

Rodney King jury includes two blacks, Hispanic



LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury that includes two blacks and a Hispanic was chosen Monday to judge four white policemen in the federal Rodney King beating trial.

Lawyers for both sides agreed on the jury's makeup after a day of wrangling that included an unsuccessful bid by defense attorneys to dismiss a black man from the panel.

U.S. District Judge John G. Davies ordered the jurors sworn in, then released them to return home and collect their belongings before being sequestered at a hotel. The trial is expected to take as long as eight weeks.

Davies set opening statements for Wednesday and said selection of alternate jurors would continue Tuesday.

The jury that will try the four officers for allegedly violating King's civil rights includes eight men and four women. Six of the men and three of the women are white.

The jury that acquitted the officers on most charges in an earlier state trial included no blacks, one Asian and one Hispanic.

That decision set off three days of rioting in the Los Angeles area, killing 54 people and causing more than \$1 billion in damage.

"I'm pleased with the jury," defense attorney Ira Salzman said outside court. "I think they're fair considering

public opinion and the way it stands."

The last man seated, a young Hispanic, said he knew little about the case and had never seen the famous videotape of King, who is black, being beaten by white police officers after a traffic stop. All of the other jurors said they had seen the videotape.

Among those seated were a welder, a woman who teaches insurance agents how to sell, a woman postal worker, a man who sells real estate and two men who appeared to be retail clerks. Written jury questionnaires describing the jurors' occupations were sealed by the judge, who promised the panel anonymity.

On trial are Los Angeles Police Sgt. Stacey Koon, Officers Theodore Briseno and Laurence Powell and former officer Timothy Wind. They are charged with violating King's civil rights.

Both sides accepted the jury after a last-minute legal dispute over its racial composition.

The defense lost its challenge of a black man from the city's Watts area after government prosecutors argued it was based on nothing but race and the judge agreed.

But an unusual defense bid to block a government challenge of a white former National Guardsman on similar grounds of racial bias was rejected by the judge.

Davies ruled there was "a race-neutral explanation" for the dismissal of the white man, who helped police the Watts area during the race riots of 1965. He also indi-

cated the man would tend to believe police witnesses more than civilians.

Defense attorneys claimed their effort to dismiss the black prospective juror was "color blind" and based on inconsistencies in the man's answers.

"If that gentleman was white and lived in Beverly Hills, I would exercise the challenge in the same way," Salzman said.

But the judge upheld the government's claim that there was no reason other than race for excusing the juror. He based his decision on U.S. Supreme cases that have held that lawyers cannot use peremptory challenges to exclude jurors by race.

When the controversy over the black juror arose, one black woman had already been selected for the panel.

"The defense now feels they have their token black juror," complained Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Clymer.

The man, in his 60s, said he has lived in the predominantly black South Central Los Angeles community of Watts for 25 years. He said his home wasn't damaged during last year's rioting.

Asked his reaction to last year's verdicts, he said he was "a little angry. But I didn't know the exact details."

He wasn't worried about his neighbors' reactions to the federal case, he said, because "they don't know I'm on this jury." Numbers rather than names are being used to keep jurors unidentified.

Georgia leaders ask for old flag

ATLANTA (AP) — Sons of civil rights movement leaders joined in a march to the state Capitol today to support the governor's plan to remove a reminder of the Civil War from Georgia's flag.

Gov. Zell Miller wants the flag, revised in 1956 to include the Confederate battle symbol, returned to its previous design, a red, white and blue banner emblazoned with the state seal. Several efforts to change the flag have failed in the Legislature.

Advocates for change argue that the flag is anathema to blacks and other minorities, while opponents say the flag is symbolic of Southern heritage.

Local clergy, civil rights leaders and elected officials, including Fulton County Commissioner Martin King III, the son of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., joined the march by about 75 people.

Fulton County Commissioner Ralph David Abernathy III, son of civil rights leader Ralph David Abernathy Jr., also joined the group at the

Capitol.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, addressed the group at the Capitol.

The current flag "represents an era that is in the past. We must leave it in the past," Lowery said. "We must take down this flag and raise the flag of justice, equality and brotherhood and sisterhood."

There were no counter-demonstrations.

It was the second march in Atlanta against the state flag in two days. About 100 marchers from three historic Atlanta churches prayed and sang on the Capitol steps Sunday.

Candace Johnson, 12, held a pre-1956 flag during Sunday's march organized by the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Central Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Methodist Church.

"I am supporting this flag 'cause the old one wasn't a good flag," she said. "During the [Civil] War we were split, but now that we are back together, this is the flag we should have."

Gore asks for support on economic design

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — After an hour of familiar questions and familiar answers, Vice President Al Gore decided to raise his voice — literally — in support of the administration's new economic plan.

"It gives us the change we need as a nation to put the past behind us, to break out of the gridlock," Gore said forcefully — and loudly — Monday night at the close of a Missouri town meeting. "It will happen only when you decide, personally, to be a part of the change that you want to see in America."

Gore flew to Kansas City for the televised town meeting after a morning appearance with Clinton in California, as the president and vice president continued their cross-country, tag-team sales pitch for the economic program unveiled last week.

The vice president broke no new ground in fielding questions about Clinton's plans for the economy, health care reform, higher taxes and job retraining programs, but was enthusiastically received by an audience he implored to pressure their congressman and senators to support the Clinton plan.

"We're at a crossroads in the history of America," Gore said. "We need you to send a message loudly and clearly that you the American people are ready for change even when it requires tough choices."

Gore acknowledged all Americans would pay more in energy taxes in the Clinton plan.

Man who beat and raped woman committed indefinitely

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Scott Nils Nystrom ran down Linda Henry with his car, then brutally beat her and raped her. When he was up for parole, he wrote her a bizarre letter assuring her he wouldn't "seek revenge."

He served his sentence, but he's not going free. Nystrom is committed to the Minnesota Security Hospital indefinitely as a "psychopathic personality" under a 1939 state law that's being challenged before the state Supreme Court.

Henry says Nystrom's commitment allows her to live with less fear and with relief that he won't rape again.

"There has got to be a way to keep

women safe," said Henry, a freelance writer.

Nystrom attacked Henry in White Bear Lake in 1979, when both were 17. She has no memory of the assault because of head injuries; she recalls only waking up in a hospital.

While Nystrom was free on bail for that attack, he raped a woman in Duluth. He was sentenced in the two cases to a total of 20 years in prison, and he was up for parole when efforts to commit him began. He was committed in August 1992.

Nystrom fought against his commitment, contending that he'd changed. Henry fought for it, chilled by a letter that

In his whole letter, he never said he was sorry. It was obvious his thinking was still a little bit screwed up.'

Linda Henry, beating and rape victim

began. "First of all, let me reassure you that I will never seek revenge on you."

"In his whole letter, he never said he was sorry," Henry said. "It was obvious

his thinking was still a little bit screwed up."

Henry recalls sitting in the courtroom, listening to a psychiatrist testify that Nystrom would pose a "reasonable risk" if released.

"I'm sitting there in the back with my mother, and I wanted to stand up and scream. 'It's a reasonable risk for whom? For your wife? For your mother? For your daughter?'" said Henry.

"There are all these white men in suits pontificating on the 'interesting facets of the situation,'" she said, "with no clue about the fear that we live with whether it's happened to us or not."

Wouldn't A Sub Taste Great About Now?
Don't Forget - SUBSHOP Delivers!

\$1.00
OFF
Foot long Sub
50¢
OFF
Half Sub



• FREE DELIVERY (Must mention coupon)
SUBSHOP • 1225 ALDER
345-2434
Not valid with any other discounts or coupons. Expires 3/19/93



CUSTOM PRINTED
T-SHIRTS
LOWEST RATES!
ECHO
SHIRTS
896-0101

BACK TO SCHOOL
SAVINGS
10% OFF
with this coupon

ROCK SOFT 686-5069
FUTON 1122 Alder
Mon-Fri 11-6:30
Sat & Sun 12-4