

**REMARKS OF
SENATOR BOB DOLE
HAYES DENT FARM RALLY
APRIL 8, 1993**

CLINTON'S PACKAGE

**** PRESIDENT CLINTON IS--TO
HIS CREDIT--DOING QUITE A
SALES JOB ON A TAX AND
SPEND PACKAGE THAT NOT
ONLY INCLUDES THE LARGEST
TAX INCREASE IN HISTORY BUT
ALSO REPRESENTS A NOT-TOO-
THINLY VEILED ATTACK ON
PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE. IF**

**FARMERS WERE PERCEIVED AS
A LIBERAL SPECIAL INTEREST
GROUP, THINGS MIGHT BE
DIFFERENT--YOU MIGHT BE AT
THE FRONT OF THE LINE
RECEIVING A HANDOUT.**

**** BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE.
ALL OF US ARE COMMITTED TO
DEFICIT REDUCTION, BUT WE**

**CANNOT BALANCE THE BUDGET
ON THE BACKS OF
AGRICULTURE AND DEFENSE
ALONE. FARM SPENDING TOOK
THE ONLY REAL CUTS OUT OF
THE 1990 BUDGET AGREEMENT,
AND NOW A NEW PRESIDENT
HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON YOU
AGAIN. HERE'S THE PLAN:**

BUDGET CUTS

**** THE SPENDING CUTS AS
PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT
WOULD HAVE A DEVASTATING
EFFECT ON PRODUCERS,
ESPECIALLY THOSE ALREADY
ON THE MARGIN. ANALYSIS
DONE BY TEXAS A&M SUGGESTS
THAT A LARGE, WHEAT-ONLY
KANSAS FARM WOULD**

**EXPERIENCE A 360 PERCENT
DECLINE IN AVERAGE NET CASH
INCOME UNDER THE PLAN. FOR
A MISSISSIPPI COTTON AND
SOYBEAN GROWER, NET
INCOMES COULD FALL MORE
THAN 40 PERCENT.**

**** THE SENATE AND THE
HOUSE ADOPTED A BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION THAT ESSENTIALLY
SLASHED THOSE PROPOSED
CUTS IN HALF, BUT WE ARE
STILL LOOKING AT A
DISPROPORTIONATE HIT IN THE
AG BUDGET.**

TAXES

**** THE BTU TAX--WHICH WE'RE
STILL TRYING TO WIPE OUT--HAS**

**DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES
FOR AGRICULTURE AND SEEMS
SUSPICIOUSLY TARGETED AT
AGRICULTURAL AND WESTERN
STATES THAT VOTED FOR
GEORGE BUSH. BUT WHATEVER
THE POLITICS, THE FARMER
GETS IT FROM ALL SIDES--WITH
NOWHERE TO PASS ON THE
ADDED COST.**

**** YOU PAY FOR THE TAX
DIRECTLY IN FARM FUEL AND
ENERGY USES. YOU PAY FOR
THE TAX INDIRECTLY IN THE
COST OF FUEL-INTENSIVE
INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZER, AS
WELL AS ALL OTHER INPUTS
WHERE THE COST CAN BE
PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER.
AND, YOU PAY FOR THE TAX AT**

**THE ELEVATOR OR THE
WAREHOUSE WHEN THE
INCREASED COST OF
TRANSPORTATION IS
REFLECTED IN THE PRICE YOU
RECEIVE.**

WHAT IS DRIVING THIS?

**** TAKE THESE CUTS IN
CONCERT WITH THE PROPOSED**

**INCREASES IN FOOD STAMPS,
THE WIC PROGRAM AND FOOD
ASSISTANCE AND IT IS PRETTY
CLEAR THAT WE ARE SEEING A
VERY SERIOUS CHANGE OF
HEART IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
THE USDA, AS WE KNOW IT, IS
UNDER ASSAULT BY PEOPLE
WITH AN ADVERSARIAL VIEW OF
THE FARMER.**

**** THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS
HAVE A STUDY SHOWING THAT
GEORGE BUSH DECISIVELY
DEFEATED BILL CLINTON LAST
NOVEMBER IN COUNTIES THAT
ARE REGARDED AS FARMING-
DEPENDENT. HIS THESIS IS THAT
CLINTON OWES NOTHING TO
COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE
AND CAN THEREFORE PROCEED**

**TO TURN THE REINS OVER TO
THE ACTIVIST GROUPS.**

**** FRIENDS, WITH ALL THAT
COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE IS
DOING TO FEED THE WORLD,
CONSERVE OUR NATURAL
RESOURCES AND PROVIDE THE
SAFEST AND MOST DIVERSE
FOOD SUPPLY ON THE PLANET,**

**THE FARMER AND THE RANCHER
ARE BEING TAKEN GROSSLY
FOR GRANTED UNDER THIS
ECONOMIC PACKAGE.**

**** THE SHIFT IN SPENDING
PRIORITIES WITHIN USDA IS
CLEAR. OF COURSE, THE FARM
PROGRAM CUTS ARE SAID TO BE
JUSTIFIED BY THE REDUCED**

**INTEREST RATES THAT WILL
ACCRUE UNDER DEFICIT
REDUCTION--A REDUCTION
DRIVEN BY THE LARGEST TAX
INCREASE IN HISTORY AND
ONLY \$11 BILLION IN NET NON-
DEFENSE SPENDING CUTS. YOU
BE THE JUDGE OF HOW
SERIOUS THESE PEOPLE ARE
ABOUT REDUCING THE DEFICIT.**

WE NEED HAYES DENT

**** YOU CAN HELP BY PUTTING
HAYES DENT IN THE HOUSE
WHERE HE WILL HELP US SLASH
THE DEFICIT BY ASKING THE
GOVERNMENT--NOT TAXPAYERS--
-TO CONTRIBUTE. YOU CAN
HELP BY PUTTING HAYES DENT
ON THE HOUSE AG COMMITTEE
WHERE HE WILL WORK TO**

**ENSURE THAT ANY CUTS IN
FARM PROGRAM SPENDING ARE
MADE EQUITABLY AND WHERE
HE WILL GUARD AGAINST THE
HEAVY HAND OF REGULATION
AND ACTIVIST HYPE.**

FINAL - REVISED

4/7/93

CONTACT:

Jo-Anne Coe

202/408-5105 (O)

202/408-5117 (FAX)

703/845-1714 (H)

SENATOR DOLE SCHEDULE -- APRIL 8-13, 1993Thursday, April 8

10:50 AM Lv. Capitol

CAR PASSENGERS: Senator Dole
Senator Cochran11:05 AM Ar. Washington National Airport
Signature Flight Support
703/549-8340

11:10 AM Lv. Washington

AIRCRAFT: ADM Falcon 50
TAIL NO.: N 144 AD
SEATS: 6PILOT: To be determined
CO-PILOT: To be determinedMANIFEST: Senator Dole
Senator Cochran
Mike GlassnerFLIGHT TIME: 2 hrs 20 mins
TIME CHANGE: -1 hourCONTACT: Claudia Madding
217/424-5515 (O)
217/428-1559 (H)
217/424-5581 (FAX)
217/424-5521 (Linda, Aviation Dept.)
217/424-2494 (Aviation FAX)12:30 PM Ar. Greenville, Mississippi
Municipal Airport
General Aviation Service
601/335-0757MET BY: Hayes Dent, Congressional candidate
Tentative: Clarke Reed, former
State Chair & Committeeman

PAGE TWOThursday, April 8 (continued):

ATTEND/SPEAK -- HAYES DENT FOR CONGRESS EVENTS

CONTACTS: Trudy Nichol
Campaign Manager
Christine Collins, scheduler
601/746-1993 (Camp. Hqtrs.)
601/746-3601 (FAX)

John Lundy
AA to Trent Lott
202/224-6253

12:30 PM PHOTO OP/HAND-SHAKES ON ARRIVAL

12:35 PM PROCEED TO CONFERENCE ROOM, MAIN TERMINAL
601/334-4123

12:45 PM- AIRPORT RALLY
1:15 PM Main Terminal Conference Room

CROWD SIZE: 150-200

PROGRAM:

Welcoming Remarks - Senator Cochran
Intro. of Hayes Dent - Senator Cochran
Remarks - Hayes Dent
Intro of Senator Dole - Hayes Dent
REMARKS - SENATOR DOLE

1:15 PM Lv. Greenville Airport

DRIVE TIME: 15 minutes

1:30 PM Ar. Stoneville Agricultural Experiment Station
Proceed to Auditorium
601/686-2311

1:30 PM- SPEAK/MEET WITH FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCHERS
2:00 PM

CROWD SIZE: 150
PRESS: OPEN

PROGRAM:

Welcoming Remarks - Senator Cochran
Intro. of Hayes Dent - Senator Cochran
Remarks - Hayes Dent
Intro of Senator Dole - Hayes Dent
REMARKS - SENATOR DOLE

(15 mins.)

Q&A

PAGE THREE

2:00 PM- PRESS AVAILABILITY
2:15 PM (Same location)

2:15 PM Lv. Stoneville

2:30 PM Ar. Greenville Municipal Airport
General Aviation Service
601/335-0757

2:30 PM Lv. Greenville

AIRCRAFT: ADM Falcon 50

TAIL NO.: N 144 AD

MANIFEST: Senator Dole

FLIGHT TIME: 1 hr 50 mins
TIME CHANGE: +1 hour

5:20 PM Ar. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
International Airport
AMR Combs
305/359-0000

MET BY: SeaView car

RON: SeaView
305/866-4441

Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10

PRIVATE -- Sea View

Sunday, April 11

CLARKSON WORKING ON PRESS OPTIONS
(David Brinkley and Face the Nation)

PAGE FOURMonday, April 12

6:00 PM- CAMPAIGN AMERICA FUNDRAISING RECEPTION
8:00 PM Music Room, The Seaview
9909 Collins Avenue
305/866-4441

CROWD SIZE: 50± @ \$1,000 per person

CONTACT: Royal Roth
Campaign America staff
202/408-5105 (thru Friday)
Sat. & Sun: Fontainebleu Hotel
305/538-2000

Monday: Sea View

Larry Smitley
Restaurant Manager
305/866-4441

Tuesday, April 13

7:30 AM Lv. Seaview

DRIVER: Maurice Hernandez
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen staff
(Will be driving black Cadillac,
Ileana's father's car)

PASSENGERS: Senator Dole
Royal Roth

8:00 AM Ar. Rusty Pelican Restaurant
3201 Rickenbacker Causeway
Key Biscayne
305/361-3818

8:00 AM- FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST - Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
9:00 AM CROWD SIZE: 100 @ \$200/person

PROGRAM:
8:00 AM - Photo op
8:15 AM - Guests seated, breakfast served
8:30 AM - REMARKS - SENATOR DOLE (10 minutes)
8:40 AM - Q&A (20 minutes)
9:00 AM - Breakfast concludes

PAGE FIVETuesday, April 13 (continued):

CONTACTS FOR ROS-LEHTINEN BREAKFAST:

Mauricio Tamargo
202/225-3931 (O)
703/978-1179 (H)

Debbie Musgrove
District Representative
305/325-1301 (H)

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
305/669-1774 (H)
305/226-4992 (Parents' home)

9:00 AM

Lv. Rusty Pelican

DRIVER: Ros-Lehtinen staff

9:30 AM

Ar. Seaview

PROCEED TO PRIVATE

???

(Time to be determined)

Lv. Ft. Lauderdale

AIRCRAFT: ADM Falcon

TAIL NO.: To be determined

MANIFEST: Senator Dole
Royal Roth

???

Ar. Washington National Airport
Signature Flight Support
703/549-8340

MET BY: Wilbert

PROCEED TO PRIVATE OR OFFICE

DENT BIO

NRCC DIST. PROFILE

ELECTION RESULTS

DFP CONTACTS

HOTLINE 4/7/93

*9 MS 02: **BLACK GOP GROUP DROPS DENT, BACKS THOMPSON**

MS Black GOPers for Change "have bolted party ranks and will support" Hinds Co. Supervisor Bennie Thompson in the race. Spokesperson Alonzo Dukes at a 4/6 news conference: "Black Republicans for Change cannot endorse Hayes Dent, because we don't feel he can address the issues of the 2nd District." Dukes said the organization voted 48-4, 4/5 to support Thompson. Dent spokesperson Dylan Glenn: "We have a message of economic opportunity for everyone. ... That knows no racial boundaries" (Howard, Jackson CLARION-LEDGER, 4/7).

KICKING IN SUPPORT: Of the \$170,555 ex-Gov. Fordice aide Hayes Dent's campaign had received by 3/24, more than \$19,000 came from out-of-state GOP committees and other GOP candidates' campaign funds. Thompson had raised "only" \$500 of his \$142,150 from Dem Party sources. Dent has received \$5,000 each from the GA GOP, the RNC and the NRCC. He also received \$1,000 each from the campaign coffers of Fordice and MS Sens. Trent Lott and Thad Cochran. Thompson assist. treas. Jere Nash said the nat'l Dem party is beginning to contribute money now that it is a Dem vs. GOP race, saying the DCCC and the DNC have each contributed \$5,000 and he raised \$20,000 at a DC fund-raiser (Campbell, Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL, 4/6).

DEM SPLIT: Dem unity "split further" 4/5 when defeated candidate Steve Richardson "disavowed his campaign manager's support for candidate Bennie Thompson." Richardson campaign manager Elijah Green said 4/4 that Richardson would support Thompson in the 4/13 runoff. Richardson: "He was not there on my behalf. He was not representing me or anyone else in my campaign. I have endorsed no one." Green said he was speaking for himself and the Dem party, not Richardson (Walton, Jackson CLARION-LEDGER, 4/6).

HOTLINE 4/6/93

*10 MS 02: TIPPER TO STUMP FOR THOMPSON

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) joined more than 350 MS Dems 4/4 at a rally "uniting some former foes in a fight to put [Hinds Co. Supervisor] Bennie Thompson in Congress." At the event, "Thompson announced that Tipper Gore ... would campaign for him [4/6] in Jackson." Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell and atty Brian Neely also "threw their support" to Thompson. "Notably absent was Clarksdale Mayor Henry Espy ... [who] has said he'll remain neutral." Conyers "praised" Sec/State Dick Molpus (D) for appearing at the event, "where there were only a handful of whites: 'It's a good sign we've got some white Democrats willing to come into the 21st century. We need this to be an interracial campaign for the next eight days.'" Espy supporter state Sen. David Jordan said he backs Thompson. Tipper Gore and DNC chair David Wilhelm are scheduled to appear at 6 p.m. 4/6 at the Ramada Inn in Jackson at a \$50 per person benefit for Thompson (Walton, Jackson CLARION-LEDGER, 4/5).

"NEOPHYTE" DENT, "BELLICOSE" THOMPSON: MS political analyst Bill Minor writes: "Hayes Dent, young, white, Yazoo City Republican, handed the big bucks and ready-made GOP organization, confronted by Bennie Thompson, hardened political pro from tough Hinds County black politics." Clinton "is wary of what kind of [Dem] congressman he would have on his hands if the bellicose Thompson wins, and last week a [WH] emissary was sent down to assess the situation before making any major commitments." For Dent, "that nestegg of 35,000 [white conservative] votes will come out again," as well as another 10,000 from the two conservative white Democrats. "One irony of the Dent-Thompson runoff is it is something of a miniature rematch of the 1991 gubernatorial race between Gov. Kirk Fordice and then-Gov. Ray Mabus." Mabus' top campaign strategist Jere Nash and long-time helper Sandra Irby, who ran Mabus' campaign field forces in 1991, "among the few whites around Thompson, have given Thompson valuable access to Mabus' contributors and workers. But, remember, Mabus was an upset 1991 loser, and lack of black voter turnout was believed to be a leading cause" (CLARION-LEDGER, 4/4).

NATIONAL DEMS READY TO SPEND: Rep. Vic Fazio (D-CA) said as much as \$200,000 could be spent on behalf of Bennie Thompson: "We are at the moment convinced that our efforts are going to have to be quite extensive to win a seat that should be ours." Fazio also said he expects Ag/Sec Mike Espy to join the effort (Barton, GANNETT/CLARION-LEDGER, 4/3).

:30 DENT TV AD: "Bennie Thompson will probably call this commercial 'negative campaigning.' Don't whine, Bennie. It's your record. It's the truth. And it's going to hurt. We're going to tell the voters about your political track record, because your friends at The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson won't. Here goes. When you were Mayor of Bolton, Bennie, the city payroll ballooned from 2 to 77 people in a town of 787 people. As a County Supervisor, you voted to raise taxes in 1984. And in 1985. And 1991. And 1992. You've voted to raise taxes, Bennie, and you've voted to raise your pay. Bennie, you've publicly endorsed the Tax & Spend Hall of Fame. Ted Kennedy in 1980. Mondale in 1984. Mabus in 1987. Jackson in 1988. It's all in the public record, Bennie. And it's the truth, Bennie. For real change, put a Dent in congress. Hayes Dent. U.S. Congress (Dent release, 4/5).

SPECIAL ELECTION

Filing: March 10
General: March 30
Run-Off: April 13

94 Sen: Trent Lott (R)
95 Gov: Kirk Fordice (R)
96 Sen: Thad Cochran (R)

MISSISSIPPI

CD

REPUBLICAN

MS/02 Hayes Dent (P)
Hayes Dent for Congress
P.O. Box 1608
Yazoo City, MS 39194
or
225 North Main Street
Yazoo City, MS 39194
601/746-1993 (hq)
601/746-3606 (fax)
Treasurer: Philip C. Williams
Manager: Trudy Nichol

DEMOCRAT

MIKE ESPY
SPECIAL

Unita Blackwell
Henry Espy
Rep. David Halbrook
Brian Neely
Bennie Thompson
William Wright

Mississippi - Presidential Totals with Primary Results

Mississippi	BUSH VOTES	BUSH %	CLINTON VOTES	CLINTON %	PEROT VOTES	PEROT %	TOTAL VOTES
State Totals	487,793	50.1%	400,258	41.1%	85,626	8.8%	973,677

Primary Results for Special Congressional Elections

<u>DEM Results</u>		<u>GOP Results</u>	
Henry Espy	20,675	Hayes Dent	34,733
Bennie Thompson	28,786		

MISSISSIPPI CD-02 ELECTION RESULTS

REPUBLICAN

HAYES DENT	34,733	34%
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DEMOCRATS

BENNIE THOMPSON	28,786	28%
HENRY ESPY	20,675	20%
UNITA BLACKWELL	7,331	7%
DAVID HALBROOK	6,019	6%
STEVE RICHARDSON	3,019	3%
BRIAN NEELY	506	
JAMES H. MEREDITH	360	

Voter turnout 29%

Dent seen as preferable to Thompson

Clatsop Press Register 4-5-23

"Bennie Thompson, like David Duke, is the retribution of contemporary liberal hubris."-- Ben Pryor

For those Deltans who are seeking, in the wake of Tuesday's balloting, a suitable reason to vote for a Republican for Congress, allow me to suggest the best one--the alternative.

For what is likely a considerable portion of Delta voters--ranging from those who consider themselves "progressive," to those whom others consider "Yellow Dog Democrats," the now extant choice of voting for either Hayes Dent or Bennie Thompson for Congress is not a comforting one.

Dent is, after all, (God and Bill Minor forbid) a "confounded" Republican, and Thompson appears to many about as personally appealing as a good dose of rat poison.

But to even those who must reluctantly hold their noses before pulling a Republican lever I would suggest that such a choice in this instance is the only one.

For to cast a vote for Bennie

Thompson would require that a Deltan first overlook the long time activist's only thinly veiled racism.

At a televised candidate forum two weeks ago, Bennie Thompson said: "Mississippi still has a problem with black elected officials who want to bridge the gap between blacks and whites."

Since when did attempts at racial harmony become a problem? What kind of person would perceive it as such?

Only the David Dukes and Bennie Thompsons of the world...only those wearing ei-

ther their sheets and hoods or their hypocritically woven banners of affirmative action like badges of some unfortunate identity.

At a meeting of black mayors earlier this year, Bennie Thompson sought their political support by proclaiming he did not want the support of "white farmers," in what one can only suppose reflected a view of this region's most productive profession through the distorting tatters of ill-fitted sack-cloth.

Which identifier might Bennie Thompson least care for--the

"white" or the "farmer?"

How can he be reasonably expected to represent either in the United States Congress?

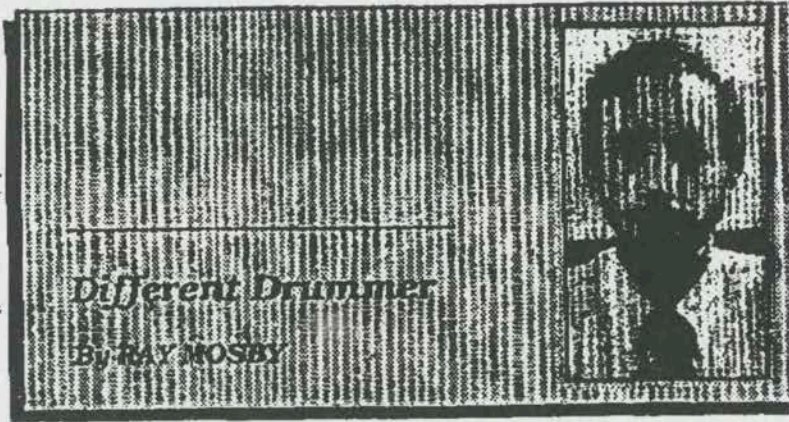
Bennie Thompson is from the outskirts of Jackson and the kindest interpretation of his perspective would be that of urban. What does the man know about the Mississippi Delta?

It is quite possible that Bennie Thompson's idea of agriculture could well be limited to the raising of hell.

The Mississippi Delta is a rural, agricultural region, filled with black people and white people trying their best to get along with each other for the common good.

I would suggest that the common good of those folks would not include electing a U.S. Representative who is city-minded, has no interest in farmers, doesn't care much for white folks and doesn't care much for anybody else who might.

Holding one's nose to vote--even for a Republican--is superior, I would suggest, to drowning within the race-baiting and deviousness of the alternative.



The Clarion-Ledger

Mississippi edition ■ Jackson, Mississippi

Saturday ■ April 3, 1993 ■ 35¢

Dems add firepower to runoff

■ National party may contribute \$200,000 to the District 2 campaign.

By Paul Barton
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — National Democratic Party officials said Friday they would concentrate their firepower on Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District in the next two weeks to keep it from falling into GOP hands.

As much as \$200,000 could be spent on behalf of Democratic candi-

THE RUNOFF

Democrat Bennie Thompson and Republican Hayes Dent are set for an April 13 runoff. The 2nd District seat came open when Mike Espy resigned to become secretary of agriculture.

date Bennie Thompson if necessary, said Rep. Vic Fazio of California, chairman of the Democratic Con-

gressional Campaign Committee.

"We are at the moment convinced that our efforts are going to have to be quite extensive to win a seat that should be ours," Fazio said.

Former Mississippi Republican Party chairman Mike Retzer of Greenville said the big spending wouldn't outsmart voters. "It's money and ideas," Retzer said. "If they're out of ideas, they might as well go with money."

Retzer said the election is important to the Clinton administration. "Let's face it," he said. "The races since the presidential election have

not gone well for the Democrats."

Fazio said he expects Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, who had represented the district, and other party notables, possibly including Tipper Gore, to join the effort.

Espy's brother, Henry, finished behind Republican Hayes Dent and Thompson in Tuesday's first election.

Fazio said that would not keep Mike Espy from helping out in efforts to defeat Dent. "I have talked to the (agriculture) secretary, and I know he is going to be cutting a spot for the nominee," he said.

Fazio would not say whether Espy would campaign in Mississippi. "I expect him to be involved in the race in a way that voters know where he is coming from," he said.

Fazio said he also expects an all-out drive by Republicans. "I suspect there is an unlimited amount that Republicans are going to want to spend in this district because they really have so much to win and so little to lose," he said.

■
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer Marky Aden contributed to this report.

Runoff may follow racial lines — but then it may not, experts say

By Butch John
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

Hayes Dent's success as the lone Republican in Tuesday's 2nd Congressional District voting was not unexpected, Mississippi political observers said.

Nor, they agreed, is it necessarily an omen of the outcome when Dent and Democrat Bennie Thompson meet in an April 13 runoff to decide the race.

"I think the election will be divided along racial lines," said business consultant Alonzo Dukes of Greenville, a black Republican who toyed early with the idea of running. "It's whoever pulls the most votes out of his race."

In that regard, Thompson, who beat six other Democrats and independents for the runoff slot opposite Dent, appears to be the solid pick to succeed Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy as the district's representative.

Then again, appearances have been deceiving in recent elections.

Gov. Ray Mabus found out about sure bets in 1991 when Republican upstart Kirk Fordice unseated him. A year later, Mississippi handed incumbent George Bush his largest winning margin of any state in his presidential loss to Bill Clinton.

"I don't take any races for granted, and I would not advise anyone else to," Washington-based political consultant and former Mabus aide Tom Oppel said. "An election takes work, no matter who it is, to convince the voters you're the best person to represent their interests."

Dent, of Yazoo City, a former aide to Fordice, received 34 percent of the district vote. He totaled 34,733 votes, ahead of Hinds County Supervisor Thompson, who finished second with 28,786.

Dent had the edge on Tuesday because he stood out from a group that

ANALYSIS

battled one another — sometimes savagely — for moderate and liberal votes, former state GOP head Clarke Reed of Greenville said.

"They beat up on each other. Of course it hurt them," Reed said.

If racial politics hold, Thompson, hand-picked by an unofficial state Democratic caucus to fill the position Espy vacated shortly after Clinton's election, will inherit many backers of Tuesday's defeated candidates, Reed said.

Four of the six who fell short of the runoff were black, including Mike Espy's brother, Clarksdale Mayor Henry Espy, who was third at 20 percent.

"How do you have an election not involving race in Mississippi? It's an unfortunate situation," Reed said. "The good thing from our view is that in a special election, you are voting on people instead of parties. Sure, the odds have to be with (Thompson), but it's a special election."

As of late Tuesday night, the defeated candidates seemed to be in no hurry to throw their support toward Thompson.

There has been speculation that Espy and Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell would withhold endorsements to remain in position to run in 1994. Blackwell's campaign coordinator, Bob Boyd, said he doubted that would be the case.

"There's been talk like that, but all of them have a vested interest in not sabotaging Bennie's campaign and upsetting the Democratic party," Boyd said. "I think there'll be an effort to unite behind the last standing Democrat."

Dent could take advantage of Thompson's Hinds County resi-

dence, Clarksdale Election Commissioner Anderson Lenard said. Thompson received nearly 8,000 of his votes in his home county and did not blow through any Delta county.

Lenard, who worked for Henry Espy, said Delta residents tend to back Delta-based candidates, which could keep the region's black voters home on April 14, or even swing some votes to the more native-son Dent.

"Bennie's going to have a tough go," Lenard said. "I believe Dent will beat Bennie because he will not pull enough from the Delta."

Were Dukes running Dent's campaign, he said he would attempt to guide his candidate away from the hard-line conservatism many black voters equate with Mississippi racial bias-as-usual.

For Dent to win, Dukes said he must prove to the majority of the district's voters that a white congressman can understand them and will be willing to act on their behalf.

"He has to address the poverty issue, and he has to convince people he'll represent all of the people in the district fairly," Dukes said. "He also has to show he understands that historically the state has had the stigma of racial division, and that now is the time for healing."

Dent's press secretary, Dylan Glenn, said his candidate will stick to the issues that got him this far — opposition to higher taxes that he claims will further damage rural Mississippians.

The plan over the next two weeks is to communicate that racial issues have had no place in the Dent campaign.

"Hayes said from Day One until tonight that he has the same message for everyone in the 2nd District, black and white. That's the message we want to get out to the voters," Glenn said.

Bill Frousal

HOTLINE 4/2/93

*9 MS 02: THOMPSON WANTS UNITY, BUT UNITY MAY HAVE DENTS

"History and numbers give the Democrat the edge in the runoff ... but party unity may be a problem." Hinds Co. Sup. Benny Thompson (D) "represents a splintered" party "with only two weeks to heal the wounds" before the 4/13 runoff. Thompson: "We've talked to members of [Clarksdale Mayor Henry Espy's (D)] and [Mayerville Mayor Unita Blackwell's (D)] campaigns and have been assured we have their support." Espy who finished third behind Thompson and ex-Gov. Fordice aide Hayes Dent (R), "fought bitterly with Thompson during the campaign and ... didn't sound like he was getting behind Thompson": "I have never talked to Bennie Thompson. I have heard from all the other candidates; the only one who has not called is Bennie Thompson." Dent is also seeking some of the Dem support: "I don't think anybody is going to line up their vote behind one candidate. I think a lot of people who supported Henry Espy would support me. We ran a similar campaign" (Even, AP/MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL, 4/1).

ACCUSATION TIME: The Dems are running TV ads questioning Dent's trips on state airplanes as well as his past apartment rental debts. The ads, which began airing the morning after election day, claim Dent last year made six trips on state airplanes at a cost of \$2,923.80 and 15 taxpayer-financed trips outside MS, "including some to 'beach resorts.'" Dent press sec. Dylan Glenn said all the trips including one with Gov. Kirk Fordice (R) to Honduras "were for government business." The ads also say Dent "skipped out on rent" he owed at a DC-area apartment and that he was summoned to court in [VA] to pay debts" of \$1,853.63 in August of '92. The Dent campaign released a letter saying the rent was paid and the case was closed as of 8/24/92. Dent is accusing Thompson of violating the federal Ethics Act "by failing to submit a personal financial disclosure statement" with the U.S. House clerk by the 2/28 deadline. Thompson campaign aides said the disclosure statement was sent to Washington "last week" (Kanengiser, Jackson CLARION-LEDGER, 4/1).

4 AP 04-02-93 08:34 AET
PM-MS--Barbour-GOP,JAC,190

26 LINES

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) The chairman of the Republican National Committee says that the GOP will retake Washington by emphasizing local elections like the 2nd Congressional District race.

°°We're a bottom-up party," Haley Barbour said a GOP fund-raiser Thursday night in Jackson. °°Our strength doesn't flow from Washington, but from the precincts, the counties and the states."

The event raised funds for Republican candidates across the state, including Hayes Dent, who faces an April 13 runoff for the 2nd District seat vacated by Democrat Mike Espy, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Dent will meet Democratic candidate Bennie Thompson.

°°That district was drawn for the purpose of electing a liberal Democrat," said Barbour of Yazoo City, which is in the 2nd District. °°And Hayes is on the way to beating the odds."

Evelyn McPhail, chairwoman of the Mississippi Republican Party, said voters will make their choices based on personality, not party.

°°No district belongs to the Democrats and no district belongs to the Republicans," McPhail said. °°We feel we have the best candidate and we're going to push to get him elected. But the district belongs to the people."

Thursday, April 1, 1993 ROLL CALL Page 3

Espy's Brother Falls Far Short

GOP's Dent Tops Miss. Special, Will Meet Thompson on April 13

By Tim Curran

Republican Hayes Dent withstood a late spate of bad publicity, and Hinds County Supervisor Bennie Thompson (D) overcame the Espy family name. As a result, the two finished first and second in the open primary Tuesday to suc-

The Agriculture Secretary denied repeatedly that he was actively involved in the campaign.

ceed former Rep. Mike Espy (D) in Mississippi's 2nd Congressional district.

Dent, who received 34 percent of the vote, and Thompson, who got 28 percent, will meet in a runoff April 13 in the Delta district, which has a 58 percent black voting-age population. Rep. Espy resigned in January to become Sec-

retary of Agriculture. His older brother Henry, mayor of Clarksdale, ran a poor third on Tuesday, with just 20 percent of the vote.

Turnout was higher than expected, with 102,000 voters — about 29 percent of those eligible — going to the polls.

As the only Republican in an eight-candidate field, Dent — a 31-year-old former aide to Gov. Kirk Fordice (R) — seemed assured of a place in the runoff, but the publication Friday of a story in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger detailing a 1984 conviction for simple assault was expected to reduce his totals. His performance was impressive, but he remains the underdog in the runoff 12 days from now.

Thompson, 45, had earlier won the endorsement of a district-wide gathering of Democrats, but Mayor Espy and several other Democrats announced before the gathering that they would run no matter whom the convention endorsed.

Many Democrats argued that state party chairman Ed Cole ad

Continued on page 24



AP Photo

Bennie Thompson (right), who finished first among Democrats in Tuesday's open primary in the 2nd district of Mississippi, receives congratulations from state Sen. Henry Kirksey on election night. Thompson ran second in the big field to Republican Hayes Dent, 34 to 28 percent.

Page 24 ROLL CALL Thursday, April 1, 1993

Espy's Brother Falters, GOP's Dent First In Black-Majority District in Miss. Delta

Continued from page 3

tilted the process to support Thompson, but Cole defended it as a balanced and wide-open affair.

The race between the two became increasingly bitter in the final weeks, as Thompson began focusing his attacks on the better-funded Espy, saying that the mayor was in favor of the repeal of portions of the Voting Rights Act — a charge Espy denied.

Espy also created problems for himself by saying that his younger brother was actively involved in his campaign — an assertion the Agriculture Secretary denied repeatedly.

The seven Democrats won 67,000 votes on Tuesday, while Dent took 35,000. Now the question for Thompson will be whether he can unify enough of the Democrats to beat Dent. Thompson has a reputation for being more liberal and less conciliatory

than former Rep. Espy, and some observers question whether he can attract white voters or blacks who backed Espy in the primary who may hold a grudge.

The two other white candidates in the race — state Rep. David Halbrook (D) and dentist Steve Richardson (D) — pulled a total of 9 percent of the vote.

Thompson has been in his current position since 1980 and was previously the mayor of Bolton. He is also an adjunct professor in the political science department at Jackson State University.

In a reflection of the changing nature of the district, Thompson beat Espy by nearly 6,700 votes in the Hinds County portions of the district. Many of these areas were added in 1991 redistricting.

Mayor Espy has not yet announced whether he will support Thompson in the runoff, and fourth-place finisher Unita Black-

well (D), who took 7 percent of the vote, will make an announcement tomorrow about an endorsement after meeting with her advisors.

Dent ran a traditional GOP campaign based on a pitch for lower taxes and less government spending. Most Republicans believe that Thompson gives them the best opportunity for victory in the runoff because he allows them to run against perhaps the most liberal of the Democratic hopefuls.

They also point out that Bill Clinton made one of his weakest showings in Mississippi, winning only 41 percent of the vote there. And Rep. Espy won this seat with a combination of black support and backing from traditionally conservative groups, such as the National Rifle Association. Thompson is not likely to benefit from the latter.

Both the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the National Republican Con-

gressional Committee have pledged their full assistance to their candidates in the runoff. Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour, like Dent, is from Yazoo City.

The 2nd district was held by Republican Rep. Webb Franklin until 1986, when Mike Espy was able to unify the Democratic party and oust him. Espy then went on to easily win three more times.

"Hayes Dent's message of less taxes and less spending resonated with the voters of Mississippi," the NRCC chairman, Rep. Bill Paxon (NY), said Wednesday.

"Hayes Dent was the only candidate in this race to stand with the taxpayers in opposition to a White House and a Democrat-controlled Congress hell-bent on raising taxes on farmers, seniors, and middle-class Mississippians."

Hall Goes on Hunger Strike

Continued from page 3

close friends outside Congress. He also talked to several colleagues. Among them were Rep. Alan Wheat (D-Mo), who sits with Hall on the Hunger and Rules Committees; Rep. Bill Emerson (R-Mo), ranking member of Hunger; Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va), ranking member of Children, Youth and U.S.

In 1985, Hall initiated a fast in his hometown of Dayton, Ohio, to draw attention to the famine in Ethiopia. Along with more than 4,000 people, he fasted for 40 hours, he said.

Joining his fast will be a handful of friends from Ohio, Hall said, but no Members. His wife will not

throughout the fast. "I'm not going to do it to the detriment of my life or family."

To critics who might call his fast extreme, Hall responded that dire circumstances require dramatic action. "Something seems to be wrong here. There's something wrong with this place. The bicker-

Herb's Garden

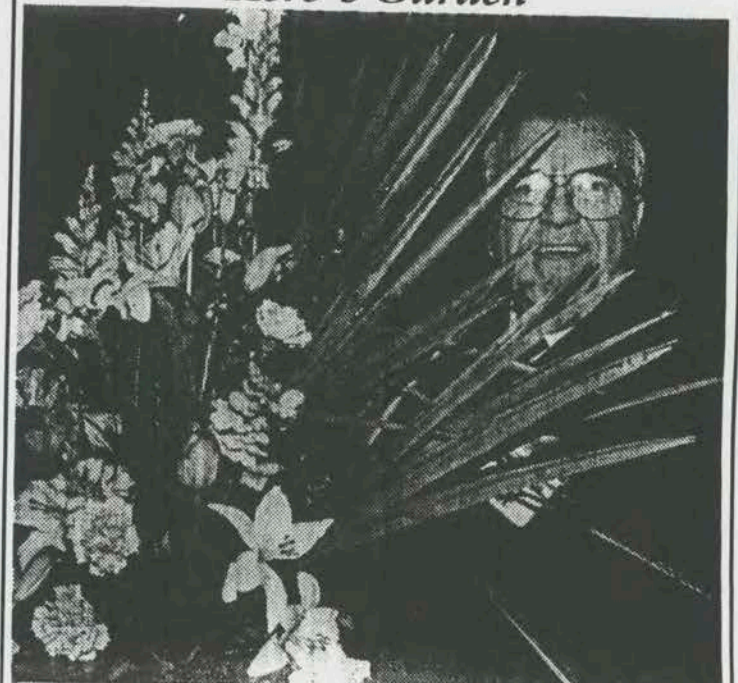


Photo by [illegible]

SOUTHERN STYLE

Burning desire

■ Jackson firefighter hopefuls learn skills, 1D



NATION/WORLD

Ill winds

■ Nuclear cloud threatens Russia, 12A

STATE/METRO

GOP stumping

■ Sen. Robert Dole to help Hayes Dent, 1B



The Clarion-Ledger

Metro edition ■ Jackson, Mississinni

Thursday ■ April 8, 1993 ■ 35¢

GOP leader Dole to visit 2nd District to help Dent candidacy

■ Sen. Thad Cochran will also visit to offer support for Tuesday runoff.

By Steve Walton
Clarion-Ledger Delta Bureau

Kansas Sen. Bob Dole is scheduled to visit Mississippi this afternoon to stump for Hayes Dent, the Republicans' 2nd Congressional District candidate.

Dole, the Senate minority leader and the nation's highest-ranking Republican, will campaign in

Greenville and Stoneville.

"The fact that one of the leading Republicans in America is coming to Mississippi (today) indicates the importance of this race," said Dent, 31, of Yazoo City.

Dent faces Democrat Bennie Thompson in a Tuesday runoff.

"We think it's a winnable district," said Joanne Coe, president and executive director of Campaign America, Dole's political action committee.

"We have two Republican senators from Mississippi now, and I

would think Southern politics may be taking a turn for the good for us," Coe said.

Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran will accompany Dole on the visit to Greenville Municipal Airport and the Delta Branch Research and Extension Center in Stoneville.

Dent, a former legislative aide to the agriculture secretary in Washington, said the senators' visit shows the importance of agriculture to the 2nd District. "They know that I am the only candidate in this race who has the interest and com-

DOLE'S AGENDA

■ Greenville Municipal Airport: 12:30 p.m.

■ Delta Branch Research and Extension Center, Stoneville: 1:30 p.m.

mitment to rural development and rural economic progress," Dent said.

■ Dent says focus on jobs, 3B

Thompson hits rugged campaign trail

By J. Lee Howard
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

HOLLANDALE — Bennie Thompson left no issue unturned Wednesday in a helter-skelter whip through the Delta.

"To have a Democrat in office in this district with a Democratic administration in Washington would help in making a very persuasive argument on behalf of this district," Thompson said Wednesday morning, before launching a day of campaigning in the

2nd Congressional District.

In Hollandale, he spoke for improved health care, and then pressed a group of high school students to register to vote.

"As most of you know, I'm running for Congress," Thompson told Mary Davis' senior English class. "I know what what y'all want to do — you can't wait to graduate from Simmons High School so you can leave Hollandale, Miss."

See DISTRICT, 2B

04/08/93

07:00

US SENATOR THAD COCHRAN

004

Dent accuses Thompson of racial politics

By Steve Walton
Clarion-Ledger Delta Bureau

4/8/93

Republican Hayes Dent tagged racial politics as hurtful to all Wednesday and said jobs are what the 2nd Congressional District needs.

Speaking to *The Clarion-Ledger* editorial board, Dent said Democrat Bennie Thompson has tried to polarize voters.

"I'm sick and tired of racial politics by blacks and whites," Dent said. "The concerns of blacks and whites should be the same: opportunity and good government."



Dent

Dent, 31, a former aide to Gov. Kirk Fordice, and Thompson, 44, a Hinds County supervisor, square off Tuesday in a runoff for the 2nd District post, vacant since Mike Espy resigned to become secretary of agriculture.

"The best way to (alleviate) poverty and suffering is with a job," he said.

Dent said Thompson does not want blacks and whites to get along.

Thompson has been a plaintiff in lawsuits to desegregate universities and to get more blacks elected to public office.

Thompson has said he does not expect much white support until he is elected, but some prominent white Democrats back him, including Secretary of State Dick Molpus and former Govs. Ray Mabus and William Winter.

Dent said his support for agriculture and opposition to President Clinton's economic proposals will be attractive to voters.

"Thousands of jobs are created by agriculture," said Dent, a former employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "We've got to have someone who understands farm policy. The 2nd Congressional District is a rural district that should be centered on agriculture."

Dent said Clinton's \$16 billion jobs proposal would "devastate the 2nd Congressional District."

Dent mentioned huge tax increases for barge operators and the halting of aquaculture research as two specific examples. Thompson supports Clinton's proposals.

District

From 1B

"But I'm here to tell you, if you don't get a college education, you're in for a rude awakening. You've got to finish school, decide what you want to do in life and commit yourself to it."

Then it was on to Jackson to accept the endorsements of the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters and back to the Delta for a live television interview in Greenville.

Thompson, 44, is running in an often-bitter race against Republican Hayes Dent, 31, of Yazoo City. The two were the top finishers from a field of eight in a March 30 primary. Their runoff is Tuesday.

Thompson, accompanied by state Sen. Johnnie Walls of Greenville, was well-received, especially at Simmons High.

"I've been hearing him on the radio and on the TV, and I've been urging my parents and grandparents to vote for him," said Angela Warren, 17, a Simmons senior. She and three other students led Thompson and his entourage on a tour of the predominantly black, 500-student school.

"I think if I were 18 and old enough to vote, I'd vote for him," Warren said.

Davis was one of Thompson's classmates at Tougaloo College in the

1960s. Davis sang in the school choir and Thompson drove the choir bus.

"I think he'll make one of the finest supporters of Mississippi from any district," Davis said. Thompson's visit Wednesday, she said, "Gives us the opportunity to let the kids know how important it is to voice their opinions in their voting."

Another stop was the Washington County Health Department in Hollandale, which was closed in 1989 because of financial problems and an inability to attract full-time doctors.

Thompson said many Washington County residents must rely on hospitals in Memphis or Jackson. If elected, Thompson said he would work to secure federal support to either reopen the building as a hospital, or renovate it for some other purpose.

"This building could be used either as a satellite of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Jackson, or it could be a good outpatient clinic," Thompson said.

He said the building could also a job training center, a youth rehabilitation center or senior citizens' building.

Freddie Love, a Hollandale alderman, said he favors using the building for low-cost health care for the elderly and indigent.

"A lot of people are sick and need medical attention," Love said.

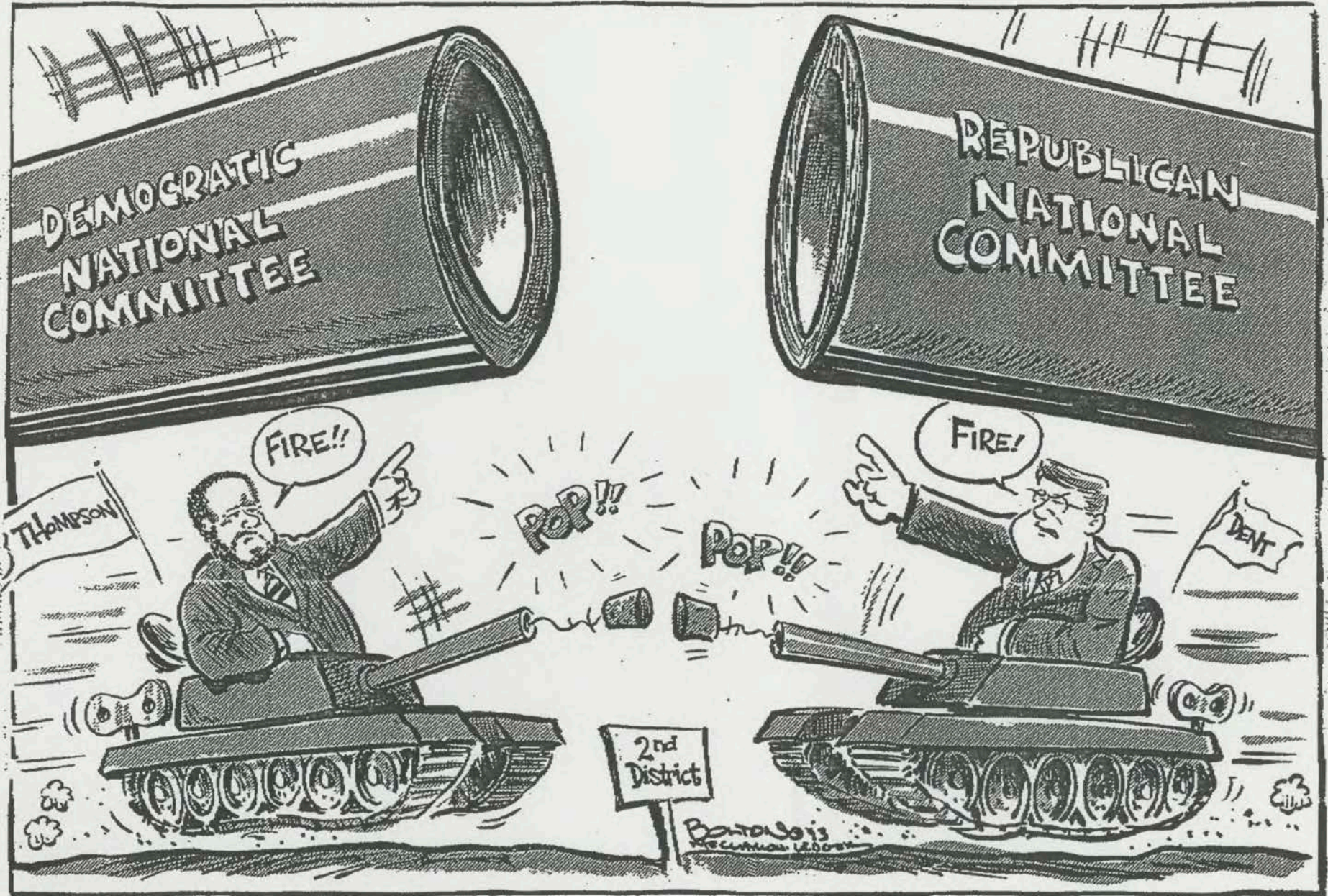
Clarion Ledger 4/8/93

(2)

MARK BOLTON

Claremont Ledge

4/8/93



Clayton Ledger 4/8/93

ES

SPOTLIGHT

Guard fights for job

Oregon copter firm undercuts Mississippi heavy-lift unit

The Associated Press

A Mississippi National Guard helicopter unit has hit a private industry snag in volunteering to lift a 7½-ton statue from the dome of the U.S. Capitol.

U.S. Rep. "Sonny" Montgomery had pushed for use of the guard's heavy-lift helicopters after learning last March that the Statue of Freedom would be removed from the Capitol Dome for repair and restoration, then returned to the perch it has occupied since 1863.

The guard would perform the task as a training exercise, with the cost being the expense of flying the unit's heavy-load helicopters to Washington and back and crew costs.

Now an Oregon-based company proposes to lift the 19-foot bronze statue with its Skycrane helicopters for \$60,000, which it says would be far less than the expense of using the Mississippi equipment.

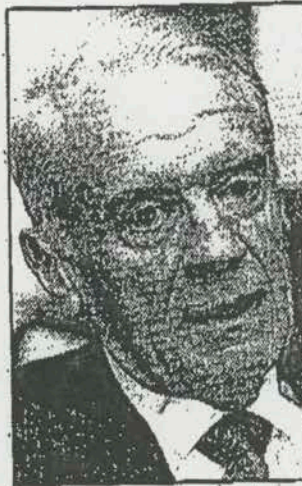
"We're not being critical of any pilots or machines or the National Guard," Lee Ramage, manager of sales and marketing for Erickson Air-Crane of Central Point, Ore., said Wednesday. "We simply feel that if this service is available from the private sector it should be used."

Montgomery, a retired National Guard general, said the Defense Department approved use of the Mississippi helicopters, and "everything was on track until this Oregon outfit comes along and says they could do it cheaper."

"Well, they can't do it cheaper," he said. "The Guard is going to have to train one way or the other, and this will be part of our training."

Erickson, with the backing of Oregon's congressional delegation, contends its S-64F Skycrane is perfect for the job because one of the machine's pilots is in a position where he can observe the object being moved.

And Frank L. Jensen Jr., president of the Helicopter Association International, said Wednesday the private company would beat the military ex-



"Well, they can't do it cheaper. The Guard is going to have to train one way or the other and this will be part of our training."

— Rep. Sonny Montgomery

pense "by a factor of five or ten."

"The private sector will do the job for \$60,000 ... counting liability," Jensen said.

"The Chinook costs \$8,000 to \$7,000 an hour for fuel and maintenance, and you have the personnel, travel and the other expenses involved. All that will hit way up in the hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Montgomery disagreed.

"I promise that before the Oregon company gets through they'll have to add this and that to the cost and it will end up being \$150,000," he said. "What we're offering is to zip up

there, do our job and return home.

"The Oregon people are latecomers and we're ready to go," he said. "It's silly to say a governmental agency can't help out another agency without having to get a bid for the work."

Defense Department spokesman Glenn Flood said Wednesday that no decision had been made.

2 AP 04-01-93 01:02 AET

62 LINES

PM-Espy's Seat, Mspi Bjt, 530

Democrat Faces Splintered Party in Runoff For Mike Espy's U.S.
House Seat

By DAN EVEN=

Associated Press Writer=

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) Democratic congressional candidate Bennie Thompson faces a splintered Democratic party in his bid to replace Mike Espy in Congress, but he has received an important endorsement.

Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell, who finished a distant fourth in Tuesday's election with 7,331 votes, encouraged her supporters to vote for Thompson when he faces Republican Hayes Dent in an April 13 runoff.

"As Democrats we should unify behind the member of our party who is running on April 13 ... I hope that we play a constructive role for the Democratic Party and for Mr. Thompson, who now represents our party in the runoff election," Blackwell told her volunteers Wednesday.

History and numbers favor the Democratic candidate in the runoff for the seat, which Espy vacated to become the U.S. secretary of agriculture. But party unity may still be a problem.

Thompson ran second in Tuesday's eight-person open primary, but still has not won the support of Henry Espy, the older brother of Mike Espy, who finished in third place Tuesday with 20,675 votes, or 20 percent.

Espy fought bitterly with Thompson in the weeks leading to the election, and on Wednesday didn't sound like he was getting behind Thompson.

"I have not even talked to Bennie Thompson," Espy said. "I have heard from all the other candidates, the only one who has not called is Bennie Thompson."

Hayes Dent, the lone Republican in the race, captured 34,733 votes, or 34 percent, in unofficial returns from the 24-county west Mississippi 2nd District. Thompson got 28,786 votes, or 28 percent.

"We have been talking to the other (Democratic) candidates and we've been assured they will support our candidacy," Thompson said. "We look forward to a unified ticket."

Only one Republican this century has held the 2nd District seat.

Dent, a 31-year-old former aide to Gov. Kirk Fordice, took advantage of the split Democratic Party. And he's already seeking the backing of some of the defeated Democrats.

"I've spoken to some of the other candidates. I don't think anybody is going to line up their vote behind one person," he said.

Besides seeking unity, Thompson may have to convince voters he's not an outsider. He's from Hinds County that includes urban Jackson. Dent and the others are from the mostly rural Delta and Dent already has stressed that.

The seat became vacant when Mike Espy, a Democrat who in 1986

became Mississippi's first black congressman since Reconstruction, resigned Jan. 22 to join President Clinton's Cabinet.

The mostly agricultural Delta district, covering all or parts of 24 counties, is one of the nation's poorest. It has been redrawn three times in the last 11 years to ensure a majority of voters were black.

About 58 percent of the voting age population is black. And even though Mississippi doesn't keep voting records by party, Democrats are thought to outnumber Republicans in the district by at least a 5-to-1 margin.

3 AP 04-01-93 01:02 AET

50 LINES

PM-MS--Unity Letter, Mspi Bjt,390
Walls' Letter Berates Demo Candidates
With PM-MS--Espy's Seat

GREENVILLE, Miss. (AP) Democrats' lack of unity kept them from winning the 2nd Congressional District seat outright and may prevent them from winning it in a runoff, a longtime Democratic activist and state senator said.

Sen. Johnny Walls, D-Greenville, said he sent a letter to six Democratic candidates and several other Democrats berating them for not backing a single candidate in the race.

A February caucus designed to unify the party behind one candidate failed, and the seven Democrats in the race split 65 percent of the vote in Tuesday's election.

"I sincerely believe that had we acted like the Republicans acted, we would have a Democratic congressman elected today," Walls said Wednesday.

The Republicans united behind 31-year-old Hayes Dent, who led all candidates with 34 percent of the vote. He will face Hinds County Supervisor Bennie Thompson, who received 28 percent of the vote, in a runoff April 13.

Early in the race, Democrats began splintering when an unofficial caucus organized by state party Chairman Ed Cole was called. Several candidates rejected the move, calling it unrepresentative of the district and unorganized.

Thompson was the candidate who had the Democratic caucus backing.

In his letter, Walls berates the six candidates who thumbed their noses at the caucus.

"I sent it because I wanted to remind the voters that we had gone through an exercise to prevent the very thing that we saw happen," Walls said.

Walls said he thinks the returns back up his conclusion that the six Democrats who did not support the caucus may have helped the party shoot itself in the foot.

"We have a horrendous record of turning out the second time (for runoffs)," he said of voters in Mississippi in general.

"That kind of situation always works to the detriment of the Democrat. And it certainly works to the detriment of any black candidate."

"I think there's a great possibility that (the Republicans) could take it," he concluded.

Walls said it is "an undisputed fact" that white Mississippians historically vote in racial blocs against black candidates.

Two other candidates, Greenville attorney Brian Neely and state Rep. David Halbrook of Belzoni, said they did not get copies of the letter.

HOTLINE 3/31/93

*10 MS 02: DENT, THOMPSON IN RUNOFF; WILL DEMS UNITE?

The election was held to fill the seat of Ag Sec. Mike Espy, MS' first black House Member. The runoff will be held 4/13. Unofficial results with 100% precincts reporting (AP, 3/31):

Ex-Gov. Fordice aide HAYES DENT Jr. (R)	34,733	34%
Hinds Co. Supervisor BENNIE THOMPSON (D)	28,786	28
Clarksdale Mayor HENRY ESPY (D)	20,675	20
Mayerville Mayor UNITA BLACKWELL (D)	7,331	7
State Rep. DAVID HALBROOK (D)	6,019	6
Dentist STEVE RICHARDSON (D)	3,019	3
Atty BRIAN H. NEELY (D)	506	
Civil rights activist JAMES H. MEREDITH (D)	360	

The turnout, about 29%, was "heavier than expected" -- as only 70,000 voted in '90. Dent "took advantage of a splintered Democratic Party ... But he will have trouble doing that in the runoff if the Democrats rally behind Thompson." Thompson "said he had gotten assurances of support from at least two losing candidates": "We look forward to a unified ticket." However, 3rd place finisher Henry Espy, brother of Mike Espy, "declined to say Tuesday night whether he would back him now" (Batten, AP, 3/31). Jackson CLARION-LEDGER's John writes there has been "speculation" that Espy and Blackwell "would withhold endorsements to remain in position to run in 1994." Blackwell manager Bob Boyd: "There's been talk like that but all [candidates] have a vested interest in not sabotaging Bennie's campaign and upsetting the Democratic Party" (3/31). Espy strategist Steve Pickett: "I am sure Mr. Espy is humbled by the margin of the vote. I am not real sure what he will do." Candidate Meredith: "The people have spoken. That's enough message for me" (Walton, CLARION-LEDGER, 3/31). NRCC chair Bill Paxon: "Hayes Dent was the only candidate in this race to stand with the taxpayers in opposition to a White House and Democrat-controlled Congress hell-bent on raising taxes on farmers, seniors and middle-class Mississippians" (NRCC release, 3/30). CLARION-LEDGER's Walton notes, "only two black supporters were present" at Dent's victory party (3/31). MS columnist Bill Minor: "There is a core of white voters in the district and ... most of them went out and voted for Hayes Dent. ... [Thompson] has not reached out at all to get white Democrats to vote for him, and anyone would have to have some white voters. ... There are a lot of voters who are not necessarily Democrats in that district who have voted in the past for Mike Espy. ... Dent ... will do best in a low voter turnout because you can ... expect the white voters to show up at the polls. They want to put the seat back in the hands of whites" ("Morning Edition," NPR, 3/31).

WASH. TIMES
3/31/93

Lone GOP bidder for Espy seat is in runoff

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The lone Republican candidate in the race and the Democrat with the most party backing headed for a runoff yesterday in the primary to replace U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy in Congress.

With 90 percent of 393 precincts counted, GOP hopeful Hayes Dent captured 33,063 votes, or 35 percent, in the sprawling 2nd District, where only one Republican has served in this century.

Hinds County supervisor Bennie Thompson got 26,263 votes, or 28 percent, and will face Mr. Dent in a runoff April 13. Mr. Espy's older brother, Henry, came in third with

18,209 votes, or 19 percent.

"I think there obviously was a split there in the Democratic Party," Mr. Dent said. "It appears as if the party system in this country has worked. The Republican and Democratic nominees have made the runoff. I think my chances are great."

Five other Democrats trailed in the open primary, in which all candidates ran regardless of party affiliation.

Mr. Dent took advantage of a splintered Democratic Party that had seven candidates vying for the seat.

The seat became vacant when Mr. Espy, a Democrat who in 1986 be-

came Mississippi's first black congressman since Reconstruction, resigned to join President Clinton's Cabinet.

The race included five black Democrats, two white Democrats and a white Republican.

Other candidates: Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell, who had 6,846 votes, or 7 percent; state Rep. David Halbrook, 5,736 votes, or 6 percent; dentist Steve Richardson, 2,944, 3 percent; and lawyer Brian Neely, 490, 1 percent. Civil rights activist James Meredith had 315 votes, or less than 1 percent.

The mostly agricultural Delta district, covering all or parts of 24 coun-

ties, is one of the nation's poorest. It has been redrawn three times in the past 11 years to ensure a majority of voters were black.

About 58 percent of the voting age population is black.

Mississippi voters are not required to register by party, so it is not known what percentage of voters in the district are Democrat.

State Democratic Party Chairman Ed Cole pushed a caucus designed to unite the party behind one candidate. But more than half the field snubbed the attempt, calling it unorganized and unrepresentative of the district. The caucus eventually backed Mr. Thompson.

Wednesday ■ March 31, 1993 ■ 354

Dent, Thompson

face runoff

7 Dem candidates fragment
64% of vote in 2nd District

By Steve Walton
Clarion-Ledger Staff Bureau

Republican Hayes Dent and Democrat Bennie Thompson emerged from a crowded field Tuesday and will square off April 13 for the 2nd Congressional District post.

Dent, 31, of Yazoo City, led the pack of eight candidates with 34,733, or 34 percent, of the 101,429 votes cast, according to complete but unofficial returns.

"We've got one down and one to go," the former adviser to Gov. Kirk Fordice told about 200 cheering supporters at the downtown Yazoo City Elk's Lodge, which was papered with "Put a Dent in Congress" signs.

Thompson, a Hinds County supervisor and former Bolton mayor, placed second with 28,786 votes, or 28 percent. He said he was confident he could unify Democrats for the runoff.

"We must keep (the seat) in Democratic hands," Thompson, 44, said as hundreds of supporters danced in the wet streets of Bolton.

"We now have one focus. We know who our opponent is," Thompson said. "We'll keep going back knocking on doors."

The 2nd District seat became vacant Jan. 22 when Mike Espy resigned to become secretary of agriculture.

Espy became Mississippi's first black congressman this century when he ousted Republican Welby Franklin in 1986. He won re-election three times in the district that stretches from Tunica County south along the Mississippi River to Jefferson County and east into portions of Jackson.

Tuesday's turnout exceeded expectations, especially considering the bad weather for most of the day.

WHAT'S NEXT



Dent



Thompson

Hayes Dent and Bennie Thompson, the two top vote-getters in Tuesday's election, will square off in an April 13 runoff.

cided with the presidential election.

Clarksdale Mayor Henry Espy, who led in several pre-election polls, was third with 20,675 votes, or 20 percent, dashing hopes of succeeding his younger brother. Henry Espy, 50, canceled a trip to Jackson and he could not be reached by phone Tuesday night.

"We are, of course, let down," said Steve Pickett, one of Espy's campaign advisers. "We ran a good campaign and a positive campaign. We don't regret for one minute never going negative."

Asked if Espy would support Thompson, Pickett said: "I am sure Mr. Espy is humbled by the margin of the vote. I am not real sure what he will do."

"The rain hurt us pretty bad," said Espy supporter Anderson Lenard, a Clarksdale election commissioner. "Any excuse will keep them from going to the polls."

"A lot of farmers voted for Henry because of his brother. They figure they can call Henry, and he can get to Mike," Lenard said.

CLARKSDALE ELECTION

Clarion Ledger 3/31/93 Page 2

Election

From 1A

Lenardi said he believed many elderly voters were confused by the family ties. "A lot of people actually think they are voting for Mike Espy," he said.

Voter support dropped sharply after Espy. Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell finished a distant fourth with 7,331 votes, or 7 percent, while state Rep. David Halbrook of Belzoni got 6,019 votes, or 6 percent.

Blackwell, 60, blamed the loss on prejudice against women. "It wasn't about who the best candidate is — I was it. There's a lot of educational process that has to go on because a lot of people have to overcome their hang-ups and prejudices against women," Blackwell said.

Halbrook, 65, offered no excuses for his performance. "First of all, let me say, I am a Harry Truman Democrat. The buck stops here. I'm not going to fuss about anybody, any-

where, anything," Halbrook said.

But he said his campaign was short on two important resources: time and money. "I had about a third of the money and spent probably less than a third of the money at least two other candidates spent."

Bringing up the rear were Grenada dentist Steve Richardson, Greenville lawyer Brian Neely and activist James Meredith of Jackson.

Richardson finished sixth with 3,019 votes, or 3 percent. He is in North Sunflower County Hospital with a throat infection, and could not be reached.

Neely, 32, got only 506 votes. "I can tell you this, this won't be the last you will see of me," he said.

Meredith, 59, the first black to enroll at the University of Mississippi, got 360 votes. "The people have spoken. That's enough message for

me," he said.

Evelyn McPhail, chairwoman of the Mississippi Republican Party, said the GOP strategy to back one candidate was an advantage. "Our being united has helped us," she said.

McPhail said the turnout "is an indication to me there's a lack of interest on the Democratic side." She also said Dent, although a white Republican in a 63 percent majority-black district, has black supporters.

Only two black supporters were present at Dent's party.

One, Charles Thomas, 43, of Silver City, said he backed the Republican "because Dent and I stand for the same thing: lower taxes."

"I think he must remain as he is. He's the best person for the job," said Thomas, an administrator with the HOPE Foundation, which helps with private medical and health needs.

HOTLINE 3/29/93

*10 MS 02: DENT ARREST IN '84 MAKES 11TH-HOUR MEDIA ENTRY

Jackson CLARION-LEDGER's Mitchell details a simple assault conviction of ex-Gov. Fordice aide Hayes Dent (R) from 1984. Dent was arrested after an altercation at a Jackson nightclub. Dent: "I wish it had never happened. The fact is that it did. I was a 22-year old kid who made a mistake." Dent "blamed Democrats for renewed attention to the case and the spread of false rumors" about him: "The Democratic Party is literally in shambles. Two-bit Democratic investigators from Washington have failed miserably." Dent added his "top-secret clearance from the military" and the USDA "proves he has nothing to hide." During the incident, a police officer approached Dent and the nightclub's manager to try to break up an argument. "Dent then broke his beer bottle on the edge of a dumpster" and approached the officer with the jagged edge, according to the officer. The officer drew his gun, pointed it into the air and kicked Dent in the groin to stop him, which "only infuriated him." Dent threw the bottle, which hit the manager in the eye, causing an injury requiring 10 stitches. Dent was convicted and fined \$700 (3/27).

CONTRIBUTION AND PAC \$: FEC reports from 1/19-3/10 show:

	PAC	TOTAL
Clarksdale Mayor Henry Espy	\$ 33,050	\$ 167,758
Ex-Fordice aide Hayes Dent	19,850	92,320
Hinds Co. Supervisor Bennie Thompson	7,500	83,826
State Rep. David Halbrook	-0-	62,415
Dentist Steve Richardson	-0-	34,740
Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell	7,513	17,409
Atty. Brian Neely	-0-	11,285
Civil Rts Activist James Meredith	Did not meet minimum filing requirement	

ALSO: The Sunday CLARION-LEDGER carried a full-page League of Women Voters election guide, featuring responses of all eight candidates to five issue questions. Primary 3/30; runoff 4/13.

HOTLINE 3/26/93

*18 MS 02: RACIAL VOTING IN TUESDAY'S DELTA DERBY

BILL MINOR is a longtime political columnist syndicated in MS papers statewide. STEVE STEWART is managing editor of the GREENWOOD COMMONWEALTH. They were interviewed separately. The race will fill the seat of Ag Sec. Mike Espy, the first black to represent MS in Congress since Reconstruction. Key candidates: Ex-Gov. Fordice aide Hayes Dent (R), Clarksdale Mayor Henry Espy (D), Hinds Co. Supervisor Bennie Thompson (D), and Mayersville Mayor Unita Blackwell (D). Election: 3/30. Runoff: 4/13.

HOTLINE: How has the district changed since Webb Franklin, the last Republican in the seat, was defeated by Mike Espy in '88?

MINOR: The district has been extended way down south, taking the western side of Jackson, which has a heavy black population. It's much blacker than when Webb Franklin was elected.

STEWART: At one point the 2nd district was purely a Delta district. Since Webb, they have added precincts here and there to give the Jackson area more and more influence. I would say the most significant changes were while Webb was in office. The changes since then have been fairly minor.

HOTLINE: How important is the Espy name?

STEWART: There's no question it's the biggest factor in Henry Espy's favor and he has milked it for everything it's worth -- to the point that now it is being used against him. Espy has a good track record in public service but he shares the name of probably the most popular congressman, I dare say, ever from the district. No one has managed to develop the broad base of support that Mike Espy had. It was his ability to transcend racial lines that no one else had been able to do. ... Henry's support has dropped. If you listened to him in January, invariably the theme was, 'I'm Mike Espy's brother. I know Bill Clinton personally, therefore you need to elect me because I have access to the people who count.' He kept that up to the point where it began to beg the question, 'Well, if Mike's support is so valuable why has Mike not been more vocal in his support. Last week Henry was quoted as saying that his brother was involved in his campaign, 'just as deep as you can put your hand in the cookie jar.' When asked about that, Mike Espy's office issued a statement saying he is not endorsing anyone, and that his brother is only one of several qualified candidates. He could afford to lose some ground and still be in good shape. The chances [of a first-round Espy victory] are all but eliminated now. There's no doubt in my mind that we're going to see a runoff.

HOTLINE: How involved is Gov. Fordice in Dent's campaign?

STEWART: He has been surprisingly low key. Anyone who knows Gov. Fordice knows he rarely does anything quietly. I don't think it's a sign of any lack of support. [Dent] thinks that as the only Republican in the race, he can make the runoff without [the gov's] support. Without question, Fordice is a controversial figure, and it's a love-hate situation with him among voters. If anything, it would hurt Hayes a little bit. I think he figures he is going to get the supporters without Fordice's intervention.

HOTLINE: Do you believe this is a winnable district for the GOP?

STEWART: Sure. The Republicans, unlike the Democrats, were able to organize a process to narrow their field and unite, realizing it was their best shot. And they realized the Democrats would not be able to do that. Republicans traditionally have been more organized, more willing to sacrifice for the good of the party.

MINOR: The scenario [for a GOP victory] would be if the vote falls to 40,000 or less, which is possible. Normally that district should be voting 75-85,000 votes. It could very easily drop. In special elections in Mississippi, we've been getting 15 to 20 percent turnout. I just can't believe that it will.

HOTLINE: Who would Dent be strongest against in a runoff?

STEWART: No question Bennie Thompson. If I lined up the eight candidates, Thompson would be on the far left, Dent on the far right. ... There is, sadly, the reality of racial block voting in the district. In a Thompson-Dent situation, it would be as polarized as ever. I don't think Hayes is the kind of guy to purposely exploit that. In fact, I don't recall a Republican candidate in Mississippi speaking as progressively on race relations as Hayes has. Thompson makes no bones about it. He has no intention of courting white votes. The voting age population is 58 percent black.

HOTLINE: What will turnout out be?

STEWART: Low in the first, even lower in the runoff. [MS] voters have traditionally been apathetic about special elections. Apathy is even more exaggerated among black voters -- one more factor that's working in Dent's favor. ... There's no question that demographically the deck is stacked in favor of Democrats. Therefore, for a Republican to win, every intangible has to fall into place -- and several of them are there. This has been a nasty campaign on the Democratic side. I have never seen the black Democratic leadership so divided.

HOTLINE: Is Blackwell viable? Whose votes does she draw from?

STEWART: I do not think she has a shot at getting into a runoff. She probably hurts Espy more than anyone. She does not have the finances nor the organization to run an effective campaign. I do not think the Espy camp would have any trouble rallying her supporters in a runoff. The fear for the Espy camp is that a block of Thompson voters would stay home during a runoff.

DFP MISSISSIPPI CONTACTS

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Sumner, MS 38957
601/375-8338

Mr. Berney Imes, Jr.
P.O. Box 511
Jackson, MS 39046
601/328-2424

(Owner of New Hampshire Channel 9 -
you will be dining with him on 4/14
in NH)

From Senator Bob Dole's Office:

According to the President's
budget, President Clinton is
proposing agriculture program
cuts totaling: (use either number)

* \$5.5 billion in budget authority
(or)

* \$3.1 billion in outlays

to cover the next 5 years (1994-1998)

These numbers are based on President
Clinton's own budget numbers.

For the Commonwealth

<21>JACKSON - Democratic congressional candidate Bennie Thompson was one of three partners who failed to pay more than \$70,000 in Hinds County property taxes in 1990 and 1991.

Thompson, a Hinds County supervisor, is a 20 percent owner of the Chalet Village Apartments, a partnership owning three buildings, including an apartment house near Jackson State University in Jackson.

Chalet Village failed to pay its Hinds County property taxes in both 1990 and 1991, forcing the Hinds County chancery clerk to sell the property at a tax sale, at which point the county recovered its money from the purchasers at the tax sale.

The owners of the property have two years from the date of the sale to redeem the property by paying the back taxes, penalties and interest.

Meanwhile, one of the partnership's lenders - Omni Bank - has filed suit against Thompson and his partners to recover more than \$100,000 in unpaid loans.

Thompson, as a minority partner, did not make the decision to not pay the taxes. However, Thompson could have paid his pro rate share of the taxes and then assessed the partnership for reimbursement.

Omni Bank filed for summary judgment against Chalet Village partners, and a hearing on the motion was held in January. Hinds County Circuit Judge James E. Graves Jr. has not rendered a decision.

"All the things we requested be admitted in the discovery process were admitted as a matter of law," said Jim Lambert, attorney for Omni Bank. "I'm not sure why they didn't respond to the request for admissions, but now the case is waiting for a decision by the judge."

All the court documents involving civil action 92-71-500 are missing from the Hinds County circuit clerk's office.

"It's just not here. This is not right," an employee in the circuit clerk's office said while searching the case file.

The case file had not been formally checked out, according to circuit clerk records.

P.R. Burton, the court administrator for Graves, could not locate the case file either.

"I don't have it. But the Judge took about 12 files home with him," Burton said.

The Commonwealth talked with more than 10 persons involved with the case and was able to piece together the story and obtain copies of key case documents.

Thompson personally signed the Omni loan, thus is individually responsible for repaying the entire amount, as are both of his partners, Terry L. Jenkins and William O. "Buddy" Jenkins, both of Jackson.

The Jenkins brothers formed the Chalet Village Apartments Partnership in 1988. They each purchased 40 percent of the Partnership for \$1,000. Thompson purchased a 20 percent share for the same amount.

Soon after being capitalized with a total of \$3,000 in equity, the partnership borrowed \$1.1 million to buy the Chalet Village Properties.

According to the Jenkins brothers' attorney, Bill Colbert, the Partnership never missed a payment.

But Omni Bank officials decided to call the loan on its maturity date and demanded that the loan be paid.

In addition to the Omni loan, there is a primary loan to the Partnership held by Deposit Guaranty National Bank for about \$700,000. This loan was the original primary acquisition loan for \$1 million and has since been paid down by the Partnership to about \$700,000.

The loan is being renegotiated with Deposit Guaranty's cooperation.

In the summary Judgment proceeding before Graves, the Jenkins brothers argued that Omni loan officers made a verbal promise to roll over the loan every year.

"There's no question it's a maturity note," Lambert said. "When you offer oral testimony that tends to modify a written agreement, it is not admissible."

In addition to the original note, the Chalet Village partners signed an extension agreement in March 1992 to delay foreclosure. This agreement has also been violated, Lambert said.

Thompson, who is using a different attorney, made a separate filing contending the Omni Bank loan agreement violated state usury laws.

However, at the hearing on the motion for summary Judgment, Thompson offered no proof or law to support this defense, Lambert said.

FROM REED-JOSEPH INT'L CO.

In 1985, an Audit Department report recommended a criminal investigation into the activities of Bennie Thompson, but the Hinds County Supervisor had friends in high places and was able to avoid the probe.

Thompson, 44, of Bolton, will meet Republican Hayca Dean of Yazoo City, in Tuesday's runoff election to fill the 2nd District Congressional seat vacated by Sen. of Agriculture Mike Eury.

The Press Register has obtained a copy of a nine-page 1985 Audit Dept. document, in which investigator Morris Smith recommended to then Auditor Ray Mabius that Thompson's governmental relationship with a private gravel pit owner might be improper.

"There are indications of some possible wrong doings that have appeared as I conducted this analysis," Smith reported. "I also feel there is cause to consider an investigation on possible criminal violations."

But at the same time that Mahus' Audit Dept. was coordinating an FBI sting operative (Operation Proterse) into fraud at the county government level, no such criminal investigation of Thompson was ever initiated.

In a series of news stories in 1985, the Jackson Daily News revealed that as Hinds County's Best 2 Supervisor, Thompson entered into an agreement with Eugene Mallett to purchase gravel for 75 cents per cubic yard, providing that a county front end loader, operated by a county employee, would also load private vehicles on occasion.

The newspaper investigation revealed that a full-time county employee worked at the gravel pit five days per week.

There is no authority under state law for county equipment

or personnel to work on private property, and such activities were precisely the targets of the now famous Operation Pastore, which secured changes of county officials and resulted in fines and jail terms statewide, three months before Mahas' successful gubernatorial election in 1987.

But no action was taken by Mabius' office against Thompson, and although the state's biggest Hindu was not one of the 19 Mississippi counties included in the FBI probe, concentrated locally by Mabius' Department of Audit.

Instead, Mabius wrote Thompson an official letter on Oct. 13, 1983, in which he stated that auditors had determined that some 11 percent of the county worker's time and that of the county machine had been spent loading gravel into private vehicles, but that since no "net" monetary loss to the county had resulted, no additional action would be taken.

"There is, as you know, no statutory authority for public officials to perform work on private property," Debus wrote.

"Accordingly, this office will not seek recovery of funds, but must require that the practice of providing a loader to load private vehicles be discontinued immediately."

In his letter Mabius maintained that potentially increased transportation costs to a more distant gravel pit would have offset any monetary outage to Hinsdale County as result of Thompson's arrangement with Mallett.

The gravel pit owner had also told Smith that Thompson never performed any of his private transactive billing or collecting.

However, the Press Register has obtained a Sept. 3, 1981 invoice, on Hinds County's Best Z letterhead, informing a Mr. E.L. Martin of Edwards, that he owed

Dugout Station 565 for the 22 cubic yards of gravel he received on Aug. 13, 1981. He is urged to reply to District 2, P.O. 1, Box 2073, Bolton.

Thompson and Mabius have long maintained close political ties.

Jerre Nash, who first worked for Mabius in the Audit Dept. and later as his gubernatorial chief of staff, is guiding Thompson's current campaign for Congress.

Additionally, the man who succeeded Mabius as State Auditor says that the official file on Beanie Thompson, containing documentation of several inquiries, was missing when he got there.

Former Auditor Pete Johnson, now a Jackson businessman, said that shortly after taking office, one of his staffers determined that a Benjie Thompson investigative file which should have been in the Auditor's office, was missing.

In an interview Wednesday, Johnson reiterated his charge of five years ago that the official file on Beanie Thompson was one contained in 12 boxes of Audit Dept. files, subsequently discovered in the Mississippi Highway Patrol building in 1963.

"They were just sitting down—sleeked up on the third floor of the building," he said.

In addition to the investigation into the gravel contract, Johnson said that documentation on several other allegations, including an alleged automotive parts kickback scheme involving Thompson at the El Paso County Central Maintenance Facility, and complaints that Thompson was illegally advertising his services on all of Deaf 2's county-owned vehicles were contained in the missing Thompson file.

Johnson said he then ques-
tioned Luuku Dluun, previously
in charge of the Audit Dept.'s
investigative branch under

No.	Name	Sex	Age
70	Pig	M	68
71	Haldon	F	69
72	Lillyford	F	70
73	Babbelford	F	71

BY RAY MOSBY
Managing Editor

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or personnel to work on private property, and such activities were precisely the targets of the now famous Operation Pretense, which snared dozens of county officials and resulted in fines and jail terms statewide, three months before Mabus' successful gubernatorial election in 1987.

But no action was taken by Mabus' office against Thompson, and although the state's biggest, Hinds was not one of the 19 Mississippi counties included in the FBI probe, orchestrated locally by Mabus' Department of Audit.

Instead, Mabus wrote Thompson an official letter on Oct. 15, 1985, in which he stated that auditors had determined that some 11 percent of the county worker's time and that of the

Eugene Mallott \$65 for the 52 cubic yards of gravel he received on Aug. 13, 1981. He is urged to reply to District 2, Rt. 1, Box 208, Bolton.

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APR-08-1993 11:17 FROM REED-JOSEPH INTN/L CO.

TO

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Matys, who had since been named to head the Dept. of Public Safety (Highway Patrol) after his election as governor.

He said that Dixon maintained the missing Thompson file must have been removed accidentally, along with some sensitive grand jury material, but that all file material would have been within the memory banks of Dept. of Audit computers.

"That was not true," Johnson said Wednesday. "They were erased from the computers."

Johnson said that he then advised both Attorney General Mike Moore and Hinds County District Attorney Ed Peters of the situation because he felt the file removal might constitute "an obstruction of justice problem."

No such official view of wrongdoing was stated, however, against any state official.

And although Johnson said his chief investigators felt the Audit Dept.'s case against Thompson was a "strong one," District Attorney Peters, citing the passage of time since the investigations, never sought any prosecution.

"Considering the passage of time, it would have been a hard case to prove," Johnson said.

"But there's no question that Bennie Thompson would have been indicted," the former auditor said. "It would have been up to a jury."

TALKING POINTS

MEETING WITH MISSISSIPPI FARMERS

CLINTON'S PACKAGE

**** ESTIMATES OF THE COST OF THE PROPOSED BTU TAX ON AGRICULTURE NATIONWIDE, INCLUDING BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS, RANGE FROM \$700 MILLION TO \$1 BILLION ANNUALLY.**

**** ON TOP OF THAT, ECONOMISTS HAVE PREDICTED THAT THE IMPACT OF CLINTON'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS IN FARM SPENDING ALONE WOULD DECREASE NET CASH FARM INCOME IN THE COTTON/SOYBEAN-GROWING DELTA BY 39-45%, ON THE AVERAGE.**

**** AND THE PROPOSED 525% HIKE IN BARGE TAXES IS GOING TO IMPACT EVERYONE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ONCE RAIL RATES ARE BID UP AND ONCE GRAIN PRICES FALL DUE TO INCREASED TRANSPORTATION COSTS. I UNDERSTAND THAT IN 1975 THERE WERE 28 TUGBOAT COMPANIES IN GREENVILLE -- TODAY ONLY 2 OF THOSE REMAIN.**

MEANS TESTING

**** I KNOW THAT MEANS TESTING OR TARGETING FARM PAYMENTS IS NOT EXACTLY A POPULAR ISSUE. PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS PROPOSED TO LIMIT FARM PROGRAM PAYMENTS ONLY TO THOSE WITH LESS THAN \$100,000 IN ANNUAL OFF-FARM INCOME.**

**** THIS OPENS UP A PANDORAS BOX OF PROBLEMS, STARTING WITH THE FACT THAT FARMERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TURN OVER THEIR TAX RETURNS TO THE ASCS OFFICE -- I KNOW THAT GOES OVER LIKE A LEAD BALLOON IN KANSAS AND I'M SURE THE SAME IS TRUE IN MISSISSIPPI.**

**** WHAT'S MORE, LITTLE MONEY, IF ANY, WOULD BE SAVED. LANDOWNERS ABOVE THE LIMIT WHO CURRENTLY OPERATE ON A CROP-SHARING BASIS WITH THEIR TENANT WOULD SIMPLY SWITCH TO A CASH-RENT BASIS. THE TENANT WOULD RECEIVE ALL THE PAYMENTS -- NO FEDERAL MONEY WOULD BE SAVED -- AND YET HE WOULD THEN BEAR ALL PRODUCTION RISKS.**

**** IF LARGE FARMERS ARE SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED OUT OF THE PROGRAM THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE TIED TO PROGRAM PARTICIPATION -- POTENTIALLY LEADING US DOWN THE PATH OF MANDATORY LAND USE RESTRICTIONS IN ORDER TO "GET THE BIG GUYS." BECAUSE OF THESE CONCERNS, CLINTON IS NOT ACTIVELY PUSHING THIS PROPOSAL, BUT WE'LL STAY ON TOP OF IT.**

TRADE

**** OPENING UP NEW TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN FARMERS IS AN ISSUE CRITICAL TO US ALL, REGARDLESS OF GEOGRAPHIC REGION. I REALIZE THAT COTTON PRODUCERS HAVE A RATHER UNIQUE INTEREST IN THE AREA OF TALKS THAT ARE DIRECTED AT REDUCING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.**

**** RIGHT NOW, OUR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS THAT OPERATE UNDER SECTION 22 OF OUR TRADE LAW RESTRICT IMPORTS OF COTTON, PEANUTS, SUGAR AND DAIRY PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR DOMESTIC MARKETS.**

**** SCALING BACK THOSE PROTECTIONIST SAFEGUARDS AND LOWERING IMPORT BARRIERS IS A TWO-WAY STREET -- WE CAN'T EXPECT TO GAIN ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS IF WE DON'T MAKE STRIDES TOWARD REDUCING OUR OWN BARRIERS. NEVERTHELESS, I KNOW THAT AS MUCH AS 90% OF FOREIGN-GROWN COTTON IS GROWN IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND IN CHINA, NEITHER OF WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE GATT AND WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE BOUND TO THE TERMS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION. OUR TRADE NEGOTIATORS WILL HAVE TO KEEP THAT IN MIND.**

OTHER ISSUES

**** I THINK THAT ALL FARMERS, AS A GROUP, SUPPORT THE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO MAINTAIN OUR AGRICULTURAL MARKETS IN RUSSIA AND PRESERVE THE DEMOCRATIC REFORMS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE RUSSIANS HAVE BOUGHT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF POULTRY AND OTHER COMMODITIES PRODUCED IN MISSISSIPPI. ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME THINK THE SUBSIDIZED GRAIN SHIPMENTS HAVE PUT A DAMPER ON WORLD COTTON PRICES, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT AGRICULTURE AS A WHOLE BENEFITS FROM MAINTAINING A PRODUCTIVE AND EXPANDING TRADING RELATIONSHIP.**

**** THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES ON OUR PLATE, MANY OF WHICH WILL NOT LIKELY BE ADDRESSED THIS YEAR DUE TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATIONS EMPHASIS ON INCREASING SPENDING AND RAISING YOUR TAXES. NEVERTHELESS, WHETHER IT BE FARM SPENDING, ENVIRONMENT, FOOD SAFETY OR TRADE, I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING HAYES DENT ON YOUR SIDE WHEN THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS ARE ADDRESSED.**

MISSISSIPPI CD02

Filing: **March 10**
General: **March 30**
Run-Off: **April 13**

DISTRICT PROFILE

This district is characterized as the Mississippi Delta District and has been constructed as the state's one minority congressional district. During the 1991 redistricting process the district's borders north of Jackson were "fine tuned" to pick up some additional black areas and to shed white areas to the neighboring 1st and 3rd Districts. In the Jackson metropolitan area, however, the district was moved into the City of Jackson to pick up the sizable black population in that City. The District increased its black population from 59 to 63 percent.

When the district was originally constructed as a result of the 1980 redistricting process, the district was carried by Webb Franklin, a white Republican, who won in both 1982 and 1984. The district's percentage of black population had been increased in 1984 due to a voting rights lawsuit, but Franklin still was reelected. In 1986 Espy was able to unite the black community and attract enough white Democrat votes to carry the district.

POLITICAL SITUATION

The total disarray [^]is the Democrat field gives us real hope of winning this seat. The three leading Democrats -- Bennie Thompson, Unita Blackwell and Henry Espy -- have been fighting publicly since Mike Espy resigned the seat. Given the fact the the run-off period is only 14 days long here, it is hard to imagine the Democrats will be able to re-unify once the first election is over.

We are also encouraged by the fact that Republican voters in the Second tend to turn out at much higher levels than Democrat voters, especially in off-year and special elections.

Finally, we have an outstanding candidate. Hayes Dent (bio attached) has a strong background in business and government in Mississippi, and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. The RNC and the NRCC have already committed more than \$50,000 to this race.

DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES

Mayor Unita Blackwell
Mayor Henry Espy
Rep. David Halbrook
Bennie Thompson, Cty. Sprvsr.
Brian Neely, Attorney

AGRICULTURE BRIEFING POINTS -- MISSISSIPPI

AG POLITICS OF DENT/THOMPSON RACE

BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE HAVE PROMISED EACH CANDIDATE A SEAT ON THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE -- THOMPSON STATED MONDAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE FROM SPEAKER FOLEY. PAT ROBERTS HAS DONE SOME FUND-RAISING AND CAMPAIGN ADS FOR DENT, AND IN DOING SO PROMISED THAT HE WOULD BE ON THE AG COMMITTEE IF ELECTED. THE LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF COMMODITY GROUPS HAVE BEEN OUT DRUMMING UP CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR DENT, SOME OF WHOM TRADITIONALLY SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES.

DENT IS HANDS-DOWN THE MAN THAT THE 2nd DISTRICT NEEDS SERVING THEM ON THE AG COMMITTEE, HAVING SERVED AS CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT TO KEITH BJERKE, ASCS ADMINISTRATOR UNDER PRESIDENT BUSH AND MOST RECENTLY AS AGRICULTURE ADVISOR TO GOVERNOR FORDICE.

BENNIE THOMPSON, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOESN'T KNOW BEANS ABOUT PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE. SENATOR COCHRAN'S STAFF HAS TOLD ME THAT THOMPSON HAS TOLD URBAN AUDIENCES THAT, IF ELECTED, HE WILL SEEK A SHIFT IN EMPHASIS AWAY FROM THE TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL CONCERNS OF THE 2nd DISTRICT. IN THE PRIMARY, HE WAS CRITICAL OF HENRY ESPY'S TIES TO AGRICULTURE, AND MANY FEEL THAT ESPY IS NOT ENDORSING THOMPSON BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-AGRICULTURE COMMENTS.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE FACTS

- MISSISSIPPI RANKED 28th AMONG ALL STATES IN 1991 FOR CASH RECEIPTS, WITH GROSS FARM INCOME TALLING JUST SHORT OF \$3 BILLION. IN 1991, THE FIVE LEADING COMMODITIES WERE COTTON, BROILERS, CATTLE, SOYBEANS AND AQUACULTURE.
- IN CROPS, COTTON IS KING IN MISSISSIPPI, WHICH TRAILS ONLY TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA IN ANNUAL COTTON PRODUCTION. THE STATE IS ALSO THIRD IN RICE PRODUCTION, TRAILING TEXAS AND ARKANSAS IN ANNUAL PRODUCTION.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE ISSUES

- CLINTON'S PACKAGE. ESTIMATES OF THE COST OF THE PROPOSED BTU TAX ON AGRICULTURE NATIONWIDE, INCLUDING BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS, RANGE FROM \$700 MILLION TO \$1 BILLION ANNUALLY. ON TOP OF THAT, ECONOMISTS HAVE PREDICTED THAT THE IMPACT OF CLINTON'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS IN FARM SPENDING ALONE WOULD DECREASE NET CASH FARM INCOME IN THE COTTON/SOYBEAN-GROWING DELTA BY 39-45%, ON THE AVERAGE. AND THE PROPOSED 525% HIKE IN INLAND WATERWAY USER FEES -- DESPITE MISSISSIPPI'S PROXIMITY TO THE GULF -- IS GOING TO IMPACT EVERYONE EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ONCE RAIL RATES ARE BID UP AND ONCE GRAIN PRICES FALL DUE TO INCREASED TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

- MEANS TESTING. THE ISSUE THAT GETS MISSISSIPPI COTTON FARMERS HOPPING MAD. CLINTON HAS PROPOSED TO LIMIT FARM PROGRAM PAYMENTS ONLY TO THOSE WITH LESS THAN \$100,000 IN ANNUAL OFF-FARM INCOME. THIS OPENS UP A PANDORAS BOX OF PROBLEMS -- 1) FARMERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TURN OVER THEIR TAX RETURNS TO THE ASCS OFFICE, 2) LITTLE MONEY, IF ANY, WOULD BE SAVED BECAUSE LANDOWNERS ABOVE THE LIMIT WHO CURRENTLY OPERATE ON A CROP-SHARING BASIS WITH THEIR TENANT WOULD SWITCH TO A CASH-RENT BASIS SO THAT THE TENANT WOULD RECEIVE ALL THE PAYMENTS AND YET BEAR ALL PRODUCTION RISKS, 3) IF LARGE FARMERS ARE SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED OUT OF THE PROGRAM THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE TIED TO PROGRAM PARTICIPATION -- POTENTIALLY LEADING US DOWN THE PATH OF MANDATORY LAND USE RESTRICTIONS IN ORDER TO "GET THE BIG GUYS." CLINTON IS NOT ACTIVELY PUSHING THIS PROPOSAL, BUT THESE FARMERS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR THAT CONGRESS WILL NOT PURSUE IT EITHER.

- TRADE. COTTON PRODUCERS ARE SKEPTICAL OF THE GATT BECAUSE SECTION 22 IMPORT PROTECTION IS ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT IS ON THE TABLE FOR ELIMINATION. SECTION 22 NOW RESTRICTS U.S. IMPORTS OF COTTON, DAIRY, SUGAR AND PEANUTS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY. THE COTTON GUYS ARE PRIMARILY OPPOSED TO ELIMINATING SECTION 22 PROTECTION FOR COTTON BECAUSE 90% OF ALL FOREIGN COTTON IS PRODUCED BY COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF GATT -- FORMER SOVIET UNION AND CHINA -- AND WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE SUBJECT TO SIMILAR TRADE LIBERALIZATION UNDER AN AGREEMENT.

- RUSSIAN CREDITS -- IMPACT ON COTTON PRICES. MOST PRODUCERS ARE SUPPORTIVE OF RUSSIAN CREDITS, BUT THERE IS A FEELING THAT SUBSIDIZED U.S. GRAIN SALES HAVE HELPED LOWER THE WORLD COTTON PRICE AND INCREASE COSTS OF OUR DOMESTIC COTTON PROGRAM. THE LOGIC IS THAT, DUE TO THE EXTENSIVE IMPORT OF SUBSIDIZED GRAIN INTO RUSSIA, A LOT OF ACREAGE IS BEING SHIFTED INTO COTTON -- THEREBY LOWERING PRICES -- AND IS BEING DEVALUED WHEN BARTERED BETWEEN REPUBLICS IN EXCHANGE FOR CHEAP GRAIN.

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INLAND WATERWAYS FUEL USER FEE:

1. THIS TAX INCREASE, IN COMBINATION WITH THE BTU TAX, WOULD HAVE A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON MISSISSIPPI-- PARTICULARLY HERE IN GREENVILLE. A GREAT DEAL OF THE TOWING INDUSTRY ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS HEADQUARTERED HERE. AND, MANY PEOPLE IN YOUR STATE DEPEND ON AGRICULTURE AND THE RIVER FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD. BRENT TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION IS THE LARGEST TOWING COMPANY IN GREENVILLE. THEY HAVE ACTIVELY OPPOSED THIS USER FEE.
2. BARGES MOVE 15% OF THE NATION'S FREIGHT FOR JUST 2% OF THE NATION'S TRANSPORTATION COSTS. IN FACT, BARGES ARE: THE MOST ECONOMIC, EFFICIENT AND SAFE MODE OF FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION.
3. A 525% TAX ON ANY INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE ADVERSE AFFECTS, BUT FOR THIS INDUSTRY IT WOULD CAUSE MANY COMPANIES TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS -- OR STOP THEIR BARGES.
4. ON A DAILY BASIS, BARGE OPERATORS ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER WILL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 ARBITRARILY ADDED TO THEIR EXPENSES.

IT IS TYPICAL TO USE 10,000 GALLONS OF FUEL PER DAY. WITH FUEL REPRESENTING 30% OF THE OPERATING COSTS; THIS TAX WILL DOUBLE THE BARGE'S OVERALL OPERATING EXPENSES.

5. THE ANNUAL AFFECT OF THIS TAX IS MORE THAN THE COMBINED CURRENT PRETAX PROFIT FOR THE ENTIRE BARGE INDUSTRY. IN FACT, THE TAX WOULD CAPTURE NEARLY A FOURTH OF THE INDUSTRY'S ENTIRE ANNUAL REVENUE (BEFORE THEY PAY THEIR BILLS).

NO INDUSTRY CAN AFFORD THIS LEVEL OF TAXATION AND SURVIVE.

6. DURING THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET RESOLUTION TWO AMENDMENTS WERE OFFERED REGARDING THIS PROPOSED TAX.

SENATOR HARKIN OFFERED A SENSE OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT OPPOSING IT WHICH WAS PASSED 88 TO 12. BUT SENATOR GORTON AND SENATOR LOTT'S AMENDMENT TO ACTUALLY STRIKE THE PROPOSED INCREASE WAS DEFEATED 55 TO 44.

7. IF HAYES DENT IS ELECTED TO CONGRESS, HE WILL OPPOSE THIS INCREASE. BENNIE THOMPSON WILL GO ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SUPPORT IT.

Put a **DENT** in **CONGRESS**

BIOGRAPHY OF HAYES DENT

Hayes Dent was born and raised in Yazoo City, Mississippi and his family has been living and farming in Yazoo County for five generations.

Hayes graduated from the University of Mississippi where he majored in Public Administration. While attending the University of Mississippi, he joined the U.S. Army National Guard; he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in June of 1984.

In February 1990, Hayes was appointed confidential assistant to the administrator for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service at the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Among his many responsibilities at USDA, Hayes was appointed to the Secretary's task force for the reduction of government bureaucracy -- designed to make USDA programs more accessible to farmers or "farmer friendly."

Hayes' service at USDA was interrupted in December of 1990 when his National Guard unit was called to service and mobilized to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Lieutenant Dent served as executive officer of an artillery battery during the allied forces ground campaign. For his service in combat, Lieutenant Dent received the Bronze Star (one of three medals awarded for combat duty). In July of 1991, Hayes returned to Washington and continued his work at the Department of Agriculture.

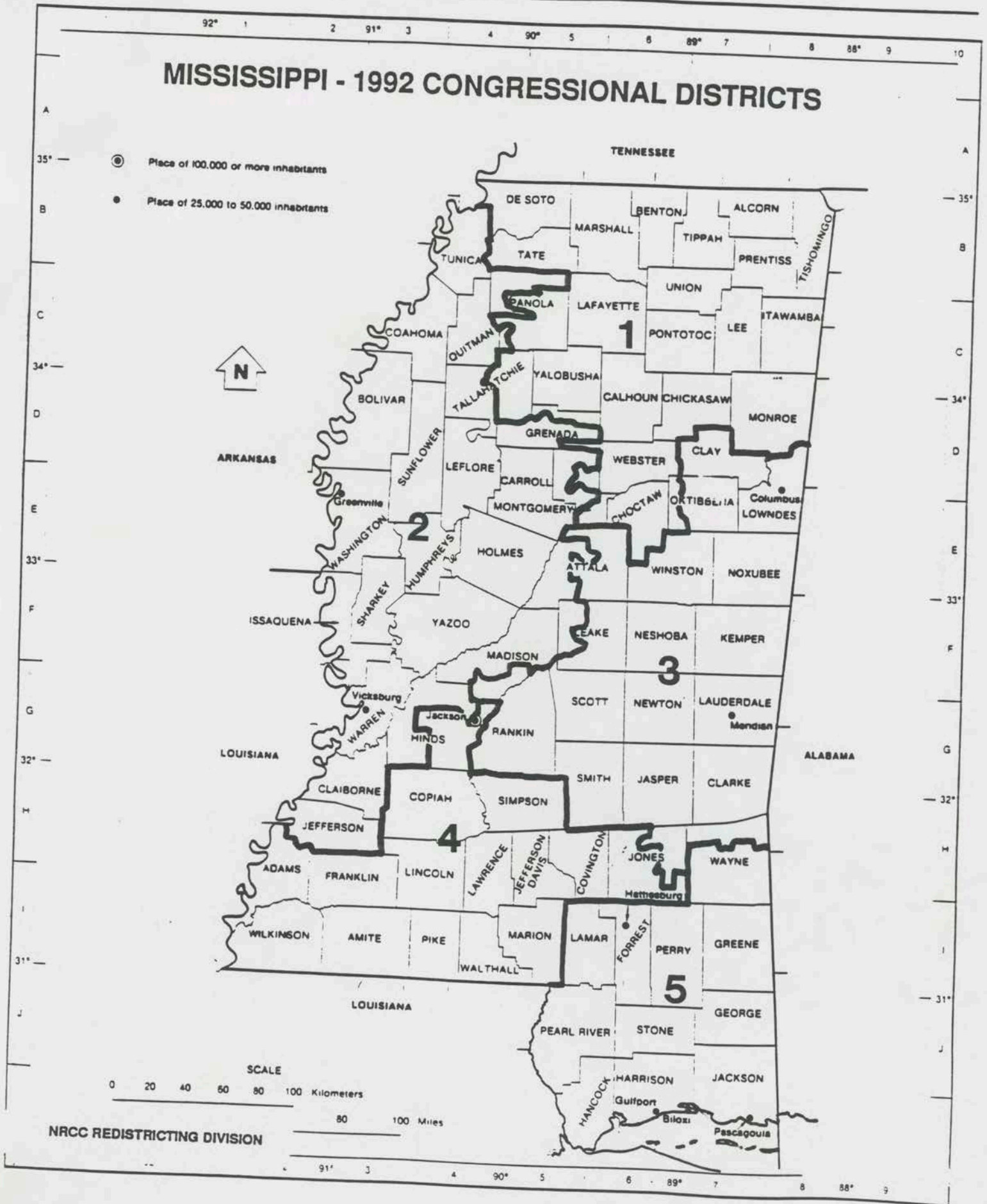
In November of 1991, Hayes returned home to Mississippi to manage the transition for Governor Kirk Fordice in the areas of Agriculture and Education. Shortly thereafter, Hayes was appointed Executive Advisor to the Governor for Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental policy.

Hayes was named by Governor Fordice as Interim Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. As director, Hayes was responsible for this agency's 1,000 employees and a budget of over \$40 million dollars. Upon successful completion of his tenure, he returned to the Office of the Governor where he served until recently, when he resigned to run for Congress.

Hayes has long had an interest in politics, working on several campaigns -- including Haley Barbour's bid for the Senate in 1992. Hayes worked as a field representative for the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1984. In 1987, he was an organizational director for Jim Herring's run for the Attorney General post. Hayes also served as a clerk for Representative Sonny Montgomery on the Veterans Affairs Committee in Washington.

Hayes Dent currently serves as a member of the Yazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Mississippi Future Farmers Foundation Board of Directors, and is the executive officer of Battery B, 1st/114th Field Artillery in Winona. He is a member of the National Rifle Association and the Delta Wildlife Foundation. Hayes is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Yazoo City.

Mississippi



SOCIAL SECURITY TAX INCREASE:

1. THE BUDGET RESOLUTION RECENTLY PASSED INCLUDES A \$32 BILLION TAX INCREASE ON SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS. SENATOR LOTT'S AMENDMENT TO STRIKE THIS TAX PROPOSAL WAS DEFEATED 52-47.
2. SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS EARNING AS LITTLE AS \$25,000 WILL FACE A 70% TAX INCREASE ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS. THIS IS NOT A TAX ON THE "WEALTHY."
3. IN FACT, MORE THAN 75% OF THE \$32 BILLION IN TAXES WILL BE PAID BY SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS EARNING BETWEEN \$25,000 AND \$100,000.
4. THIS TAX INCREASE WILL AFFECT AN ESTIMATED 8.1 MILLION SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS. AND, THAT NUMBER WILL RISE EACH YEAR SINCE THE THRESHOLD AMOUNTS OF \$25,000 SINGLE AND \$32,000 JOINT ARE NOT INDEXED.

4. THIS PUNITIVE TAX PUNISHES PEOPLE WHO HAVE SAVED FOR THEIR RETIREMENT. MANY RETIREES ARE LIVING ON FIXED INCOME. THEY PLANNED FOR THEIR RETIREMENT ASSUMING A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS. THIS TAX BASICALLY AMOUNTS TO A REDUCTION IN THEIR BENEFITS. AND, IT IS UNFAIR TO CHANGE THE RULES ON THEM NOW.
5. THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND WAS ESTABLISHED FOR AMERICA'S ELDERLY. REVENUES RAISED BY THIS TAX INCREASE WOULD NOT EVEN GO TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND OR EVEN TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT. THEY WILL GO TO FUND A MYRIAD OF NEW SPENDING PROGRAMS.
6. IF HAYES DENT IS ELECTED TO CONGRESS HE WILL NOT VOTE TO INCREASE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES. IF BENNIE THOMPSON IS ELECTED, HE WILL VOTE TO RAISE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES.

Put a **DENT** in **CONGRESS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact: Dylan Glenn
(601)746-1993

April 5, 1993

DENT DECRIES NEGATIVE TURN IN CAMPAIGN

Congressional candidate Hayes Dent today decried the "vicious and negative turn" the Second District race has taken during the two week runoff campaign.

"We have run a clean, issue-oriented campaign from Day 1," Dent stated, "and have avoided the personal, negative attacks which have now become the hallmark of the Thompson campaign."

Dent was particularly critical of "the totally erroneous charges regarding my rent payments while I lived in Washington, D. C." He noted that the Democratic National Committee had tried to launch these false charges on the day of the final candidates' forum in Greenville a week before the first election. Since these charges were determined to be invalid, Second District media, acting responsibly, refused to pick them up.

In addition, Thompson's paid advertising accuses Dent of traveling when he served on Governor Fordice's staff. "I traveled on legitimate state business," Dent declared, "much of which was tied to economic development and agribusiness which is so crucial to the future of the Delta and the Second District. I have no regrets about doing my job to represent the agricultural interests of this state."

Dent spokesman Dylan Glenn said "for three months we have run the cleanest, issue-oriented campaign imaginable." "Since the day we began, we have been continually pressured by many supporters who have wanted us to go on the offensive in a personal way. We have refused to do so, despite nasty innuendos and slanderous charges put forward by our opponents."

Now, Glenn says, "we are forced to respond to irresponsible and erroneous charges paid for by our opponent." "Beginning today we are responding -- and will be responding in kind."

"Hayes clearly regrets that the campaign has come to this," Glenn stated. Hopefully, we can clear the air and the final days of the campaign can be devoted to the real issues dividing a very liberal urban Democrat and a conservative Delta Republican."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1993

CONTACT : DYLAN GLENN
TEL. : 746-1993

STATEMENTS OF SENATORS THAD COCHRAN AND BOB DOLE
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1993
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

SENATOR DOLE: "The one thing Bennie Thompson won't say in this campaign is that he can't wait to get to Washington to vote with Bill Clinton for higher taxes.

After all, why should Bennie care about taxes, when he won't pay his own?

"According to today's Greenwood Commonwealth, Hinds County had to foreclose on Thompson and his partners for more than \$70,000 (seventy thousand dollars) in property taxes in 1990 and 1991 alone.

"He voted four times to raise everybody else's property taxes and then didn't pay his own. It's a shame he won't be elected, because he'd be a natural with the rest of the Democrats in Congress."

SENATOR COCHRAN: "I'm shocked to read today's Clarksdale Press Register, to learn of more corruption involving the Mabus administration and his cover-up of Bennie Thompson.

There's strong evidence that Thompson used County employees to load gravel for private contractors -- and that Mabus covered it up.

If this wasn't Mississippi, they'd be calling it Watergate.

People are sick and tired of politicians who live under a different set of rules than the rest of us. The people of Mississippi taught Mabus his lesson two years ago. And the folks in the Second District will do the same to Bennie Thompson on April 13."

AGRICULTURE BRIEFING POINTS -- MISSISSIPPI

AG POLITICS OF DENT/THOMPSON RACE

BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE HAVE PROMISED EACH CANDIDATE A SEAT ON THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE -- THOMPSON STATED MONDAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE FROM SPEAKER FOLEY. PAT ROBERTS HAS DONE SOME FUND-RAISING AND CAMPAIGN ADS FOR DENT, AND IN DOING SO PROMISED THAT HE WOULD BE ON THE AG COMMITTEE IF ELECTED. THE LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF COMMODITY GROUPS HAVE BEEN OUT DRUMMING UP CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR DENT, SOME OF WHOM TRADITIONALLY SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES.

DENT IS HANDS-DOWN THE MAN THAT THE 2nd DISTRICT NEEDS SERVING THEM ON THE AG COMMITTEE, HAVING SERVED AS CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT TO KEITH BJERKE, ASCS ADMINISTRATOR UNDER PRESIDENT BUSH AND MOST RECENTLY AS AGRICULTURE ADVISOR TO GOVERNOR FORDICE.

BENNIE THOMPSON, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOESN'T KNOW BEANS ABOUT PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE. SENATOR COCHRAN'S STAFF HAS TOLD ME THAT THOMPSON HAS TOLD URBAN AUDIENCES THAT, IF ELECTED, HE WILL SEEK A SHIFT IN EMPHASIS AWAY FROM THE TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL CONCERNS OF THE 2nd DISTRICT. IN THE PRIMARY, HE WAS CRITICAL OF HENRY ESPY'S TIES TO AGRICULTURE, AND MANY FEEL THAT ESPY IS NOT ENDORSING THOMPSON BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-AGRICULTURE COMMENTS.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE FACTS

- MISSISSIPPI RANKED 28th AMONG ALL STATES IN 1991 FOR CASH RECEIPTS, WITH GROSS FARM INCOME TALLING JUST SHORT OF \$3 BILLION. IN 1991, THE FIVE LEADING COMMODITIES WERE COTTON, BROILERS, CATTLE, SOYBEANS AND AQUACULTURE.
- IN CROPS, COTTON IS KING IN MISSISSIPPI, WHICH TRAILS ONLY TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA IN ANNUAL COTTON PRODUCTION. THE STATE IS ALSO THIRD IN RICE PRODUCTION, TRAILING TEXAS AND ARKANSAS IN ANNUAL PRODUCTION.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE ISSUES

- CLINTON'S PACKAGE. ESTIMATES OF THE COST OF THE PROPOSED BTU TAX ON AGRICULTURE NATIONWIDE, INCLUDING BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS, RANGE FROM \$700 MILLION TO \$1 BILLION ANNUALLY. ON TOP OF THAT, ECONOMISTS HAVE PREDICTED THAT THE IMPACT OF CLINTON'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS IN FARM SPENDING ALONE WOULD DECREASE NET CASH FARM INCOME IN THE COTTON/SOYBEAN-GROWING DELTA BY 39-45%, ON THE AVERAGE. AND THE PROPOSED 525% HIKE IN INLAND WATERWAY USER FEES -- DESPITE MISSISSIPPI'S PROXIMITY TO THE GULF -- IS GOING TO IMPACT EVERYONE EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ONCE RAIL RATES ARE BID UP AND ONCE GRAIN PRICES FALL DUE TO INCREASED TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

- MEANS TESTING. THE ISSUE THAT GETS MISSISSIPPI COTTON FARMERS HOPPING MAD. CLINTON HAS PROPOSED TO LIMIT FARM PROGRAM PAYMENTS ONLY TO THOSE WITH LESS THAN \$100,000 IN ANNUAL OFF-FARM INCOME. THIS OPENS UP A PANDORAS BOX OF PROBLEMS -- 1) FARMERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TURN OVER THEIR TAX RETURNS TO THE ASCS OFFICE, 2) LITTLE MONEY, IF ANY, WOULD BE SAVED BECAUSE LANDOWNERS ABOVE THE LIMIT WHO CURRENTLY OPERATE ON A CROP-SHARING BASIS WITH THEIR TENANT WOULD SWITCH TO A CASH-RENT BASIS SO THAT THE TENANT WOULD RECEIVE ALL THE PAYMENTS AND YET BEAR ALL PRODUCTION RISKS, 3) IF LARGE FARMERS ARE SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED OUT OF THE PROGRAM THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE TIED TO PROGRAM PARTICIPATION -- POTENTIALLY LEADING US DOWN THE PATH OF MANDATORY LAND USE RESTRICTIONS IN ORDER TO "GET THE BIG GUYS." CLINTON IS NOT ACTIVELY PUSHING THIS PROPOSAL, BUT THESE FARMERS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR THAT CONGRESS WILL NOT PURSUE IT EITHER.
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- RUSSIAN CREDITS -- IMPACT ON COTTON PRICES. MOST PRODUCERS ARE SUPPORTIVE OF RUSSIAN CREDITS, BUT THERE IS A FEELING THAT SUBSIDIZED U.S. GRAIN SALES HAVE HELPED LOWER THE WORLD COTTON PRICE AND INCREASE COSTS OF OUR DOMESTIC COTTON PROGRAM. THE LOGIC IS THAT, DUE TO THE EXTENSIVE IMPORT OF SUBSIDIZED GRAIN INTO RUSSIA, A LOT OF ACREAGE IS BEING SHIFTED INTO COTTON -- THEREBY LOWERING PRICES -- AND IS BEING DEVALUED WHEN BARTERED BETWEEN REPUBLICS IN EXCHANGE FOR CHEAP GRAIN.
- DISASTER ASSISTANCE. BECAUSE MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS TO THE SOUTH, YOU WILL NOT LIKELY HEAR FROM ANY 2nd DISTRICT FARMERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM FREEZE DAMAGE IN EARLY 1993. HOWEVER, SENATOR COCHRAN HAS JOINED WITH SENATORS MCCAIN AND COVERDELL IN INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE DISASTER BENEFITS TO PRODUCERS FROZEN OUT IN SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AND GEORGIA, AND FOR THOSE FLOODED OUT IN ARIZONA. THEY WOULD LIKE TO GET THE MONEY OUT OF THAT WHICH IS REMAINING FROM THE LAST ROUND OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE PAID OUT THIS MONTH AS THE FINAL PAYMENT FOR 1992 LOSSES (OF WHICH YOU EARMARKED \$100 MILLION FOR WINTER WHEAT). THE BILL IS NOT LIKELY GOING ANYWHERE.

**REMARKS OF
SENATOR BOB DOLE
HAYES DENT FARM RALLY
APRIL 8, 1993**

CLINTON'S PACKAGE

**** PRESIDENT CLINTON IS--TO HIS CREDIT--DOING QUITE A SALES JOB ON A TAX AND SPEND PACKAGE THAT NOT ONLY INCLUDES THE LARGEST TAX INCREASE IN HISTORY BUT ALSO REPRESENTS A NOT-TOO-THINLY VEILED ATTACK ON PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE. IF FARMERS WERE PERCEIVED AS A LIBERAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP, THINGS MIGHT BE DIFFERENT--YOU MIGHT BE AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE RECEIVING A HANDOUT.**

**** BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE. ALL OF US ARE COMMITTED TO DEFICIT REDUCTION, BUT WE CANNOT BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF AGRICULTURE AND DEFENSE ALONE. FARM SPENDING TOOK THE ONLY REAL CUTS OUT OF THE 1990 BUDGET AGREEMENT, AND NOW A NEW PRESIDENT HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON YOU AGAIN. HERE'S THE PLAN:**

BUDGET CUTS

**** THE SPENDING CUTS AS PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON PRODUCERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ALREADY ON THE MARGIN. ANALYSIS DONE BY TEXAS A&M SUGGESTS THAT A LARGE, WHEAT-ONLY KANSAS FARM WOULD EXPERIENCE A 360 PERCENT DECLINE IN AVERAGE NET CASH INCOME UNDER THE PLAN. FOR A MISSISSIPPI COTTON AND SOYBEAN GROWER, NET INCOMES COULD FALL MORE THAN 40 PERCENT.**

**** THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE ADOPTED A BUDGET RESOLUTION THAT ESSENTIALLY SLASHED THOSE PROPOSED CUTS IN HALF, BUT WE ARE STILL LOOKING AT A DISPROPORTIONATE HIT IN THE AG BUDGET.**

TAXES

**** THE BTU TAX--WHICH WE'RE STILL TRYING TO WIPE OUT--HAS DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR AGRICULTURE AND SEEMS SUSPICIOUSLY TARGETED AT AGRICULTURAL AND WESTERN STATES THAT VOTED FOR GEORGE BUSH. BUT WHATEVER THE POLITICS, THE FARMER GETS IT FROM ALL SIDES--WITH NOWHERE TO PASS ON THE ADDED COST.**

**** YOU PAY FOR THE TAX DIRECTLY IN FARM FUEL AND ENERGY USES. YOU PAY FOR THE TAX INDIRECTLY IN THE COST OF FUEL-INTENSIVE INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZER, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER INPUTS WHERE THE COST CAN BE PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER. AND YOU PAY FOR THE TAX AT THE ELEVATOR OR THE WAREHOUSE WHEN HIGHER TRANSPORTATION COSTS ARE REFLECTED IN THE PRICE YOU RECEIVE.**

WHAT IS DRIVING THIS?

**** TAKE THESE CUTS IN CONCERT WITH THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN FOOD STAMPS, THE WIC PROGRAM AND FOOD ASSISTANCE AND IT IS PRETTY CLEAR THAT WE ARE SEEING A VERY SERIOUS CHANGE OF HEART IN THE WHITE HOUSE. THE USDA, AS WE KNOW IT, IS UNDER ASSAULT BY PEOPLE WITH AN ADVERSARIAL VIEW OF THE FARMER.**

**** THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE A STUDY SHOWING THAT GEORGE BUSH DECISIVELY DEFEATED BILL CLINTON LAST NOVEMBER IN COUNTIES THAT ARE REGARDED AS FARMING-DEPENDENT. HIS THESIS IS THAT CLINTON OWES NOTHING TO COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE AND CAN THEREFORE PROCEED TO TURN THE REINS OVER TO THE ACTIVIST GROUPS.**

**** FRIENDS, WITH ALL THAT COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE IS DOING TO FEED THE WORLD, CONSERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROVIDE THE SAFEST AND MOST DIVERSE FOOD SUPPLY ON THE PLANET, THE FARMER AND THE RANCHER ARE BEING TAKEN GROSSLY FOR GRANTED UNDER THIS ECONOMIC PACKAGE.**

**** THE SHIFT IN SPENDING PRIORITIES WITHIN USDA IS CLEAR. OF COURSE, THE FARM PROGRAM CUTS ARE SAID TO BE JUSTIFIED BY THE REDUCED INTEREST RATES THAT WILL ACCRUE UNDER DEFICIT REDUCTION--A REDUCTION DRIVEN BY THE LARGEST TAX INCREASE IN HISTORY AND ONLY \$11 BILLION IN NET NON-DEFENSE SPENDING CUTS. YOU BE THE JUDGE OF HOW SERIOUS THESE PEOPLE ARE ABOUT REDUCING THE DEFICIT.**

WE NEED HAYES DENT

**** YOU CAN HELP BY PUTTING HAYES DENT IN THE HOUSE WHERE HE WILL HELP US SLASH THE DEFICIT BY ASKING THE GOVERNMENT--NOT TAXPAYERS--TO CONTRIBUTE. YOU CAN HELP BY PUTTING HAYES DENT ON THE HOUSE AG COMMITTEE WHERE HE WILL WORK TO ENSURE THAT ANY CUTS IN FARM PROGRAM SPENDING ARE MADE EQUITABLY AND WHERE HE WILL GUARD AGAINST THE HEAVY HAND OF REGULATION AND ACTIVIST HYPE.**

UNITED STATES SENATE

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Bob Dole
U.S.S.

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Jayce

Response to letters

Mississippi