



State House Says 'Yes' To Merger

Rights Agency Nearer Becoming Part of AG Office

By ROBERT E. BARNES
Special to the Chronicle



Morrisette

The Oklahoma House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted to merge the state's rights agency with the office of the state attorney general, apparently not swayed by pleas of Democrats.

The vote was 61-32 to pass State Senate Bill 763.

Legislators voted almost entirely along party lines.

One Democratic state representative called on Republicans to remember that it was the first elected Republican governor who championed nearly 50 years ago the creation of the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission.

Don't vote against the spirit of Gov. Henry Bellmon, State Rep. Richard Morrisette (Dem., Oklahoma City) seemed to be saying before the April 19 vote.

State Rep. Morrisette urged Republicans to vote against a bill that would, essentially, neutralize and politicize an agency Gov. Bellmon created.

"This is completely unnecessary," the Oklahoma City Democrat said.

State Rep. Morrisette reminded legislators that Gov. Bellmon, elected in 1962, was the driving force behind creating the rights agency in 1963.

Gov. Mary Fallin, a Republican like former Gov. Bellmon, included the agency's merger in

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Affirmative Action Is To Be Topic

Group Opposes Measure Being Considered

By SHIRLEY W. SHAW
Special to the Chronicle



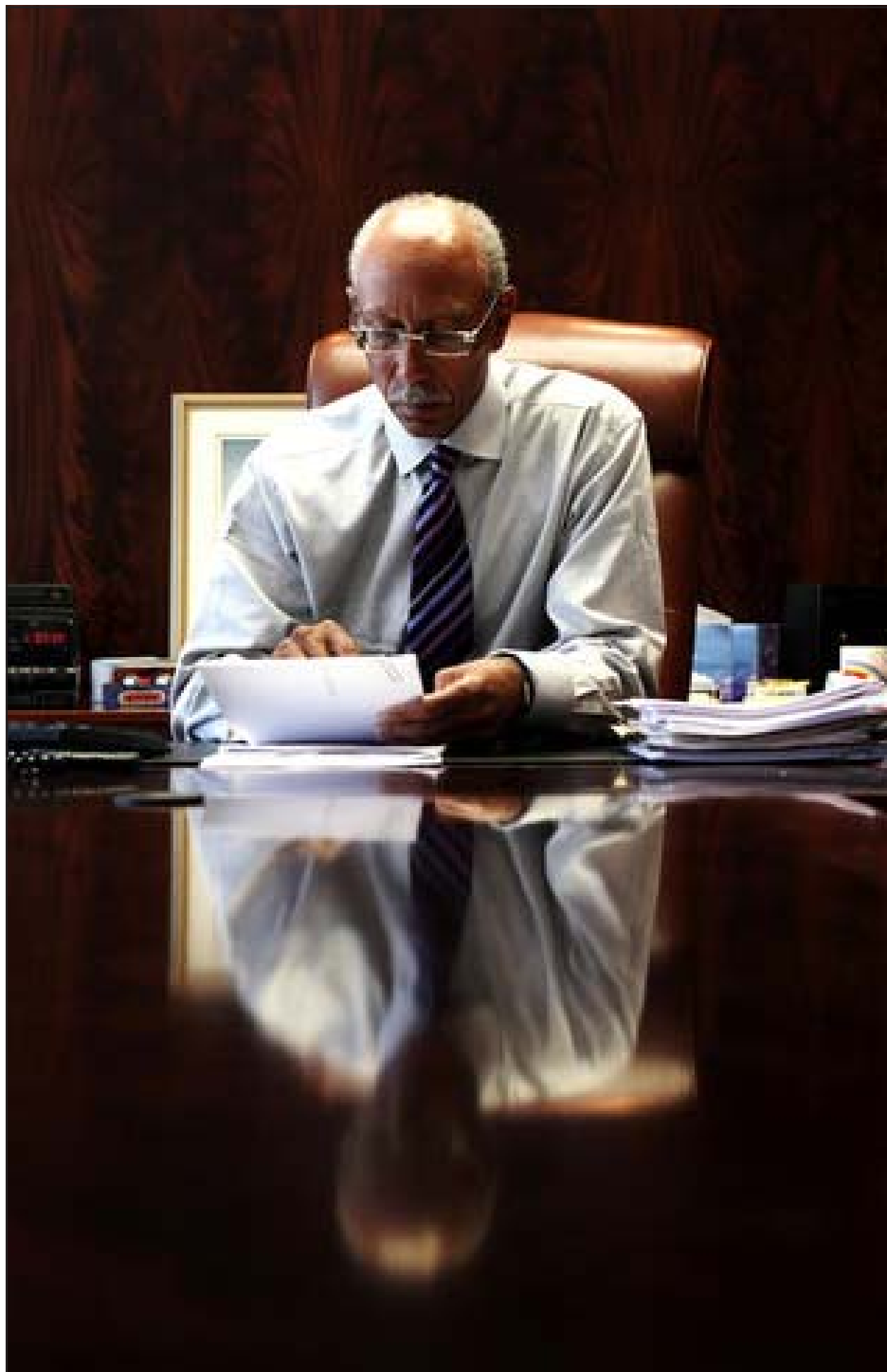
Joyce Henderson

A rights organization official, a retired school district administrator and a county commissioner will be among the participants in a panel discussion (entitled "Save Affirmative Action in Oklahoma!") planned for next week.

Five panelists will discuss the topic from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, at Langston University at Oklahoma City, 4205 Lincoln Blvd.

The event is sponsored by the Georgia Brown Metro Federated Demo-

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The Grim Cutter

Mayor Dave Bing of Detroit, facing fiscal problems, may have to cut pensions for some current police officers as he deals with budgetary restraints.

May 14

Brazile Set to Address Graduates at Langston

By BETTYE E. PEARSON
Special to the Chronicle

LANGSTON—Donna Brazile, who ran the presidential campaign of Vice President Al Gore, having worked in the campaigns of several other Democratic presidential aspirants, will be the commencement speaker at Langston University.

The commencement ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, at the W. E. Anderson Football Stadium at Langston.

Miss Brazile worked in the presidential campaigns of Jimmy Carter in 1976 and 1980, and worked in the campaign of Jesse Jackson in 1984.

That same year, she went on to work in the bid for the nation's highest political office made by Vice President Walter Mondale.

After working in the presidential campaign of U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt (Dem., Mo.) in the 1988 Democratic primary, Miss Brazile served as deputy field director of Gov. Michael Dukakis' general election campaign.

In the 1990's, Miss Brazile



Donna Brazile

served as chief of staff and press secretary to Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (Dem., D.C.).

She became an advisor for Gov. Bill Clinton's campaign for the presidency in 1992 and for his reelection bid in 1996.

Three years after that, Miss Brazile was appointed deputy campaign manager for Vice Presi-

dent Gore's 2000 bid for the presidency, and was soon promoted to become campaign manager.

She was appointed chairman of the Voting Rights Institute of the Democratic National Committee after the post-election fight over votes in the 2000 presidential election.

As a delegate for the Democratic Convention that eventually nominated U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (Dem., Ill.) as the party's standard-bearer in the 2008 presidential campaign, Miss Brazile consistently refrained from declaring her preferred candidate.

"Look," she famously said in an interview with political satirist Stephen Colbert, "I'm a woman, so I like Hillary. I'm Black; I like Obama. But I'm also grumpy, so I like John McCain."

Until a few days ago, Miss Brazile has been serving as the acting chairman of the Democratic National Committee, having assumed that office on April 5.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Dem., Fla.) was recently named chairman.

Attorney Convicted Of Perjury

Jury Recommends He Be Sentenced To Six Years Behind Bars Plus \$1,000 Fine

Clayborne Could Be Disbarred

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

An Oklahoma City criminal lawyer was found guilty last week of perjury by subornation and preparing a false exhibit, both felony offenses.

Mark Anthony Clayborne, 48, because he has now been convicted of the felony offenses, could face disbarment.

The jury recommended Mr. Clayborne be sentenced to six years in prison (four years on one of the convictions and two on the other) and a \$1,000 fine.

Formal sentencing has been set for June.

The criminal defense attorney was charged with intentionally letting a witness lie during a 2008 drug trafficking trial.

Mr. Clayborne represented Jose Cruz Herrera at a Feb. 2008 trial.

Mr. Herrera was convicted at the trial for drug trafficking, conspiracy and cocaine possession, and is serving 102 years in prison.

Prosecutors alleged that Mr. Clayborne had Claudia Aguilar Ramirez, 26, lie in a failed effort to give Mr. Herrera (a methamphetamine dealer) an alibi for Feb. 12, 2007, drug deal.

The witness testified at the trial that she was with Mr. Herrera in Mexico on that day and had videotaped him there.



Mark A. Clayborne

She testified she saw Mr. Herrera in Rio Grande, Mexico, the day of the drug deal and videotaped him there.

A former assistant to the criminal defense lawyer told investigators that Mr. Clayborne was well aware that the witness did not want to testify, but "continued to encourage her to do so, irregardless (sp)," according to a police report.

Prosecutors said Mr. Clayborne had the witness testify even though she told him, "straight to his face" beforehand that she did not shoot the video and was afraid she would get into trouble if she testified that she had done so.

Actually, the videotape was shot in 2005, but it had been altered to reflect a date in 2007, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors alleged the attorney put into evidence a short-

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Executive Named Chairman-Elect Of Broadcasters Group

He, Taylor, Milbourn to Serve One-Year Terms

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

Kevin S. Perry, vice president of advertising and operations of Perry Publishing & Broadcasting, has been named chairman-elect of the board of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

Perry Publishing & Broadcasting is owner of the *Black Chronicle*, and owns 11 AM and FM radio stations in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton, Duncan and Anadarko, as well as a broadcast tower.

The firm also owns five AM and FM stations in Augusta, Ga.

An election of new officers and members of the board of directors of the association was held earlier this month at the group's

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Kevin S. Perry

