

**Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the
Mississippi Coat-of-Arms
December 12, 2000, 1:30 p.m.
Room 204, New Capitol Building**

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

Members absent: J.L. Holloway
 Fran Ivy
 Jean Moore
 Johnny Tatum

Others present: Kelly Riley, Office of the Governor

Chairman William Winter called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He welcomed the citizens attending the meeting.

Upon motion of Senator Frazier, seconded by Senator Burton, the Advisory Commission approved the minutes of its November 20th meeting.

Winter called on Vanessa Long to give the report of the Committee on Design as Chairman Fran Ivy was absent. Chairman Winter stressed that the Design Committee was simply making a recommendation and there was nothing automatic with the recommendation. Vanessa Long reported that the Committee on Design was suggesting the design attached to the back of the Commission's draft report. Long explained that

the Committee on Design had reviewed hundreds of designs submitted by students and citizens. Long called on Clay Moss, a vexillologist who provided technical assistance to the Committee on Design, to describe the technical framework involved in designing a flag. Moss, explaining that a well-designed flag should be simple, distinctive and easily recognizable from a distance, discussed the components of the design being submitted by the Committee.

Representative Blackmon, seconded by Vanessa Long, moved to adopt the recommendation of the Design Committee. Senator Burton made a substitute motion to adopt the report of the Design Committee. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of adopting the report of the Design Committee.

Chairman Winter then summarized the format of the draft report of the Commission to the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House. Winter read the recommendations as follows:

Based on months of discussion and deliberation, the Commission recommends that the Legislature:

1. Enact legislation approving and adopting the design of the Coat of Arms as adopted in 1894.
2. Provide for a referendum within ninety days of the conclusion of the 2001 Legislative Session on the question of a state flag which would have the following choices:
 - (a) To adopt the state flag design presented by the Commission as the official state flag and to designate the 1894 flag as an official historic flag to be honored, protected and flown wherever historic flags are flown.

OR

- (b) To adopt the 1894 flag as the official state flag.
3. Enact legislation that no Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, War Between the States, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Native American

or African-American History monument or memorial erected on public property of the State or any of its political subdivisions may be relocated, removed, disturbed or altered. Further, that no street, bridge, structure, park, preserve reserve or other public area of the State or any of its political subdivisions dedicated in memory of or named for any historic figure or historic event may be renamed or rededicated. Further, no person may prevent the public body responsible for the monument or memorial from taking proper measure and exercising proper means for the protection, preservation and care of these monuments, memorials or nameplates.

Upon motion of Dolphus Weary, seconded by Senator Chaney, the Advisory Commission moved to adopt the draft report with the addition of the following language to Recommendation 3: “The provisions of this section may only be amended or repealed upon passage of an act which has received a two-thirds (2/3) vote on final passage in each house of the Legislature.”

The Commissioners then discussed their positions on the draft report and its recommendations. Commissioners Blackmon, Weary, Chaney, Burton, Milner, Reed, Long, Kilgore and Holland stated that they supported a referendum on the issue. Senator Frazier said that he could not support a referendum.

Chairman Winter thanked Commissioners for their contributions and sacrifices they made in serving on the Commission. He stated that he thought the Commission has performed a noble, public duty and has recommended action to move our state forward so as to unite its citizens.

Having a motion by Weary, seconded by Chaney, Chairman Winter entertained a vote to adopt the draft report with amended Recommendation 3. All present, except Senator Frazier, voted in favor of the motion.

Stating that the Commission had fulfilled the duties and responsibilities charged it in the Executive Order and that the Commission had no other business before it, Chairman Winter adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m.