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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, June 23, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC lawmakers agree to debate removing Confederate flag
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tkUy8K5e

Seanna Adcox, Jeffrey Collins, Jonathan Drew

South Carolina lawmakers took their first step toward removing the Confederate battle flag from their Statehouse grounds Tuesday as protesters outside demanded the flag come down in response to the hate-crime killings of nine people inside their historic black church. South Carolina House Speaker Jay Lucas described the killings a "terrorizing act of violence shook the very core of every South Carolinian."

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's unexpected call for the flag to come down also reverberated around the South Tuesday, as a growing number of other politicians announced their own against the rebel standard.

Note: "The hate-filled murderer who massacred our brothers and sisters in Charleston has a sick and twisted view of the flag. In no way does he reflect the people in our state who respect, and in many ways, revere it," Haley said Monday. But she said that for many others, it is a "deeply offensive symbol of a brutally oppressive past," and argued that removing it from such a public space will help South Carolina come together and heal.

Post and Courier: South Carolina lawmakers agree to discuss removing Confederate flag
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150623/PC1603/150629759>

Cynthia Roldan

The South Carolina Legislature agreed Tuesday to consider taking down the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds where it has flown as part of a Civil War memorial for the past 15 years. The House voted nearly unanimously — 103-10 — while the Senate approved broadening the subjects that can be taken up during the current special session on a voice vote.

Note: Leaders in other states swiftly followed Haley's lead — Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn called for removing the Confederate emblem from the state flag, and, in Tennessee, Democrats and Republicans said a bust of Confederate general and first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan Nathan Bedford Forrest should be removed from the Senate.

Note: Haley not only called for flag's removal, but pledged to call legislators back to Columbia if they don't deal with it in the next few weeks. "The hate-filled murderer who massacred our brothers and sisters in Charleston has a sick and twisted view of the flag. In no way does he reflect the people in our state who respect, and in many ways, revere it," the governor said.

New York Times: Confederate Flag Protests Spread to Other States

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/24/us/south-carolina-nikki-haley-confederate-flag.html>

Richard Fausset, Frances Robles

South Carolina lawmakers took steps on Tuesday to consider the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the Capitol as campaigns against Confederate symbols spread in other states.

Prompted by the Charleston church massacre and the soul-searching it has set off, both the state House and the Senate voted Tuesday afternoon to consider Gov. Nikki R. Haley's call to remove the flag from its position next to the State House.

Note: Speaking at a news conference on Monday, surrounded by Democrats and Republicans, Ms. Haley, a Republican, said, "We are not going to allow this symbol to divide us any longer." The shootings, she said, "call upon us to look at this in a different way."

Associated Press: NASCAR backs moves on Confederate flag

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XrBNgu7D

NASCAR issued a statement Tuesday backing South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's call to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in the wake of the Charleston church massacre.

Note: The motorsports series issued its statement on the same day South Carolina lawmakers agreed to discuss removing the flag and one day after Haley said "the time has come" to take it down.

Associated Press: Latest on church shooting: Lieutenant governor talks flag

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=W5R23i4w

South Carolina's second-highest ranking elected official is urging state lawmakers to open debate about the Confederate flag. Republican Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said on his official Facebook page Tuesday that "the time has come to consider an appropriate location for the Confederate flag."

Note: McMaster's comments come a day after his fellow Republican, Gov. Nikki Haley, called on legislators to vote to remove the flag from the Statehouse grounds in Columbia.

Associated Press: Big retailers feel pressure on Confederate flag merchandise

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article25338403.html#storylink=cpy>

Tom Murphy

Even as national retailers pull Confederate flags from shelves and websites after the shooting deaths of nine black church members in South Carolina, manufacturers that produce the divisive symbol say that sales are now surging.

Note: The red-white-and-blue Confederate battle flag represents racism to many, and southern heritage to others. The debate over its place exploded after the church shootings. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that the flag should be removed from the Statehouse grounds.

USA Today: Amazon, eBay join other retailers to pull Confederate flag

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/06/23/confederate-flag-walmart-roof-emanuel/29153957/>

Gregg Zoroya, Hadley Malcolm

Momentum to eradicate public displays of the Confederate flag continued to build Tuesday as more retailers and online marketplaces, including Amazon and eBay, joined Walmart to remove rebel-flagged items from their shelves and websites.

Note: On Tuesday, protesters rallied at South Carolina's statehouse to ask legislators to make good on South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's vow to remove the Confederate battle flag from its place of honor on the Statehouse grounds, where it has stood since legislators removed it in 2000 from atop the Capitol dome.

Island Packet: Most Beaufort County lawmakers mum on Confederate flag removal effort

http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/22/3806452_beaufort-legislators-weigh-in.html?rh=1

Rebecca Lurye

State representatives Jeff Bradley, Bill Bowers, Shannon Erickson and Bill Herbkersman have not commented on calls to remove the flag -- a debate sparked by the deadly Charleston church shooting last week -- despite repeated calls and emails by the Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette.

Note: State Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, and Rep. Kenneth Hodges, D-Green Pond, called for the removal of the flag Monday ahead of a press conference by Gov. Nikki Haley, in which she said it was time for the symbol to leave the statehouse grounds.

LA Times: Wal-Mart, EBay pulling Confederate flag products

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-retailers-confederate-flag-20150623-story.html>

Samantha Masunaga, Michael Muskal

Retail giants Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Sears Holding Corp. said they would stop selling Confederate flags and flag merchandise following South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's call to remove the flag from the state Capitol grounds. Wal-Mart said Monday it would remove all merchandise promoting the Confederate flag from its stores and website.

Note: "What I can tell you is over the last three and a half years, I spent a lot of my days on the phones with CEOs and recruiting jobs to this state," Haley said. "I can honestly say I have not had one conversation with a single CEO about the Confederate flag."

Washington Post: The GOP's remarkably rapid political shift on the Confederate flag

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2015/06/23/the-gops-stunningly-rapid-political-shift-on-the-confederate-flag/>

Janell Ross

On Monday, Gov. Nikki Haley (R) told America she would support an effort to remove the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds in South Carolina. Using a slightly different but similar set of words, so did Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican from South Carolina vying for the White House, and the state's other GOP

senator, Tim Scott.

Note: But it is also possible that what we witnessed Monday was a great flight to a new position now that it constitutes relatively safe political ground. Haley's decision to go there — as the governor of the last state to fly the Confederate flag above its capitol dome — freed up others to say, "Me too!"

Associated Press: EBay bans sales of Confederate flag on its site

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4iobFAsM

Joseph Pisani

Calling it a "contemporary symbol of divisiveness and racism," eBay said Tuesday that it will ban the sale of Confederate flags and similarly themed merchandise. The e-commerce company is the latest to prohibit the sale of Confederate merchandise following Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Sears Holdings Corp.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said this week that the Confederate flag should be removed from the Statehouse grounds

Associated Press: A look at calls to remove Confederate symbols across South

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iE51IUL7

In the wake of a massacre at a black church in Charleston, South Carolina, a bipartisan mix of officials across the country is calling for the removal of Confederate flags and other symbols of the Confederacy. Here's a look at what's happening and what's being proposed:

South Carolina: Lawmakers took the initial steps Tuesday toward removing the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds, a day after Republican Gov. Nikki Haley reversed course and called for the divisive symbol to come down.

Associated Press: Clinton says Confederate flag has no place in US

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EEpipNyH

Ken Thomas

Hillary Rodham Clinton says the Confederate flag "shouldn't fly anywhere." The Democratic presidential contender calls the deadly shootings of nine black church members in South Carolina "an act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God."

Note: She's welcomed news that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and legislators are working to remove the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the South Carolina Statehouse.

Fox Sports: NASCAR, ISC support governor's call for removal of Confederate flag

<http://www.foxsports.com/nascar/story/confederate-flag-south-carolina-gov-nikki-haley-charleston-shootings-dylann-roof-062315>

Jared Turner

NASCAR issued a statement Tuesday supporting South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's call for the Confederate flag to be removed from statehouse grounds in the wake of last Wednesday's tragic shootings in which nine people were killed at a church in Charleston.

S.C. Confederate Flag News:

The State: State House rally speakers on flag: 'Take it down now'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article25187098.html>

Tim Flach

A rally to take down the flag immediately attracted several hundred people Tuesday to the State House. "Four words – take it down now," Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin told the crowd. "No bullet can stop this movement, no gunshot can tear it apart."

Post and Courier: Poll: Shealy, Limehouse among those signalling support for taking down Confederate flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150623/PC16/150629761>

Glenn Smith

Republican Sen. Katrina Shealy of Lexington said she has come out in favor of removing the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds after praying on the matter. She joins representatives Chip Limehouse of Charleston and Robert Ridgeway of Manning in leaving the undecided camp and pledging their support for taking the flag down.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill's King will push for moving Confederate flag, adopting hate crime law
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article25172638.html#storylink=cpy>

Bristow Marchant

State Rep. John King of Rock Hill said he will ask his fellow legislators to begin discussing the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds before they adjourn for the summer. King also plans to re-introduce a bill that would create South Carolina's first hate crime law.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: Haley is right – move the flag

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article25208545.html>

Editorial

Amid one of the darkest moments in South Carolina's recent past, Gov. Nikki Haley and dozens of other state leaders have given us hope. Democrats joined Republicans – and whites stood beside blacks – on Monday to call for removing the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds. The unusual display of unity – during a news conference inside the Statehouse – brings the state closer than it has ever been to forever removing this divisive symbol from the people's capitol.

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