

Eric Reid says ‘No Skin Off The Owner’s Backs’

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players without the group’s full approval.

“(We’re not) satisfied with the structure of the Coalition or the communication that Malcolm has been having with the NFL on his own, speaking on behalf of protesting players,” Reid said, according to SB Nation. Reid also released a memo to the media via Twitter, explaining his reason for leaving the coalition.

“With much thought and consideration, I’ve decided to officially withdraw from The Players Coalition founded by Malcolm Jenkins and Anquan Boldin. The Players Coalition was supposed to be formed as a group that represents NFL athletes who have been silently protesting social injustices and racism. However, Malcolm and Anquan can no longer speak on our behalf as we don’t believe the coalition’s beliefs are in our best interest as a whole.

“We will continue to have dialogue with the



FILE - In this Oct. 8, 2017, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles’ Chris Long (56), Malcolm Jenkins (27) and Rodney McLeod (23) gesture during the National Anthem before an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals, in Philadelphia. Baltimore’s Ben Watson and Philadelphia’s Malcolm Jenkins have strong views toward anthem protests and those who oppose them, based on their religious beliefs. But even pastors can’t agree on the controversial topic that has enveloped the NFL this season. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

league to find equitable solutions but without Malcolm and Anquan as our representatives.”

Reid told reporters he was asked by Jenkins if he

would end his protesting if the NFL made its pledge, something he was very uncomfortable with. Reid was also concerned with where the NFL’s money

would come from.

“In the discussion that we had, Malcolm conveyed to us—based on discussions that he had with the NFL—that the money

would come from funds that are already allocated to breast cancer awareness and Salute to Service,” Reid said, according to Slate. “So it would re-

ally be no skin off the owners’ backs: They would just move the money from those programs to this one.”

Reid also said one of his motives for leaving stems from Jenkins attempting to keep Colin Kaepernick apart from the Coalition, although Jenkins denied that, claiming that Kaepernick has preferred to remain in an informal role with the group.

The NFL later announced its pledge to social reform comes with no expectation of a quid pro quo, and the league also claimed no money would be pulled from older programs to fund the new programs. But it’s hard to ignore concerns from people who were close to the situation like Reid. He apparently believes the NFL may be trying to buy protesters off on a deal that will only cost them roughly \$13 million per year for seven years. Hush money in its purest form. And no matter how much the NFL may deny it, it looks more and more like Reid is right.

Conyers Endorses Son, John Conyers III, to Succeed Him

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licly accused by one woman after another in recent weeks, he faced growing calls to resign from colleagues in the House, including Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

As the furor grew, he stepped down as the rank-

ing Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, and the Ethics Committee began investigating him.

Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York said he was saddened by the resignation of his “friend and mentor” but added: “There can be no tolerance for behavior that subjects women to the kind of conduct that has been alleged.”

It will be up to Republican Gov. Rick Snyder to set a date for a special election to pick someone to serve out the remaining year in Conyers’ two-year term. State Sen. Ian Conyers, a grandson of Conyers’ brother, said he plans to run for the seat.

On Monday, yet another allegation was

lodged against Conyers, when a woman who said she worked for him for more than a decade, Elisa Grubbs, said he slid his hand up her skirt and rubbed her thighs while she was sitting next to him in the front row of a church.

Grubbs also said she repeatedly saw Conyers touching and stroking the legs and buttocks of other female staffers. Such behavior “was a regular part of life while working in the office of Rep. Conyers,” she said.

Grubbs is the cousin of another accuser, Marion Brown, who reached a confidential, taxpayer-funded settlement of more than \$27,000 over allegations Conyers sexually harassed her. That settlement came to light in mid-November, setting off the cascade of allegations against the congressman.

At least two other women who worked for him have accused him of sexual misconduct.

“This is about much more than one congress-

man,” Grubbs’ attorney, Lisa Bloom, said in an email after Conyers resigned. “Systemic change is urgently needed so no other women have to endure the retaliation, secrecy and delays my client Marion Brown and others experienced.”

While Hollywood and media titans accused of sexual misconduct have been swiftly fired in recent weeks, including studio boss Harvey Weinstein and TV news hosts Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose, that has not been the case in Congress, where lawmakers have spoken of due process and clung to the argument that the voters have the final say.

Conyers said in a statement read Tuesday on the floor of the House that he was resigning “to preserve my legacy and good name.”

He also complained

that he was not being afforded due process to defend himself, and cited his health problems as another factor in his decision. He added that he hopes his retirement will be viewed in the “larger perspective” of his more than 50 years as a lawmaker.

Conyers regularly won elections with more than 80 percent of the vote.

He co-sponsored a 1972 resolution recommending President Richard Nixon’s impeachment for his conduct of the Vietnam War and regularly introduced a bill from 1989 onward to study the harm caused by slavery and the possibility of reparations to the descendants of slaves.

After a 15-year struggle, Conyers succeeded in establishing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday as a federal holi-

day in 1986. He employed civil rights legend Rosa Parks at his Detroit district office for more than two decades.

Word of Conyers’ resignation was met with sadness among House Democrats. The uproar had divided members of his party, especially those in the Congressional Black Caucus. Pelosi, too, had struggled, calling Conyers an “icon” before pressing days later for him to go.

“I think that we lose our moral authority if we also don’t call out those we love who have done things that are bad,” said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash. “I think we have to recognize and be able to hold the dueling possibilities that somebody can be a great man and have done great things for our country and for civil rights but also have done terrible things that require accountability.”

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