

**Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the
Mississippi Coat-of-Arms
November 20, 2000, 1:30 p.m.
Room 113, New Capitol Building**

Members present: Representative Ed Blackmon
Senator Terry Burton
Senator Mike Chaney
Senator Hillman Frazier
Larry Fry
Representative Steve Holland
Fran Ivy
Representative Wanda Jennings
Don Kilgore
Vanessa Long
Lisa Milner
Jean Moore
Jack Reed
Johnny Tatum
Dolphus Weary
William Winter

Members absent: J.L. Holloway

Others present: Kelly Riley, Office of the Governor

Chairman William Winter called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. He welcomed the citizens attending the meeting.

Upon motion of Senator Burton, seconded by Jean Moore, the Advisory Commission approved the minutes of its October 18th meeting.

Winter called on the chairman of each committee to report on the activities of his/her committee since the October 18th meeting.

Dolphus Weary reported that the Committee on History and Heritage had a representative attend each of the five public hearings. The Committee is finalizing its

full report to the Commission. Members of the Committee suggested that the meeting agenda include an open discussion of Commissioners' position on the flag issue.

Don Kilgore of the Committee on Economic Impact showed a videotape of Hunter Howard's question and answer session with the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Economic Council. Mr. Howard is the Executive Director of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

Fran Ivy reported that the Committee on Design has received 1,180 designs from students in approximately 50 schools in response to the Commission's initiative to solicit input from high school students. The Committee on Design will be finalizing its recommendation to the Commission and mailing that information to the Commission.

Chairman Winter then thanked the Commissioners and the public for participating in the five public hearings. The hearings afforded citizens the opportunity to present their opinions and the hearings confirmed that the present flag is divisive and controversial. The Commission received thoughtful comments and presentations from both sides of this issue.

The Commissioners then discussed their positions after participating in the public hearings. Commissioners Blackmon, Chaney, Frazier, Fry, Ivy, Long, Milner, Moore, Reed, Tatum and Weary stated that they thought a new flag design would be in the best interest of the state. Commissioners Blackmon, Chaney, Ivy, Long, Milner, Moore, Reed, Tatum and Burton indicated they supported a referendum on the issue. Commissioner Jennings stated that she could not vote for a new design. Commissioner Holland stated that the Commission's recommended design should be put on the ballot with the traditional state flag design for a straight up and down vote by the citizens of the state.

Chairman Winter thanked Commissioners for their open discussion. He stated that although the decision rests with the Legislature, he hopes the Commission can submit a report that reflects what the Commission has seen and heard and that represents the majority of the Commission.

The Commission decided to proceed with a Drafting Committee to formulate a draft report to be distributed to the entire Commission for review and comments. The Drafting Committee will be comprised of Chairman Winter, the Committee Chairs

(Kilgore, Weary and Ivy) and four legislative representatives (Chaney, Frazier, Holland and Blackmon) .

The Commission set its next monthly meeting for Tuesday, December 5th, in Room 216 of the capitol to vote on the recommended design and the draft report.

The Commission adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.

The above minutes were adopted by the Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat-of-Arm at its December 12, 2000, meeting.