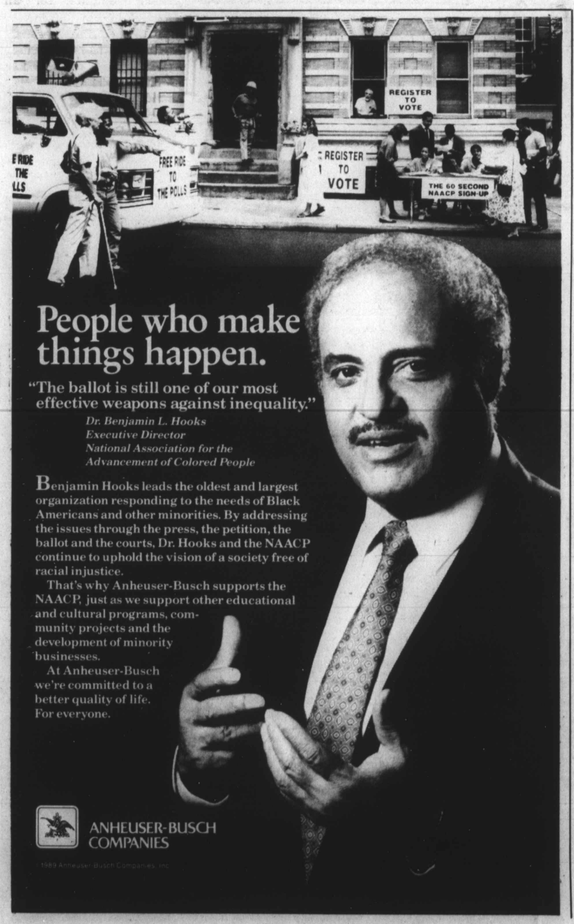
He predicted that he would capture Monrovia within three weeks, and expected government opposition to dissolve before his National Patriotic Front reaches the city. Mr. Taylor said he has 10,000 men under arms.

The U.S. flotilla includes the USS Saipan, a helicopter carrier. The vessel carries attack helicopters and AV-8B Harrier jump jets that can provide air cover for Marines and its troop - carrier helicopters.

The ships are carrying 2,102 enlisted men and another 179 officers of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Force who would be available to provide protection for Americans — including using military force — if necessary.

The ships are attached to the 6th Fleet, and some were ordered out of their stations in the Mediterranean as long as three days ago.

Liberia was founded around 1822 by U.S. Black freedmen who settled there with the assistance of the American Colonization Society, a private organization dedicated to the African repatriation of freed slaves. It became a republic on July 26, 1847.



Report rules out foul play in Gabon official's death

LIBREVILLE, Gabon — Authorities said that opposition leader Joseph Redjambe, whose death in a hotel room sparked a week of riots in the central African country, died of natural causes and not from foul play.

An autopsy on Mr. Redjambe's body revealed no traces of violence and that the syringe marks on his body were due to a treatment for diabetes, French and Gabonese officials said.

Death was said to be from natural causes.

Mr. Redjambe's death in a Libreville hotel room recently sparked riots across the country and nearly halted oil production. Mr. Redjambe was found with syringe marks on his abdomen and officials said the Ivory Coast woman he met there has disappeared. The government has not permitted his funeral to occur for fear it might spark further riots.

The number of victims in the street fighting in the oil - producing center of Port Gentil rose to three with the death of a man killed by army troops after he opened fire on them, witnesses said.

In Paris, French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas told the National Assembly French troops sent to protect key installations and French nationals would remain in the country until order is completely established.

Gabon was reported generally calm with oil production almost back to the normal 270,000 barrels a day capacity after having dropped to only 20,000 barrels a day.

The president of the Gabonese National Assembly, who was reported by his relatives as kidnapped, was back home after mysteriously disappearing for 24 hours.

The family of Augustin Boumah, a leading member of the ruling Democratic Party, said he was walking in his Libreville neighborhood when an unspecified number of armed men took him prisoner.

Kenya ban of lawyer meeting lifted

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya has reversed a decision to ban the 23rd biennial conference of the International Bar Association, a statement from the office of President Daniel Arap Moi said.

The brief statement, which gave no immediate reason for the change, said the conference, due to start Sept. 17 in Nairobi, could go ahead after all.

Attorney General Matthew Muli withdrew permission in May for the conference because of a split over the leadership of the Law Society of Kenya. More than 5,000 lawyers worldwide had signed up to attend the conference.

A number of prominent lawyers have claimed that Law Society elections in March were rigged to put a pro - government lawyer in the chair.

Mr. Muli's decision drew a storm of protest from lawyers at home and abroad, and from Kenyan tour companies facing estimated $1 million - a day losses in canceled hotel bookings and associated tourist revenue from the lawyers.

"The cancellation in my view indicates that the government of Kenya is afraid that the conference will focus attention on recent actions it has taken against lawyers and others to suppress basic freedoms," the African director of the New York - based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Macao Mutua, said.

"It would certainly heighten the current debate on multi-party politics," he added.

For the past three months, Kenya has been the scene of heated public debate on its political system. Mr. Moi's government has strongly defended the constitutional one - party state in Kenya. Advocates of multi-party democracy - including a number of prominent lawyers - have claimed they are being intimidated.

The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights lists five Kenyan lawyers in its 1989 report whom it says are being subjected to intimidation by the government.