



Soldier

A Sudan People's Liberation Army soldier stands in line during Independence Day ceremonies in Juba (the new nation's capital) on July 5. (Photo/Goran Tomasevic/Reuters)

Councilman: 'Somebody's Lying'

A Waste-Burn Company Says Turner Out-of-Touch

By ROBERT E. BARNES
Special to the Chronicle

TULSA—A representative of a waste-burn company said criticisms of a project by a city councilman are based on inaccurate information and are out-of-touch and belated.

City Councilor Roscoe Turner (Dem., District III) said Monday he was unaware until recently of Lafarge Cement's application to burn hazardous waste at its local plant, and called on the Oklahoma Department of Environment Quality to allow more time for public comment regarding the project.

The city councilman also called for the department to conduct a study on the potential health and environmental effects of emissions from the project.

"Air quality is important to the citizens of Tulsa, especially to me because I can't breathe good," said Councilor Turner.

The councilman is 79 and an asthmatic.

"I can barely go outdoors right now," he said during his news conference. "If you put more particulates in the air, I may as well stay home."

Two years ago, Lafarge Cement's fuel quality project received permits to start burning waste in two giant kilns.

The company began seeking the permits in June 2009.

Erin Hatfield, spokesman for the state environmental quality department, said two air-quality permits have been approved by the state environmental quality department, and the two hazardous waste permits are pending.

The plant is near 145th East Avenue and Apache Street.

A portion of the plant is within the city, in Councilor Turner's district, while the rest—where the burning of waste would take place—is in unincorporated Rogers County.

Jim Bachmann, plant manager, said Lafarge Cement exceeded the level of notification required by law, adding that notices were published in the *Tulsa*



City Councilor Roscoe Turner listens during a debate during an earlier City Council meeting.



City Councilor Roscoe Turner is in a dispute with a company conducting a waste-burn project.

World and that numerous public meetings were held.

Councilor Turner said Lafarge Cement representatives haven't talked to him or to the City Council about the plan.

But Mr. Bachmann said documentation dating to Sept. 2010 shows that information was shared with the councilman, and said Councilor Turner also has been asked repeatedly to visit the plant.

"What he's saying is not making sense," Mr. Bachmann said.

"That hasn't happened," he said when asked about Mr. Bachmann's statements. "I don't want to say this, but someone's

lying. "Nobody's been talking to me."

Mr. Bachmann said the councilman at the news conference and in a letter to the state Department of Environmental Quality, also misinterpreted the proposed emissions.

For example, he said, Councilor Turner claims that the carbon monoxide output would increase 40 times, going from 6.7 tons per year to 266.

But Mr. Bachmann said the councilman hasn't read the chart correctly and that carbon monoxide levels will increase only by 6.7 tons.

Similarly, the Lafarge Cement manager said, Councilor Turner is saying that the nitrogen oxide level is going from 19.2 tons per year to 1,677 tons per year, when the increase is only 19.2 tons.

"It's flabbergasting to me," Mr. Bachmann said. "He's completely misinterpreting the permit application."

"It's almost embarrassing for him."

Through the project, the company aims to reduce its fuel costs while offering a sensible way

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LeSure Is Hit With Five Added Counts

Judge Said To Conspire To Defraud

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

The beleaguered county judge already facing a large array of fraud and perjury criminal charges was hit with five additional allegations of wrongdoing in an adoption fraud case.

On Tuesday, prosecutors filed new felony charges against Oklahoma County District Judge Tammy Bass LeSure, 43.

"This is a political witch hunt," Richard Anderson, Judge LeSure's attorney, said after the charges were filed.

In January, the judge was charged with 30 counts of making a fraudulent claim against the state and two counts of perjury.

At the time, the judge's husband, Karlos LeSure, 47, was also hit with felony charges related to the same case.

Two counts of conspiracy, two counts of obtaining assistance by false representation and a count of falsifying records were added to the charges against the judge in Tuesday's filing.

"Judge Tammy Bass LeSure has committed absolutely no crime," her attorney said, and said state child welfare workers are working with prosecutors "to change the truth" in the case.

"It will be clear what has occurred when we take the case to trial," Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater retorted.

Since the charges were filed earlier this year, the judge's attorney has asked the Oklahoma



Oklahoma County District Judge Tammy Bass LeSure was hit with five additional felony charges earlier this week in an adoption fraud case.

Court of Criminal Appeals to remove the prosecutor from the case.

Consequently, her preliminary hearing date has been placed on hold.

Judge LeSure and her husband were initially charged after they became foster parents of twins in 2008.

Then, the LeSures adopted the twin boy and girl last year.

Prosecutors charged the judge secretly gave away the twins to her bailiff's sister in 2008 and lied on adoption papers to conceal the action.

They further alleged Judge

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'Partisan Three-Ring Circus'

President Calls For Pressure on GOP

By CALVIN S. SCRIBNER
Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—Calling for public pressure on what he called a "partisan three-ring circus" in the nation's capital, President Barack Obama criticized a newly minted Republican plan to avert a government default Monday night and said congressional leaders must produce a compromise that can reach his desk before Aug. 2.

"The American people may have voted for divided government, but they didn't vote for dysfunctional government," the president said in a hastily arranged prime-time speech.

He appealed to the public to contact lawmakers and demand "a balanced approach" to reducing federal deficits.

The president spoke a few hours after first Republicans, then Democrats, drafted rival fallback legislation Monday to avert a potentially devastating government default in little more than a week.



President Barack Obama addressed the nation earlier this week and called for public pressure on the Republicans in the Congress on support legislation to raise the nation's debt ceiling by Aug. 2.

President Obama said the approach unveiled earlier in the day by House Speaker John Boehner (Rep., Ohio) would raise the nation's debt limit only long enough to push off the threat of default for six months.

"In other words, it doesn't solve the problem," he said.

The president had scarcely com-

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