Dr. Hill and Ed Sebesta on Talk Radio in New York City

I have gotten the show transcribed and it follows. I will be providing some commentary to the transcript, but have it in dark red.

NewsTalk 1050, WEVD New York.

The Alan Colme Show, 19 August 1999 - Transcript

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| Colme | I want to welcome Dr. Michael Hill. Dr. Hill is the President of the [League of the South.](http://www.dixienet.org) A professor at Stillman College, he happens to be white, Stillman College is a major black institution in Alabama. Ed Sebesta, a researcher who's been researching neo-Confederates since 1992 and stumbled across the neo-Confederates while trying to get the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue in Texas. Welcome to you both. Dr. Hill, first of all what kind of a doctor are you, sir? |
| Hill | I'm a professor of history, and I would correct you, I am a former professor at Stillman College. I resigned my position there in May to run the League of the South full time. |
| Colme | OK. Thank you for the correction, sir. Tell me about the League of the South and what does it stand for? |
| Hill | Yes, the League of the South is a Southern nationalist organization. It believes in preserving Southern heritage and culture, believes in states' rights, believes in Southern independence. |
| Colme | When you say Southern independence, do you want to secede from the Union? |
| Hill | Well, we don't necessarily look at secession as the ultimate goal here, we simply want to be independent and that means if we can have the old constitution where the Tenth Amendment still meant something, that we would be independent states... |
| Colme | What do you mean the Tenth Amendment meant something? Explain that to me. |
| Hill | Well basically the Tenth Amendment since 1865, and certainly since the 1930s, has been a dead letter. There's no such thing as state sovereignty any more. The federal government basically has turned the states into administrative provinces... |
| Colme | What do you want to be able to do that the federal government won't let you do? |
| Hill | Well, basically we want to be able to govern our own affairs and be free men to make our own mistakes and make our own successes. |
| Colme | Can you be specific. What does the federal government, for example, do that you don't want it to do? |
| Hill | Well basically it comes into the states and it tells the states such absurd things as how much water that you can have in your toilet, how fast you must drive on your own roads. |
| Colme | What's the biggest thing you object to? |
| Hill | Basically the entire gamut of federal regulation and oppressive taxation. All across the board, Alan, I mean there are just a lot of things and you could spend hours discussing what these things were. |
| Hill here is being less than straightforward here. The following are some quotes from the First Annual Convention in 1994 when they organized the League of the South, then called the Southern League.  **Hill:**  "We dare defend our way of life against the corrosive agents of modernity, the specter of rampant egalitarianism. John Randolph of Roanoke said, I love liberty, I hate equality. We agree (Applause.) Therein lies the reason the present regimes anti-Southern assault."  "*Southerners refuse to bow before the alter of social equality*."  "*If the South's traditional civilization is sufficiently weakened or destroyed, we will be unable to resist politically or otherwise those who would make the nation in the horrific image of Lincoln, Wilson, Roosevelt, ..*."  **Fleming (Founding Director of the League of the South):**  "*The national government has been using armed force to suppress the south ever since the 1950s. They have beaten us black and blue with their civil rights legislation that has nothing to do with the rights of black Americans and every thing to do with the imposing of the tyranny of Federal judges*." [This is said in great anger.] | |
| Colme | Well, I'm trying to get to the crux of what you stand for. Ed, you've researched a lot of this and these neo-Confederates, tell me... can you interpret for me what Dr. Hill is saying? |
| Sebesta | Well, let me just quote him. This is Fourth Annual Convention, 1997 on video, and some of his concerns are, this is a quote, '*for our progeny to enjoy the benefits of liberty and self-government you must make sure that they, and not descendants of immigrants from Third World cultures, dominate the South.*' And here's something on immigration, again, '*To most of us here today, I believe a border would be best defined as something a foreigner would be shot for crossing without permission.*' And he doesn't like Unitarians a lot, there's a lecture called "Egalitarian democracy, the universal wolf,' and I think the most memorable statement is, '*Only those who know what should be done should be allowed to vote*.' I must admit we all feel that way..., |
| Colme | Is this fairly accurate representation of your points of view, Dr. Hill? |
| Hill | Oh yes and I wondered who was buying all those tapes out there, apparently Mr. Sebesta has been adding to our income in the League... |
| Colme | Well you ought to be thanking him... |
| Hill | Very much, I appreciate the interest... |
| Colme | Also, at one of your seminars on, I guess back in 1998, there was a seminar in Meridian to hear you and R.C.Sproul Junior speak, saying that there is a new war being fought in the South, not a civil war but a cultural war. |
| Hill | That's right. |
| Colme | And your partner there, Mr. Sproul, I may be mispronouncing his name... |
| Hill | No, Sproul, that's right. |
| Colme | Mr. Sproul said, 'I'm trying to help people learn how to avoid the influences of the alien culture and to live more faithfully to their own culture.' Now what is the alien culture? |
| Hill | Well, an alien culture... Every culture must be particular or it is not a culture. I mean there's no such thing as a universal culture or cultural.... Culture has particularities about it. And there's no doubt that people like Mr. Sebesta and others would like to see Southern culture and heritage destroyed, they would like to see it revised to the point of being thrown into the trash bin of history... |
| It is always interesting to me that the neo-Confederates always talk as if they were the ultimate authority on what the South is and isn't. If a person doesn't hold their views he isn't a good Southerner by their definition. Also, there is the unstated assumption that the South is and always will be defined by the issue of the Confederacy. The South is to be held captive in the prison house of the Confederacy forever. | |
| Colme | Let me ask you, would you like to see Yankee culture destroyed? |
| Hill | No. I've got nothing against Yankee culture, all we want to be, as Jefferson Davis said, is let alone. We don't care what kind of culture they have. |
| Colme | Well now, Mr. Sproul says, 'Understand that my ultimate goal is to live Biblically and not Worldly and that Southern culture's more Biblical and the Yankee culture is more Worldly.' |
| Hill | Oh, of course. |
| Colme | What does that mean? |
| Hill | It always has been. |
| Colme | What do you mean by that? |
| Hill | The South has always been more in tune with Biblical precepts. It's not called the Bible belt for nothing. |
| Colme | Would you rather be a separate country? |
| Hill | Personally, yes I would. |
| Colme | So you would rather have your own country and not be part of the United States? |
| Hill | I think it would be much more beneficial for everybody concerned if this American empire were broken up into not two but maybe four or five separate countries. |
| Colme | And what would be the separate countries you would like to see it defined as? |
| Hill | Well, I'm not worried about any of the others but the South, but I know that there are people in the north-west who have a particular culture they'd like to protect. |
| I don't know if a fantasy put on a website necessarily constitutes a movement. There are all these websites, but whether they could get three people that would show up at a meeting is subject to great doubt.  Also, the League of the South is not always pleased by the prospect of a secession. During the Kosovo war, their website expressed great alarm that Texas could have a secessionist movement, just like Kosovo, with the Hispanics immigrating into Texas. | |
| Colme | And what would that culture be? |
| Hill | Well, I'm not a product of it and so I don't... |
| Colme | Well, how would you define that culture then? |
| Hill | Well, I don't dare define another person's culture for them. |
| Colme | I didn't know the north-west was so different than the rest of the country that it shouldn't be part of America. I wonder what is it about the north-west that you feel is not American? |
| Hill | I'm not saying it isn't American. I think, in a way, all of these cultures are American in the sense that living on this continent for a couple of hundred years or actually counting the colonial period in the east here, at least four hundred years. All of these cultures are distinctively American in their own separate ways and we have no animosity against Yankee culture or any other culture, we simply want to be able to preserve and protect our particular culture. |
| Colme | Well, it seems like animosity when you define one as religious and one is worldly and say, well we're the religious ones and you're the worldly ones. It seems like kind of a subtle put-down. |
| Hill | Well, no. I think it's just a matter of observation. |
| Colme | You also say, by the way, and it says on Dixienet which I guess is your Internet web-site, 'In simple terms, Hill said he practices what he preaches with his own family,' you're quoted as saying, 'First of all, you don't have a television in the house.' |
| Hill | No. We don't watch television. We have a TV set that we use to watch videos on, but... |
| Colme | You don't allow your kids or your family to watch television? |
| Hill | No, we don't watch television. |
| Colme | Why is that? |
| Hill | Well, because I think reading and playing music and talking are much more beneficial activities, and television tends to have some very insidious influences on us in my opinion. |
| Colme | But aren't there some good things on television? I mean, does it all have to be... is it possible that there could be some positive things on that medium? |
| Hill | Of course, television is an inanimate object, and it only spews out what is put in, but to me, these days a lot of what is put in is trash and we simply find better activities for the family. |
| Colme | Ed, tell me about the correlation between the groups like the League of the South and the CCC and some of these groups that have been criticized as having racist overtones to them. |
| Sebesta | I think there are individual members that cross over, but they are somewhat competitors. Dr. Hill's group wants to secede where the [Council of Conservative Citizens](http://www.cofcc.org)has actually expressed concern that if there is secession there might be an African-American majority South. |
| Having not considered this question before, my answer missed the critical issues. Actually leaders in [Council of Conservative Citizens](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\CofCC.htm) and the League of the South are friendly allies with some differences of opinion. In the magazines "[Southern Partisan](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\SouthernPartisan.htm)" and "[Chronicles](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\Rockford.htm)" persons involved in the League of the South, Council of Conservative Citizens, and American Renaissance, all are contributors. . They also meet together at the John Randolph Club meetings. Jack Kershaw is a director of the League of the South is mentioned as a member of the Council of Conservative Citizens in than issue of the [Citizen's Informer.](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\CitizensInformer.htm) | |
| Colme | Right. |
| Sebesta | The League of the South is a separate current by and large from the Council of Conservative Citizens. The CCC - it's pretty frank what they stand for. |
| Colme | Right. |
| Sebesta | League of the South, there's a lot of convolution and gears and pulleys until you get into the whole mechanism's philosophy. |
| Colme | Basically what you want is Southern independence and you don't..., Dr. Hill, it's not a racist organization in that you distinguish between black and white. Are you primarily a white organization or are there blacks in the group as well, is it diverse, is it ethnically and racially diverse? |
| Hill | To some small degree, Alan, I'll be honest with you. I could get up and say, 'oh yes, you know we're racially...' we've had a very few blacks who have joined and we have a couple, I know of, of Hispanic members and two or three Jewish members. |
| Colme | Really? |
| Hill | In fact, Murray Rothbard, the late Jewish libertarian scholar was one of the charter members of the League. So we don't have a policy of barring anybody. |
| Colme | Would you say that you are a racial separatist? |
| Hill | No. Not at all. |
| Thomas Fleming at the 1994 First Annual Convention of the League of the South discusses the Northern League, a secessionist group in Northern Italy, as a model for the League of the South. He first starts out by comparing their leader Bossie to Strom Thurmond. After explaining what the Northern League is Fleming says the following:  "*I want to talk about the tactics of the Lega Lombard and the Lega Nord as it has become to be known. Because I think these tactics, which have been very successfully used might suggest some analogues here.*"  Fleming then mentions there are three key aspects about their success and then starts to list them one by one. The first aspect is the use of symbols, banners, songs, and cultural items to mobilize people. The 2nd aspect is to use resentment against Sicilians and North Africans in Northern Italy. The third aspect is campaigning from door to door. Quoting Fleming:  "*Door to door organization technique. Bossi would go into a barber shop or a corner bar and start talking to people, 'What are the Sicilians doing here?*'  So what Fleming has learned and wishes to suggest as a tactic to the League of the South, is building on racial resentment. I wonder who Fleming thinks are the "***analogues***" of the Sicilians in America?  Of course if there are some minority members which are supportive of their campaign, they will be glad to have them to be used for their purposes. Booker T. Washington is praised by Neo-Confederates.  Note to be forgotten is the first aspect, it defines the role of the Confederate flag for the neo-Confederates. | |
| Colme | How do you plan to go about achieving separatism for the Southern empire? |
| Hill | Well, please don't call it an empire, call it a constitutional republic. |
| Colme | I see. Well, the South is not yet a constitutional republic, I mean, the United States may be but you're not a separate entity as of yet. |
| Hill | Well, we have an American empire today, I would argue, but that may take a while to prove my point. But, this has to be done through the mechanisms that the founding fathers gave us. It has to be done through the state. We can declare ourselves to be an independent people, that is, we can live our lives as if we are free men and women, but for the states to actually become politically independent, we'll have to work through the corporate mechanisms that the founding fathers gave us which is the separate sovereign states, and that means to some degree getting politically involved one of these days. |
| Colme | You have been described as a staunch defender of the Anglo-Celtic majority of the Southern states, is that an accurate statement? |
| Hill | Yes. I'm very much a defender of my own people. |
| Colme | So, you are a racial separatist? |
| Hill | No I'm not a racial separatist, I'm a defender of my own people. |
| Colme | Well.... |
| Hill | That's different from separation. |
| Sebesta | Alan, I think when discussing with the League of the South you have to comprehend the vocabulary and I think that's... |
| What you have to do when talking to League of the South members, is ask them specific questions regarding specific policies. You have to ask them questions on how their policy will be applied. The following quotes from a book, "***The South Was Right!***" illustrate this clearly. This books is written by James Kennedy and Walter Kennedy. James Kennedy is a director of the League of the South. Contrast the first statement with the last statement which in the books is just a few pages following the first statement.  [Page 251] "*Equality of opportunity, equality before the law, and especially a realization that all people stand as equals before God are all important aspects of the Southern National political philosophy*."  It sounds fairly good, but before concluding that the neo-Confederate movement is a civil rights movement, the following quotes from the same book ought to be considered. At the bottom of the same page is the following:  "*The liberal concept of one man-one vote , or universal franchise, is so deeply entrenched in the liberal dogma of the Yankee government that very few are willing to challenge its legitimacy.*"  The following pages discuss the various voting restrictions they would be have in the South. There would be both qualifications in terms of academic tests and economic criteria. The chapter concludes with the following:  [Page 256]"*Some will protest that we are 'repealing the Voting Rights Act': this is not true! You do not repeal a fraud; you correct it. You do not recall a tyrant: you remove him. The same is true with the so-called Voting Rights act. The voting Rights Act, as with all other Reconstruction legislation (see Chapter VI), must be annulled to restore the balance between the federal and state governments.*"  The book also complains about the 14th Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees rights to citizens regardless of race. | |
| Colme | What am I missing here? |
| Sebesta | Different words have different meanings to different people. |
| Colme | Well, what do you, Ed, believe that Anglo-Celtic majority means? |
| Sebesta | Well, I believe that in reading the article that discusses it, yes, there's a kith and kin and they talk about having a European Anglo-Celtic dominated South, I could quote the exact words. |
| Colme | Right, wouldn't that mean white? |
| Sebesta | Well.... Yes. |
| Hill | Is white a dirty words these days? |
| Colme | No. I'm not saying white's a dirty word, but what I mean is what you're saying... I just want you to be honest about what you're saying here. |
| Hill | I am being honest. What I would like to see is that the present balance, demographic balance in the South stay pretty much what it is. I think that blacks and whites in the South both, are alarmed at the flood of illegal immigrants from Mexico flooding over the border. |
| Colme | Would you welcome more blacks in the South? |
| Hill | If more blacks wanted to come back to the South from other parts of the country, and they wanted to come down here and live as Southerners, I got no problem with that. |
| Colme | Do you have a problem with immigrants? |
| Hill | It depends on what the immigrants come here to do. |
| Colme | Maybe to work and live a better life for their families. |
| Hill | If they come here to assimilate, and their numbers are small enough where they can be assimilated properly, then I don't have any problems with it. But if they come here wanting to create a new Mexico, for example, out of the South, and bring the problems from Mexico that they're trying to escape, then I want no part of that. In fact I would very much like to see my own children and grandchildren grow up in a South dominated by my own people and their culture. |
| Colme | Would you like to see another Civil War? |
| Hill | Of course not, nobody wants war... |
| Colme | But let's say you can't achieve what you want to achieve legislatively, could that be and should that be maybe an extreme way of getting what you want, but could that be a way of you ultimately getting what you want? |
| Hill | Well, I would say this. No sane people should ever contemplate going to war unless they're outright attacked or they're put in a position where they are forced to fight for their liberty. |
| Colme | Well, you have spoken in strong terms about how your liberty has been compromized by a strong federal government, so what I want to know is, if you cannot achieve, through peaceful means, your desired separatism, would you advocate a civil war in order to get it? |
| Hill | No. I wouldn't advocate a civil war, I mean..., but I would advocate fighting myself to preserve my liberties. |
| Colme | Who would you fight? |
| Hill | Whoever tried to take my liberties away. I think real honest to goodness lovers of liberty are willing to shed their blood to preserve it. |
| Colme | Who, right now, is taking away your liberty? |
| Hill | Well, it depends on how you define liberty. |
| Colme | It's your word so define it any way you want. |
| Hill | All right. Part of my liberty is my ability to use, as I see fit, the produce of my labors. Right now I'm paying somewhere around forty percent of my labor in some sort of tax or another. I've got federal bureaucrats basically telling me how to raise my children, I've got federal bureaucrats telling me how I can use my land. |
| There can be no democracy unless a person is willing to lose an election, and be govern by those who won. It is the concept of the loyal opposition. Congress is entirely elected. The president is elected. Judges are appointed by elected legislatures. In fact there is more direct democracy know than when the nation was founded, with the direct election of U.S. Senators. Not everyone gets there way on everything. Things can be changed in the next election when all of the House of Representives and one-third of the Senate is up for re-elction. It is the slogan, "Ballots Not Bullets." | |
| Colme | Do you believe that the federal government is taking away your liberty? |
| Hill | Yes. I believe it's in the process and it has been for 137 years. |
| Colme | Right, and so what I'm saying to you is if you cannot win legislatively and get these people off your back, you're suggesting, you've intimated to me now that the next step would be to take more aggressive action against this entity. |
| Hill | There comes a point when a man has to sit down and think very carefully and soberly about what he is willing to do, to regain or preserve his liberties, and I merely was saying that all options, for me personally, would be open. |
| Mark G. Malvasi, League of the South member, has a thesis titled, "***Risen From the Bloody Sod: Recovering the Southern Tradition***." When published by the Louisiana State Press, its title was the "***Unregenerate South***." I think that the attitude of the League of the South is shown in the article "[Clan Or Klan](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\ClanOrKlan.htm)?" where I quote them. | |
| Colme | So you would be open to the South rising up, with you maybe as one of its leaders, to go after the Yankees, maybe who run this country, or the North? You don't consider... |
| Hill | This is really not..., see you're trying to put us in the old straight-jacket of North versus South here. |
| Colme | Yes. |
| Hill | You know we... |
| Sebesta | You know, Mr. Hill, you do give a Preston Brooks award. |
| Hill | Oh, of course, and that's largely... |
| Colme | Tell us what that is. |
| Hill | ...largely in good fun. |
| Given the anger expressed in their videos, I doubt it is in good fun. | |
| Colme | What is the Preston Brooks Award and who is Preston Brooks? |
| Hill | Preston Brooks was a South Carolina congressman who caned Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, because he had insulted Sumner's, I believe it was Sumner's uncle. And he walked into Sumner's office with a cane and just literally beat hell out of him. |
| Sumner was caned in the chambers of the U.S Senate, not in his office. Sumner was sitting in his chair at the time of his attack, and was unable to get out of his chair while being beaten to defend himself. It was a surprise attack. The attack opened the eyes of the Free States, since afterwards Brooks was accalimed as a hero by people in the slave states. While beating Sumner Brooks' cane broke, and afterwards many canes where sent to him from persons in the South. | |
| Colme | And you give an award in his memory? |
| Hill | Yes we do. |
| Colme | That's lovely. What do you have to do to achieve this award? |
| Hill | For the best verbal thrashing of a Yankee. It's all in good fun. Seriously, today, you know, we're not looking back to the past, trying to recreate the Old South again, all we try to do is to draw forth from that tradition the good political ideas that our founding fathers... |
| Colme | But you've intimated that if you can't get peacefully what you want you will rise up, you will use any means necessary to achieve your liberty. |
| Hill | No. I didn't say that. You put those words into my mouth. |
| Colme | Well, correct me where I'm wrong. |
| Hill | I said that from my own perspective there would come a point where I would have to sit down and soberly reflect on what action I would take to preserve my liberties if me and my children were about to be cast under abject tyranny. I'm not speaking for anybody here but myself. |
| Colme | Have you described the NAACP as a hate-mongering organization? |
| Hill | Yes I have. I certainly stand by those very words. |
| Colme | Why's it a hate-mongering organization? |
| Hill | Because back in the mid- to late-1980s they came out with a plan, a strategy if you will, to go after the monuments, the symbols of my ancestors, whom I think were honorable men, and I think that's a very dishonorable thing to do, particularly when in the black community you've got so many other problems that the NAACP could legitimately go after like astronomical illegitimate birth rates, black crime which is epidemic, black drug use, poor education... |
| If you lived in a society which made you feel as a total outsider and marginal, how do you think you would behave? How do you think a community would behave where they were constantly having it made clear to them they were outsiders, and marginal to the historical experience of society? People who achieve something in their life, have heroes, have a sense of being able to achieve. The NAACP rightly realizes the demoralizing effect of the Confederate flag. | |
| Colme | Why confine this to black? I mean, why not... Look, there is a socio-economic problem in this country it's not just blacks who are... there are poor whites, there's drug use among whites... |
| Hill | You asked me about the NAACP and I said the NAACP, which is an organization which is historically looked out for the interests of blacks, ought to be going out and finding solutions to these problems that are afflicting blacks. |
| Colme | Have you spoken... is one of your heroes Nathan Bedford Forrest? |
| Hill | Yes sir, one of my great heroes. |
| Colme | Who it turns out was the first imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan... |
| Hill | Yes he was. |
| Colme | So why is he your hero? |
| Hill | Because he was a great Southern fighter, he was a man of principle, a man of character and a man who was tough as steel. |
| Colme | So you're telling me you're not a racial separatist... |
| Hill | No. |
| Colme | ... you don't consider yourself a racist. Now I'm not into name-calling, I'm just trying to understand here..., you view the NAACP as a bunch of hate-mongers, and your hero is the first imperial wizard of the KKK. |
| Hill | Well, you have to understand that the first KKK that existed was a far cry from the sorry lot that calls themselves by that name today. |
| Colme | So what was the original KKK? Was it a reading group to celebrate racial diversity? What was the original one? |
| Hill | No. It was a group of largely ex-Confederate soldiers and officers who took up arms and went out to protect their women and children from the depredations of Reconstruction. And, you know, a lot of the violence that was blamed on the KKK in the Reconstruction period was actually carried out by an organization called the Union League which I've done some research on and I've come to the point where I call the Union League, 'Washington's Klan.' |
| Colme | OK. Ed, do you want to comment on any of this? |
| [Michael Andrew Grissom](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\GRISSOM.htm) reflects the views of the neo-Confederate movement about the KKK in his book, "***Southern by the Grace of God.***" This book was promoted on the League of the South website in the past. The *Confederate Veteran*, the publication of the [Sons of Confederate Veterans](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\SCVHeritageNotHate.htm), has praised both this book, and the book, "***The South Was Right!***". | |
| Sebesta | Yes. Alan, I don't know how these talk shows work, am I supposed to just speak up? |
| Colme | Yes. You're welcome to chime in, but I want to give you an opportunity now since you've been quiet lately, to speak your piece and to respond to what you've heard. Go ahead. |
| Sebesta | OK. What was your question again please? |
| Colme | Well, I'd like to get your response to what Dr. Hill has been saying. |
| Sebesta | I think one of the things you have to understand is that groups like this which come across very smoothly, but I think if you read what they have to say I think it gives a different character to what it is and I collected for tonight some quotes which I think will give a proper impression and I think that one of the things that really struck me, and I just want to offer it here, is from the September-October 1998 issue, page eleven of the 'Southern Patriot...' |
| Hill | Yes. That's our newsletter. |
| Sebesta | That's their newsletter, and they're complaining about Southern Christians and that, they quote Calhoun, but once they step, here: '*Yet, once they step inside a church they will say things such as "God made all men equal"*' and they're upset because someone had a favorable view of Martin Luther King, but this is the thing that really caught my eye: '*summarily they preach that all souls are equal and distinctions of flesh and blood, such as ethnicity, are meaningless*,' well, I don't know but I think that all souls are pretty much equal to God, but I obviously wouldn't be a good Southerner. The thing is they don't generally have a quick, one sentence quote, it's more elaborate expressions, but I think I have articles where Brown versus Brown's an attack on the South, there is an article they have on their website about race war and that black men are raping white women, you know, it goes on and on. |
| Colme | Right. |
| Sebesta | So, it's a very civil group and I'm half saying we could probably have dinner and discuss ancient history and get along like a house on fire, but they're not loud, they're not rude, they don't have bad hair... |
| Colme | That's important, that's important... |
| Hill | Yes. That is really important, particularly when you get on television. |
| Sebesta | Most of them are educated and they have a very complex philosophical argument and I think it doesn't make for quick soundbites. |
| Hill | No. He's right, it doesn't make for quick soundbites. We haven't just thrown stuff up on the web-site or just scribbled down stuff very quickly in the newsletter just to be saying things, we've thought these things through. |
| Sebesta | That they do. |
| Hill | You may disagree with them, but you can't say that we have not set down... |
| Colme | Yes. But Ed you were going to say, go ahead. |
| Sebesta | Yes. One of the things that studying the CofCC and the League of the South, there's a difference, although they all get together and get articles published in *Chronicles*magazine. CofCC, if there isn't much you get the publication, you index and you're done about thirty minutes, it doesn't take a lot of break down to figure out what's being said there, but the League of the South actually ties back to the Southern Agrarians, and this whole elaborate argument that I think goes back to the 1860s and I think even before, so if you're looking for that, like, one barn-burner statement, no, this is not a Klan rally, they're not going to shout it. |
| Colme | All right. We're going to take a break right there. We'll be right back and we'll take your phone calls 212-244-1050. Dr. Michael Hill, President of the League of the South says on their web-site that secession is the best way to restore good government to the South. Ed Sebesta, researcher looking into these groups, 212-244-1050 on NewTalk 1050WEVD. |
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| Colme | Our number 212-244-1050. Dr. Michael Hill, President of the League of the South, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Ed Sebesta who is a researcher looking at neo-Confederates for a number of years now. Now Ed you said you stumbled across these groups while trying to get the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue in Texas, why was that? |
| [The neo-Confederates have also written up my campaign.](http://www.tripod.com/cfish) | |
| Sebesta | Well, I saw the movie *Glory* and I was pretty ticked off because we had this fight over district and at large elections and I really saw this as a problem. And I guess also that when I came here, moved here, the first day I bought my house met my neighbors they congratulated me on being white and having bought the house, two of them... |
| Colme | And you live in Texas, right? |
| Sebesta | Texas, yes. That's not generally true of people in Dallas but I think of other particular ????? neighbors, and, you know, somehow it struck me that the civil religion, that's the term for this whole sort of Lost Cause thing, was really a part of that and I decided that..., I sort of stumbled across some discoveries and I said, you know, this is something that I found interesting, I can research and that I could do something about. I'm a double major in chemical engineering and history and so I did it and actually it was quite by accident, I went down to get another page at the library and the librarian said, I was on the bus and I remembered three more files and I discovered this seemingly innocent local heritage group which was for so long anti-civil rights and white supremacist history, and I realized that there was probably more there and I just kept on looking into something and I kept on finding more stuff, and I always like a challenge and I took it up. |
| Colme | Right. Let's got to our phones, 212 244 1050. Nathan in Manhattan on WEVD. Hello Nathan. |
| Nathan | Yes. He would spill the blood of man who is created in the image of God in order to save some money on his taxes? Even if they took away eighty five per cent of your taxes, you don't spill blood for money. What kind of value is that? |
| Colme | Dr. Hill? |
| Hill | I suppose he's talking to me. I said in defense not offense. I think the gentleman should pay a little more attention to my words. |
| Sebesta | I think that one thing.... |
| Nathan | You said that you would spill blood to defend you way of life if necessary. It wouldn't be your first choice but if worse came to worse, then that's what you would do. What kind of value are you teaching your children? |
| Hill | We do not. I am teaching my children that there are some things worth dying for, sir. |
| Nathan | Not money. Money is not worth dying for. You can die for it but you can't kill for it. There's a difference between murdering somebody else and if you want to... |
| Colme | Nathan, hold on a sec. I understand your passion but you can't shout him down you've got to give him a chance to respond to the things you're saying. You can't keep ranting Nathan, you've got to give him a chance to respond to what you're saying. Go ahead Dr. Hill. |
| Hill | I simply said, in defense of my liberties. And they key word is defense. |
| Nathan | Money. Your money. |
| Colme | Nathan, I don't want to have to cut you off. Let him respond. |
| Hill | Sir, I said in defense of my liberty. |
| Nathan | Liberty is.... |
| Colme | Nathan, I'm going to tell you this for the last time. Let him respond to what you've said. I cut him off. I agree with him but you've got to give... If you want to attack somebody, if you want to go after somebody, at least have the courtesy to let them respond to what you have said to them. So if Nathan's gone. Go ahead Dr. Hill. |
| Hill | Is there nothing out there that you would die for, that you think's worth dying for to preserve? |
| Colme | That's a very good question. |
| Hill | Yes, it is. |
| Colme | And I guess the difference is that I don't believe we live in a republic where our freedoms are being taken away from us, where I feel that we're on the road to having to rise up against our government and declare a certain section of the United States as a separate entity. You want..., you believe that secession is the best way to restore good government to your part of America, right? |
| Hill | I think that at least the threat of it is a good means to hold the federal government in Washington. |
| Colme | You say on your web-site, dixienet.org, it says 'We believe secession is the best way to restore good government to the South.' |
| Hill | Yes, I think that's probably, with the way things are going, is a true statement. |
| Colme | So you want to secede from the United States? |
| Hill | I would like to have..., personally I would like to see the South as an independent nation, yes. I think that we could better handle our affairs. |
| Colme | Now why weren't you more up front about that earlier on? When I asked you about that you kind of hedged around a bit. |
| Hill | Well, I don't think that I hedged around about it. I said, when you asked us what kind of group we were, I said we are a Southern nationalist group. |
| Currently, 9/26/99 they are announcing on the League of the South webpage at http://www.dixienet.org a Southern Independence celebration. | |
| Colme | When I say 'Do you want secession?' you kind of said, 'well, maybe, down the road,' I mean you really, that is really what the focus of your group is, and I feel that you were not as upfront about that as you could have been. |
| Hill | Well, let me rephrase it then, you've got to understand that secession is merely a means to an end. The end is independence. Secession is a tool to get there. |
| Colme | You want your own... you think the South should be a separate country. |
| Hill | I think that the South would be better off as a separate nation. The values are different down here, the culture is different here, and besides, we're tired of people from other parts of the country trying to expunge our culture and our heritage. |
| Colme | Now wait. We may have different cultures, and we may have a lot of political disagreements, and I am sure you and I would not agree on many things politically, but I'm certainly, as a yankee, and I'm a proud yankee, I'm not trying to expunge you. |
| Hill | That's good. |
| Colme | I am actually from the south of the south shore of Long Island. |
| Hill | OK. |
| Colme | But I'm not trying to expunge you. And I'm not...., it sounds a little paranoid, Dr. Hill, that you feel that people are trying to wipe you out. |
| Hill | No. I'm not saying that. I'm simply trying to say that people like Mr. Sebesta, when he goes around spending time trying to get statues of Robert E. Lee taken down, he's going after my culture and my heritage and my history. And... |
| Colme | I'm sorry. Who is going after your culture? |
| Hill | Mr. Sebesta. I think a while ago said he was active in a campaign in Dallas to get a statue of Robert E. Lee taken down. Now I'm sure that, Alan, that you probably agree with Mr. Sebesta, but I'm sure you wouldn't agree with me if I said well the League of the South is going out next week to campaign to get all the Martin Luther King Boulevards expunged from across the South and the nation. Why, you would be screaming bloody murder. We don't do that. We don't do that at all. We think that other cultures and other people have a right to celebrate who they are... |
| Actually League of the South members are conducting a campaign against Martin Luther King right now. *Chronicles* magazine advertises in the *Southern Patriot*, the official publication of the League of the South that all its editors are League of the South members. They have waged a steady campaign against Martin Luther King in the pages of *Chronicles* and through the Rockford Institute the publishers of *Chronicles* magazine.  However this begs the question. Martin Luther King made America a better place, and helped our democracy go into the future. Robert E. Lee attempted to destroy America through his treason for slavery. Surely we can make a judgement. It is interesting that the League of the South members, who normally are very judgemental members of the hard religous right, suddenly become moral relativists, as if there is no good or bad. | |
| Colme | Ed, you want to respond to this? |
| Sebesta | Well, I do know the 'Southern Partisan' which is a different neo-Confederate thing, it's a magazine, has been complaining about Martin Luther King Day and the magazine 'Chronicles' actually is mounting a campaign. |
| Colme | So what is wrong with a statue of Robert E. Lee standing? |
| Sebesta | Well, I just don't think that it projects the moral values for American society. It projects the moral values... |
| [Why Fight For Our Historical Memory explains my ideas.](file:///D:\Documents\HomePage\WhyFight.htm) | |
| Colme | Why not have a statue of Robert E. Lee side by side with another statue with a different representation? |
| Sebesta | Well, you know, when you have a Holocaust memorial, you don't put a statue of Goring or Adolf Hitler next to it we tend... |
| Colme | Is Robert E. Lee the same as Hitler? |
| Sebesta | No, but... and Hitler's not the same as Stalin and Stalin's not the same as Mao, you know, but the point is, we have used monuments to project the moral values of our society, and I think we can say that some things are correct and some things are wrong. |
| Hill | I think that we certainly can say some things are correct and some things are wrong, but what happens when we think, in the South, and a majority of Southerners I think still would see the value of having statues to Lee and the other heroes of the Confederacy because they're our people and we don't like the comparisons between Lee, who was a good Christian man, and Hitler who was a pagan atheist. That's a non-sequitur. |
| I didn't say Lee was identical to Hitler, in fact I explicitly said they were not the same. This is the standard neo-Confederate technique of getting into a outraged victimology, to distract from the actual issue. Counter factual examples can be useful to illustrate the issues. For example by suggesting the idea of having a statue of Bennedict Arnold, we can illustrate the idea of an inappropriate monument. Thie outburst of outrage is to attempt to divert the discussion of historical memory and social values and recast the debate as something else. | |
| Colme | By the way, is it your view also Dr. Hill that the United States is or should be a Christian nation? |
| Hill | The United States... I don't know if the United States has ever been a Christian nation. |
| Colme | Would your country in the South be a Christian nation? |
| Sebesta | Oh yes it would be. |
| Hill | Yes. If I had my preferences, I believe my religion is the right one and any man who doesn't believe his religion is the right one... |
| Colme | In your country would people of different faiths be welcome? |
| Hill | Sure. Sure. But we would like to see the majority of the people here be Christian. We would also like to see the laws reflect the Judaeo-Christian heritage... |
| Colme | Would a non-Christian be able to hold office? |
| Hill | A non-Christian would be able to hold office. He would have to govern by Christian principles, but yes, he would be able to hold office. |
| Colme | But you want a religious state, is basically what you're saying? |
| Hill | No, we don't want a religious state. There always should be a separation between the church and the state. |
| Colme | That's not what you just said. |
| Hill | Yes it is. |
| Colme | You want a state based on, or promulgating your religious values. |
| Hill | No, no, no. Look. Every political entity, every government if you will, has to have a moral basis for the laws that it passes. Down here, being a Christian myself, I would like to see the laws and the values of a Southern nation reflect Christianity. |
| Colme | You want a Southern...., you want a Christian majority? |
| Hill | Of course. |
| Colme | But that's not separation of church and state when you are declaring which religion you want to be the majority religion. |
| Hill | Look. |
| Colme | That's not separation of church and state. |
| Hill | Technically it is. The church and the state are two different things but the state has to draw its moral authority from some set of values and, being a Christian, I think my set of values is the right one. |
| Colme | What about Jews? Is there enough common ground to agree that Jews also have good moral values? |
| Hill | Look. I'm not talking here just about moral values, I'm talking about a whole... |
| Colme | You said moral values, that's a phrase you used, that's the one I'm using. |
| Sebesta | Alan, the South has a Judaeo-Christian heritage because it holds the Bible to be God's inerrant word and the rule for all of faith and life. |
| Colme | But not everybody believes that. The United States is a nation that is built upon the idea that there is no such doctrine that rules, or is the underpinning of this country. Ed, you wanted to say something, go ahead. |
| Sebesta | Well, the League of the South has a manifesto and it pledges to defend the historic Christian faith of the South and there's this whole article about: '*There are those in the Southern independence movement who would prefer that we would leave the Christian element of our drive for independence*' and it goes on. Well, you know, that's central to their whole effort. |
| Hill | Yes, we are an unapologetically Christian organization. |
| Sebesta | And one of your complaints about, besides the fact that there's endless complaints about the Unitarians... |
| Hill | Yes, we do. |
| Sebesta | '*For our progeny to enjoy the benefits of liberty and self-government, we must make sure that they, and not the descendants of immigrants of third world cultures..*.' that's the wrong one, excuse me... |
| Hill | Yes. You've read that one already. |
| Sebesta | Yes. '*I for one don't relish the thought of my daughters and their offspring living amongst, amidst a non-European majority for whom the principles of Western Christendom mean nothing' and the whole thing about neo-Confederate literature is that the Civil War was a theological war*. [quotintg Dr. Hill from his 1997 4th Annual Convention.] |
| Hill | It was. In many ways it was a theological struggle. |
| Sebesta | And so they do have this view of the South, it would be founded upon some pretty interesting... |
| Colme | What would be the name of your country, Dr. Hill, by the way? |
| Hill | That's not up to me to decide. |
| Colme | What would you like? |
| Hill | I like the 'Republic of Dixie' |
| Colme | We're going to take a break. We'll be right back. 212-244-1050. More of your calls coming up. Dr. Michael Hill, President of the League of the South, also Ed Sebesta a researcher and we'll take more of your calls when we get back, 212-244-1050 on WEVD. |
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| Colme | With Michael Hill of the League of the South and Ed Sebesta, researcher looking into these groups for a number of years now, neo-Confederates. Let us go to Mike in Brooklyn on WEVD. Hello Mike. |
| Mike | Hello Alan. |
| Colme | Yes sir |
| Mike | How are you Alan? |
| Colme | Good sir. |
| Mike | OK. I would like to ask the Dr. Hill just what's he think of Jews and a Jew who wears a Jewish star. In other words, I'm Jewish and I'm proud of it and I would like to ask him if I was walking down the street in Mississippi would he take my Jewish star off me, or does he hate Jews? Could he answer this question for me? |
| Hill | As a Christian I try to love my neighbor as myself, and certainly if you were walking down the street in Mississippi with the star of David on, I would certainly respect it and I hope that you would respect my Confederate flag pin that I had on my shirt. |
| Colme | But in your Republic of Dixie you would prefer there to be more Christians than Jews? |
| Hill | Well, the South has been defined, Alan, by the Anglo-Celtic or British Christian character, and we want to preserve what we have. We like it. It's not that we're hostile to anybody else but we simply don't want to see what we have here be changed. I mean, is that so hard to understand? I'm sure that Mexico would not be happy if you had this huge flood of Anglo- or Gringo invaders coming in... |
| Colme | Well, you know this is America, Dr. Hill, this is not..., segregation isn't really the order of the day in this country. |
| Hill | Well listen. I know that liberals, Alan, have this idea that America is a universalist nation built on a proposition, but we don't think that. America is just like every other nation, it's built by the blood, sweat and toil of real people ... |
| Colme | It sounds to me more like that you'd like a Balkanization of this country with a variety of different mini-nations. You said four different countries, that would be a Balkanization, wouldn't it? |
| Hill | Well, you can call it what you wish, but this is a large continent and too big to be ruled. Let me tell you. If we had the same representative proportion that we had when the country was first founded, do you know how many House of Representative members we would have today? |
| Colme | Well, obviously the population has grown. Thank you Mike. How many? |
| Hill | Twenty thousand representatives. |
| Colme | Hello Peter. |
| Peter | Yeah, hey, how're you doing? |
| Colme | Good. |
| Peter | I just have a comment. You know, I mean people have died for this country, you know, thousands and thousands of people have died to keep this country together and unfortunately to keep people like this freak from being able to talk and air his views, but you know he's entitled to it, you know, people have died for the freedoms that this country is founded on. For him to sit there and talk about separating this country is absolutely ridiculous. All these people have what, died in vain now? |
| Hill | No, it's not dying in vain. George Washington said in 1796, he said let's give this experiment a free, a fair trial and it lasted for seventy-two years. What we have today... |
| Colme | Wait a minute. It lasted how many years? |
| Hill | It lasted seventy-two years. |
| Colme | Which experiment? |
| Hill | The experiment in a voluntary union, Alan, from 1788 to 1860. At that time, several Southern states, beginning with South Carolina, decided that they wanted to secede from that which they had voluntarily asceded to and they were forced back in at the point of a bloody bayonet and that's where the Southern states have been ever since. Now that's not a voluntary union, and the gentleman is right, a lot of Americans have died in wars and a lot of them, disproportionately, have been Southerners who've died, and we are saying... |
| Peter | People have died from every part of this country. It's not just the South, it's people from the north. |
| Hill | No. I didn't say that, sir. I said disproportionately Southerners have served and died for their country. |
| Colme | Well, disproportionately, blacks and minorities during the Vietnam War, people in lower socio-economic groups, blacks got disproportionately drafted over whites. You could say that in various conflicts, depending upon the conflict and the time, you could divide it up into who sacrificed more so that we might have a unified country. |
| Hill | Well. |
| Sebesta | My father from Minnesota fought in World War Two, my grandfather World War One. They were fighting as Americans and the rest were fighting as Americans, they weren't dickering over how many came from Iowa and how many came from Idaho. |
| Hill | No, I'm just stating a historical fact, sir. |
| Sebesta | That's a historical fact, but, I'll tell you what, we all fight for this country, we all support this country together and we don't start saying well I get seventy per cent of the credit or twenty eight per cent of the credit. |
| Colme | Thank you Peter for your call, Steve in Queens on WEVD. Hello. |
| Steve | Hi. I'd like to ask Mr. Hill in his Republic of the South would they reinstitute any pre-Civil War laws of segregation? |
| Hill | I wouldn't want to do that. I think that those days have passed. I don't think that the state governments, certainly not a central government, a general government of any kind ought to be forcing people apart, nor should they be forcing them together. The League has always stood by a policy of voluntary association, no forced integration, no forced segregation. |
| Colme | Thank you, Steve. Do you believe the day will come, Dr. Hill, when the South will be an independent state? |
| Hill | It's in God's hands, but I do know this. There is a rising movement in the South. There's a Southern nationalist movement down here that people are not really aware of in other parts of the country yet. There was the announcement of the formation of the Southern Party in North Carolina a week or so ago, there's going to be a big rally that the League is going to be staging, a Southern Independence Day rally on the Capitol steps in Montgomery where Jeff Davis too the oath of office... |
| Colme | Ed Sebesta, are groups like these a threat to the well-being as a country? |
| Sebesta | I don't know. It's hard to say. It's gone a lot further, the whole movement's gone a lot further than... I mean, you study this stuff and it seems a little unreal, but I tell you, the Scottish National Party in the 1930s and 1940s was just one or two per cent. |
| Hill | That's right. |
| Sebesta | It was thought as just ridiculous. |
| Colme | So you think this could just mushroom? |
| Sebesta | Who knows? You know Bob Smith showed up to visit the Southern Party the other day, and that's a US Senator. |
| Colme | It's probably the only party he's not been a member of in the last three weeks. |
| Sebesta | Yes. You can have mixed feelings on that. It's hard to say. You know, we belong and think of ourselves as a member of a nation because we imagine ourselves as Americans and things are very good. The economy's going pretty well but decades down the road, who knows? I mean the Scottish National Party... |
| What I am trying to say is that as outlandish as this whole thing might seem, it is a real possiblity and a real danger to our nation. The neo-Confederates have gone very far in the last decade. The histories of other secession groups which have been relatively successful is similar. They start out as seeming outlandish and fringe with a percent or two in the polls, and grow into major groups. Currently with the economy in very good shape, I think they will have difficulty in capitalizing on discontent, but if the economy ran into trouble, they might mushroom. | |
| Hill | And the same with the Party Quebecois about thirty years ago in Quebec. But listen , you know, people view this really ominously, but you've got to remember that what the Founding Fathers gave us was a voluntary union of states, whereby you had local self-government. We don't have that any more. The states are administrative provinces run by Washington. |
| Colme | Well we... |
| Sebesta | Can I just say, it's a little more ominous if I might. Excuse me Dr. Hill, I guess on some of these talk shows you have to speak up... |
| Hill | That's alright. |
| Sebesta | There's a book called 'Civil War Two' that was promoted on the web-site for quite some time and advertized in the newsletter an this has all the counties broken down demographically, escape corridors, racial enclaves and all this stuff, I think they pulled it because even in the League of the South they decided it was a little too much, but... |
| Hill | No. I don't know why that book was pulled. I found that book to be a very, very interesting prognostication. If you'll remember there was a black author, I can't think of his name, but he wrote a book a few years ago on 'The Coming Race War in America.' My goodness, nobody criticized him. |
| There is a difference is writing a book to forewarn the country to avoid race war and with an intent is to show a direction for better race relations, and a book that asserts that it is inevitable and is spoiling for a race war. "***Civil War Two: The Coming Breakup of America***" is by Thomas W. Chittum and is published by American Eagle Publications Inc. The cover shows a worn torn city with white soldiers standing on and in front of a tank. One of them stands on the tank with a flagpole with the Confederate batleflag. Chittum has a website which one of the major search engines should pick up. Another book which Dr. Hill and League of the South founding director Rev. Steve Wilkins endorse is "***Heiland***" by League of the South member Franklin Sanders. It is a militia novel in which in the end Sander's heroes, the militia, achieve victory by killing everyone in the city that haven't left after being warned to leave by leaflets dropped from the air theday before. | |
| Colme | We have to stop there, but I appreciate both of you being with us tonight. Ed Sebesta and Dr. Michael Hill and a lot more fodder, perhaps there's room for another discussion. Thank you both very much. |
| Hill | Thank you Alan. I enjoyed it. |