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00:02

As far as you're trying to change policy and that type thing, and I would pretty much say that regardless of whether the policy changed or not, there's a certain amount of integrity that I have as a person that's more valuable than policy.



00:18

Do you understand where I'm going with this? Because you mentioned when we mentioned the gentleman who, you know, who's going to Supreme Court to fight the ruling that he was discharged, he's setting the pace for others. And, you know, some, some could easily say, Well, you know, is one thing just to, you know, blend into society or the community and be comfortable with yourself first, and reference to being out. But what else are you doing? What else are you doing to contribute to, you know, the empowerment or the upliftment?



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You know, as far as the what I might be doing is causing individuals to look themselves, okay, and to take personal responsibility for themselves before you can deal with any type of policy change, take responsibility for and that's really my emphasis is not so much going to change policy change yourself. Okay. Okay, yourself.



01:12

Okay. And you've mentioned that. I think that's important. Definitely. I tend to play the devil's advocate. Let me say that for the record, jump on both sides. And



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I could call you something else, but I won't invite me at three o'clock.



01:29

Well, let me help you next time. We may be moving to the two o'clock hour. Does that help at all? No, we can still be party. I'm cutting into your party time. Well, I definitely knew when we went when I asked you to come on board. I said, you know, I know. I can get a good combo out of Paul, if nothing else. Oh, yeah. When you look at the the I guess you could say the notches in the cap for the black GLBT community? What do you think we are? We've had we we've made some,



02:05

some, I think there there are certain, you know, people that you know, like Elan Harris, with his books, he's made a major impression. Keith Boykin has made a change. But as far as the black gay community, I don't know what that is. It's certain black gay individuals that have made a change. But if, if, if I went searching for the black gay community, and I'm gonna say something, I've said it on another program here and KPFT before, I will say this, and it's a horrible thing to say. But I think it's a it's a realistic thing to say. If you look for the black gay community, and if you put black gay on the internet, you know, what you come up with? This is what you come up with, you come up with numerous HIV agencies, okay? When you say black and gay. And you find, if you look at the disproportionate rate of infection among Black people, and specifically black gay men, then this is the heart this is a horrible thing to say. But I will say it, the black gay community is at the HIV clinics. Find us in numbers in you will find a lot of us there. Okay, and hold on. And other than that, if you look at empowerment groups across the country, that are empowering black gay men, I'm gonna say 90% of them are run by HIV agencies. Okay, and I'm not saying that's a good thing. And I'm, you know, now I'm being a devil's advocate or wherever, okay, I'm just saying, if you look for the black gay community and find out, where can I find a significant number of black gay men or women, you can find them in the clinics, you can find it in the clubs, but as far as a community, a physical location, other than the clubs, or other than HIV agencies,



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if I'm at clinics, there there aren't there isn't



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a blanket immunity, okay. You don't have something like a Montrose area in Houston, where you can say, Oh, the black gay community is over there on Martin Luther King. No, it's not. You might say, well, there's a significant number of black gay people in the southwest, right part of Houston. Right? But it's like, if you go find them. They're not just okay. They're not like a community. Hmm. And I think that's a problem. So when you say what kind of progress if we made, we've made some in the awareness to me is progress.



04:49

Okay, I'll give you that. I'll give you that. And you bring up some key people. You know, Elon Harris and you know, a couple other authors and things like that, but when you look at it

individuals as a whole, or the community as a whole? You know, you don't see it.



05:05

Yeah. And you still have a large number of people who are hiding. Yes, they're comfortable with who they are. But if you want them to come out in, you know, take a stand. To speak for others? I don't think so. Okay, I'll speak for others. All right. So, you know, I'm, I'm a person that don't mind, you know, acknowledging who I am in, say that part of my purpose is to let other people know, they're okay. Exactly like they are. And it's okay to talk about it. Okay. And that's part of what you don't have means gathering does is it sets he, it gives people a place for them to talk about issues that typically



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they can't talk about. Absolutely, absolutely. When we there's I think there's a few select cases that may be out there that are out there, as it pertains to, you know, the black GLBT community as far as making progress, I'm thinking of Chicago case on with a transgender young lady who was fired, or no, was not given a promotion to you know, being a police sergeant, after she had been there for quite some time. But you know, she took that to court, and she ended up winning that, you know, so there's they're isolated cases,



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I'm not saying there's not races, but when you talk about the community, right, still, it's really tough to what that is,



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yeah, yeah. Any suggestions on what what we as a community needs to consider both the black community and the GLBT, black GLBT community? Because they're separate? Yeah,



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they're separate. To me, I think, you know, if, in this this The tough thing, I'd rather work within the structure than to you know, just do it outside of the structure. And to me, if you can, if you can start breaking down some of the barriers that exist in the church, because to me, the black church is a major problem. Okay, as far as how we deal with these issues of homosexuality, and HIV in the black community, okay, it's a major problem.



07:20

I want to definitely put this topic this particular topic go on hold for a second. Because I think that's definitely worth talking about. We're gonna come back shortly after listening to Barry White, another selection for him. And we're going to talk a little bit more about churches and

the black community. Thank you. Okay, okay,



07:40

we're back over here. Now we're going to listen to staying power this is the selection and also the CD that Barry White won a Grammy for in 2000.



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Nice and you're listening to it on after hours. Queer radio with attitude KPFT Houston ke KPFT Houston and 89.5 in Galveston. Welcome back. Welcome back. Steve bombsight



08:13

used to it that was Mr. Barry White with the power and my lovely co host Miss Dion with our fine guest this evening, we're



08:32

Leon today okay, we're gonna come on back to the topic we were about to discuss the gay black community and churches and whether or not there will ever be acceptance within the community, we got off into you know, just kind of just kind of highlighting what does it look like to be to be gay and black at a church? And yeah, I know, Stephen, you pretty much involved with church and what does that like for you?



09:08

That's a good question. Are you Mr. Music? Greater my knowledge about this church? What is it like to be gay and black in a black Baptist Church? I don't know. I don't think okay, actually, when I say that, it's not being facetious. I don't know my lifestyle has never been an issue for me when it came to church. I mean, I've heard many ministers preach against it. And I don't know it goes over my head because I know where my position is with God so I'm comfortable with is so that I know ministers. They're going to do their job and I respected I guess my thing is because I respect them for that's their belief and I Specht, a person for standing up standing up for their belief, even if it's not always correct, but at least they are standing up for their belief. I think when it comes to me being in church personally, one of the things I guess I pride myself on is I am out and open in my church. I mean, I don't wear a sign saying I'm gay at church, I think I were more of a sign saying, I'm a musician. And I was always taught that first to have people respect me for me, then respect me for my talents. So they by the time you get all the way down, at least, all the way down, at least to my lifestyle, it really doesn't matter. And it's not so much I think what you do is how you do it. And because of that, and because I believe in and carry myself at a certain standard, regardless of whether I'm in church or in the nightclub, I have not run into a lot of the negative news that I think a lot of gays have run into. But the thing is, is because when I'm in church, I don't see myself as gay. I don't see myself as blank. I see myself as a child of God. Period stops there. I don't carry my bedroom to church with me

and I don't. Likewise, I really don't discuss it in church because I don't think it's an issue. Okay. Some people are offended by it. I know there is a lot of negative negativity in church, when it comes to the GLB lifestyle. And from some standpoints, I can even understand where that negativity come from, because they look as a gay lifestyle is another breakdown. That's another force that's breaking down the fam, the black family. And one thing I have learned over the years in the church, anything that's breaking down, the black family and the black family is already fragile. The church frowns on

11:55

it. Okay.

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Whether it's homosexuality, alcoholism, drugs, addiction, whether it's adultery, but the church frowns on it, because one like says they look at his breaking down, the very fragile black found in the backfoot black family is already fragile, you know, they see isn't just another it's like, you have the jailhouse has taken the black man out of the home, right? Drugs and alcohol and crime is taking the black man out of home. Now we got to deal with another man taking the black man out of the home. So that's the standpoint a lot of times a lot about black churches, they're not looking at it as so much as a sickness or a disease or so much as wrong. Because a lot of churches, black churches tend to just turn a deaf ear to it to a certain extent.

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How do you feel about that?

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Well, I'll just talk a little bit about my personal experience when I came out to my Sunday school class, and is these are adults, this wasn't a Sunday or Sunday school class that I was teaching youth. This was an adult, Sunday school class. And this was in 1995. And this was at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Dallas. And at that time, I was the CO CO president of the mentoring program, and I was part of the rites of passage program for the young men, okay. And I immediately resigned from both. And I resigned from both because after coming out, I didn't want to deal with the parents thinking that I was trying to molest their children. And so that was a decision I made. And that was a one that I'm glad I did make. Now. I am a father, you know, I was in so I think Steven is right. A lot of people would see me and saying that, you know, you were married for almost 20 years, you have three kids. So you should have never said anything about your your homosexuality, but I didn't want to live that lie anymore. And so what I see in the black church, many times the same thing. You see, in a corporation, you have certain values that are accepted in a corporation, and you blend in. For many people. It's called assimilate. you assimilate into doing what the environment expects you to do. And for the most part, if you if you are gay, or you're lesbian in a black church, you assimilate. Yes, a lot of people will know. However, you don't say anything about



14:50

it. Okay? You



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pretty much accept the values of the church. Now. For someone like Steven is not degrading me Stephen, if if someone came up to him, I don't think he'd have any problem acknowledging who he is. But for many, many people who will say are not like Steve, they would hide they would never, they would never even want anybody to come up and ask them about their, their sexual,



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and I can't say that openness. It comes at a price also. Because I know in my particular case, working in the music profession, yes, you do have a lot of musicians out there, and you have a lot of ministers out there, who are gay, who are bisexual, but they like to say you go back to their value system, you have to think about, Do I want to keep this job? Do I want to keep having food on the table? You know? And you do have to think about how far do I want to go with my career, you know, to come out of black in the black church actually to come out in any church, you basically putting, you're basically ending your career. Okay. And so, at some point, you time, you do have to think about, okay, I have a family to take care, you know, I got to pay bills, is it is my coming out really going to be worth it. Unlike myself, I'm single, you know, I have a lover who's knocked out at home, right. But



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a lot of musicians, they have families, they have children, and they know, they still have to pay that college tuition. You know, even if they get a divorce, they still have to pay college tuition. And so it's a lot they have to think about putting on the line before they come out. And, like says, especially in the black community, for black musician to come out double jeopardy. is one of those things like the army, don't tell, you know, don't talk. We don't talk about this, everybody might suspect but you know, until you actually just confirm it, you're in that gray area. So you okay.



17:04

And there's nothing that there's no major force that is coming about to change that.



17:08

I was just thinking that, you know, when I asked before, what we see some of the some of the laws that are coming down the pike down the pipeline, some people who are fighting different court rulings, that kind of thing, we really don't have that recourse in the black churches, you

know, I don't see that. Now, one thing you can say is when you have different ministers, who are who come out and say, you know, and said I am I am a black gay Minister, that could be one way of saying, you know, they're setting the pace, because at least they came out their minister, they're still in front of the pulpit,



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they will be setting the pace, they would be setting a pace, the thing is, they would end up probably walking along. Because not only would you get a backlash from straight, congregation members, you actually get a backlash from gays who don't want to be out of the clouds. And they will feel like, Oh, this is going to make people start looking at me now. Okay. So you're going to, yeah, he would be setting a pace, he would be walking along and nine out of 10 times he wouldn't have a pool here.



18:12

Let me give you a good example. That means gathering the means gathering meets at the First Unitarian Church of Houston, which is you can say it's not a black church. I don't think there would be any black church in the city, who would say Well, hey, you black gay guys, come over here and meet here. And if we went there, I guarantee you, the black gay men of the church wouldn't be caught there. No,



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they wouldn't. They wouldn't



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come because of what can't be and not not being uncomfortable or



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to being exposed. They're



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comfortable, even though they might be and I'm going to use this term, they might be flaming. If people know that they're gay, they're very obvious. The fact of it is as long as they don't have to say anything about it. Okay. And you remember, I've talked about the fact that a lot of times you come out as a black gay man and you have to alienate yourself from your, your, your community, your church, and then you're trying to fit in into some new community. Okay. You don't know what, okay. That is the situation to me. When Steven was saying that many black, gay and lesbian, gay men and lesbian women will sit in a in a church and listen to this preacher

preach against homosexuality and sit in silence, because they'd rather hang out with their friends at church than to stand up and correct that minister and then be ostracized by their friends. Okay to lose their friends or to lose their family for many of them.



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I don't see. I don't see us moving in, as it pertains to the black church. I don't see us moving in the direction where just like Leon said, No acceptance. It won't be an acceptance



19:59

of I don't I don't see that in the black community. I mean, yes, we have just had supreme court overturn the sodomy law. But that is not going to change the perception of in the black community of gay. That's what we're talking about. Important thing with that is the thing with acceptance it comes on, it's a responsibility on the person who wants to be accepted. And it's also a responsibility of the person who's supposed to be doing the acceptance. Black gays have to stand up and say, Hey, we want to be accepted. And I think it's like with my situation. Yaks about me and church is I don't fit into the stereotype. And I guess that's one of the things I was always taught not to fit into a



20:48

stereotype stereotype meaning a



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stereotype of what we consider as a gay person. So



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flaming, like you mentioned, you know, maybe something like that. Okay, okay. Okay.



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Not to fit into that stereotype has always been my, the main thing I want to get across, especially church was, especially with parents, you have kids, you don't have to be free to have your kids around me. I have, I have children, I have grandkids. I don't fit what you would normally think of as that flaming gay says. There are gays out here who we get dirty, just like everybody else, you know, you can't tell us from anybody else, you know, there's nothing that you can say, Oh, this is how I point out I know a gay person. Right? Okay. And I think if more gays was thought, if we would start acting more black and less gay. And how people accept this first for us and says like, Okay, you got to accept me for being gay. No, I don't have to accept you for being gay. But accept me for being a human first.



21:53

When you talk about when we talked about laws, laws could affect the society as a whole. But when we take it away from the legal aspects of it, there's a societal, I guess you could say, I guess you could say social a social obligation that one would say a black gay has has to the community. What I mean by that is, our children are teenagers who are starting to, you know, maybe have different feelings, that kind of thing. And they're looking for role models to see that acceptance, you know, it's okay to be, then when I said setting the setting the pace, you know, someone who is a minister who has come out, could very well be that individual, that role model for them, so to speak.



22:39

And not only just the role model, not only just the leaders but also lets someone else congregational members get up.



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See one of the you know, where I thought you were gonna go when you're talking about the, the laws, you can legislate a law and tell people what is no longer against the law. Okay, but you cannot legislate how people think. And what I mean by that, is that, you know, whether it's civil rights, you can say, well, you know, certain types of discrimination is illegal, okay. But you can't get people to accept it. Because you can't legislate how they think. Now, there could be consequences. But you know, many times you can just look at, you know, the bias or the prejudice that we have in it still exists, because you can't legislate how people think. And the same thing goes to goes along with, you know, with with sexual orientation. black churches are the individual themselves, it's not even about all the time about the black church, it's now it's above black homosexual. It's about what we think about sales in many times, we are our biggest enemy.



24:01

One of the things I have heard from both of both of you, as it pertains to the black community first is it starts within self, you know, that empowerment, feeling that feeling comfortable self awareness, it starts with itself, and then you can move out into the social aspects, then you can maybe move into the political realm, then you can, you know, it's kind of things but self is first,



24:25

right? And, you know, it's like the coming out process, you first have to come out to your own so you can't come out to everybody else until you come out to answer though. And once you become comfortable with yourself, like I said, it doesn't matter. You know, what, I think one of the things, the key things, especially when it comes to church, you have to know the Bible for your own self. I hear Mr. Berry and I get the message. But in church I found I wanted to keys things to be uncomfortable in any churches if you know the Bible for you yourself then, you

know whether that minister is up there telling the truth or not telling the truth and if he's telling the truth you know how to say hey man and black folks know that's a man the truth you just sit there and do like I do outside Isn't



25:16

it time for me to go home could tell it's time to go home because the coffee just kicked



25:26

out another night. Well, I want to thank Mr. Paul Guillory and Mr. Leon Johnson and my lovely host, Miss Dr. Redman for being on the show tonight. I also want to stick where's my homeboy? You still over there? Jimmy?



25:38

I'm here. Okay.



25:40

I want to thank Jimmy as always, that's my pass and we we wrote it together. And like I say every month like chocolate it comes in house shades and all flavors, but it is all sweet. So remember, love somebody liked their childhood. This wait till next month. Goodnight. Thank you.



25:59

Thank you. You've been listening to after hours. Queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and ke no naka EOS College Station as we found out tonight but at 9.5 in Galveston. In the background, you're hurting hearing Barry White's loves theme so I'll let you listen to that. And then the Rasta man Rasta man like vibrations is there that guy's right there in the hallway waiting to come in. And he will be right after the BBC News. So have a good week.



26:39

Summer's here once again and it's time for the 17th annual watermelon dance and summer social. It'll be a great weekend back with some of the finest acts around Friday July 25 And Saturday July 26 To the last concert Cafe gates open at 5pm on Friday, July 25. And music starts at six you'll get eight bands riding night including Parks and Wildlife op Hendricks EP Vallejo and plump. The first band starts at 430 on Saturday and you'll get eight more including Colin Brooks, st Jubilee, peach truck and the high Taylor's. For more information on a complete list of bands playing at the festival go to [www.kpft.org](http://www.kpft.org) \$10 for a one day pass and only

15 for the whole weekend. There'll be many vendors at the festival including food, jewelry, clothes and bear. So come out to the 17th annual watermelon dance and summer social benefiting KPFT Friday, July 25 And Saturday July 26 At the last concert cafe.



27:53

You're listening to KPFT Houston to Big



28:01

Brother, hundreds and hundreds of teenage boys and girls are becoming hopeless so badly.



28:07

Marijuana may not cause the overdose deaths by heroin, but it's just as dangerous. We



28:13

know terrorism is funded by drug sales. Or you could listen to the unvarnished truth about the drug war each afternoon on the 420 drug war news and on Tuesday evenings at 630 on cultural baggage.



28:31

ABC News with taglyan Dora shelling has resumed in the Liberian capital, Monrovia has rebels continue to fight forces loyal to the government of President Charles Taylor. Earlier the United States ambassador in Liberia John Blaney, appealed to the rebels to halt their advance. Paul Walsh reports from Monrovia



28:48

after a low during the night the shelling of Monrovia began again just before dawn, it's continuing. heavy mortars are being launched into the heart of the city and fighting continues in the suburbs. In some areas not directly affected by the fighting, there are reports of looting taking place, with weapons being fired. Among the latest to arrive at the few places offering medical help a child with a bullet wound through her lung. The American ambassador here is appeal to the rebels to stop their advance and to concentrate on peace talks. Liberia's President Charles Taylor is talking tough, threatening to fight street to street house to house if that's what it takes. If the rebels do push forward into the heart of the city. That's exactly what will happen.



29:31

The British Prime Minister Tony Blair has arrived in South Korea where he's expected to repeat warnings about the danger of North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Mr. Blair's visit is still being overshadowed by the political controversy that's intensified in Britain after the death of a government scientist who was at the center of a dispute over intelligence on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Here's our political correspondent Laura Trevelyan,



29:53

Mr. Blair's mood has changed considerably overnight, whereas yesterday in Japan he appeared drained and tense today In a lengthy television interview, he seemed far more relaxed. The prime minister said there was no need for him to recall Parliament as the conservatives have demanded, saying to do so would generate more heat than light. What was needed instead, he said was a period of reflection. Mr. Blair will hold talks with the South Korean president Mr. No today on the agenda will be the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear ambitions. The United States is trying to encourage peace talks between North Korea, China, South Korea and Japan and move Britain supports the North Koreans had wanted talks with the Americans alone.



30:35

The United States military in Iraq says Target soldiers were killed and another injured early on Sunday near the northern city of Warsaw. A spokesman said their convoy came under attack from rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire. attacks on American soldiers have increased recently with six deaths in the last six days. But the BBC correspondent in Baghdad says such incidents have been rare in the northern Kurdish area. You're listening to the news from the BBC. The former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin is reported to be in a coma on a life support system in Saudi Arabia, where he's been in exile since 1979. A Ugandan newspaper quoted Ugandan government sources as saying Mr. Amin had been admitted to hospital in Jeddah three months ago, suffering from hypertension. On Friday, his condition worsened and he went into a coma. One of Mr. men's wives told the French news agency that his family had already asked the Ugandan government for permission to bring his buddy back home in the event of his death. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is due to hold more talks with his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas today. Their meeting to be held after the regular Sunday morning session of the Israeli cabinet will be the fourth since Mr. Abbas took office in April. Palestinian officials say that three weeks into a truce by militant groups who will press Mr. Shear on to release a substantial number of Palestinian prisoners. Australia says the intervention force being sent to the Solomon Islands to restore law and order will defend itself with lethal force if necessary. The Foreign Minister Alexander dharnas said any gunman in the Solomon Islands with common sense would understand that there was nothing to be gained by confronting the force from Sydney filmless reports.



32:14

Australia's Defense Minister Robert Hill has described the peacekeepers rules of engagement as robust. He said if they face life threatening confrontations, they would be allowed to defend themselves using maximum force. Senator Hill said some of the criminal gangs operating with impunity in the Solomons were heavily armed and unpredictable. The minister said the

international force could run into what he described as dangerous and tricky situations. Around 300 police officers will be supported by a military contingent of 2000 troops from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.



32:52

In Brazil, hundreds of people have invaded vacant land belonging to an inactive Volkswagen factory saying the land should be given to them so they can build homes. Members of the landless movement or MTS T invaded a site on the outskirts of Sao Paulo under cover of darkness. One of their organizers said the site was chosen because it had previously been public land that was transferred to Volkswagen. This is the latest in a wave of occupation by the landless movement in Brazil, which feels that President Lula DE SILVA as promised land reforms are taking place too slowly. And that's the summary of the BBC World Service news.



33:28

It's 906 GMT, you're listening to the BBC World Service with Sue Montgomery. As rebels in Liberia again, closing on the capital Monrovia. President Charles Taylor has been sounding defiant. He told journalists that he and his forces would fight to the last and that he'd never desert the Capitol. With an assessment of the options facing the embattled Liberian leader. Here's grant Ferrant.



33:54

Charles Taylor has survived to previous rebel onslaught since June, but his position is probably weaker now than at any time, his forces seemed taken aback by the speed of the latest rebel advance, which came in spite of a ceasefire signed a month ago. This could in part be explained by a weariness among his troops. But some have also complained that they're unwilling to risk their lives for a man who said in recent weeks that he's prepared to step down. Mr. Taylor has repeatedly said he's willing to leave office, if required to do so as part of a peace deal being negotiated in Garner. The current draft does indeed call for him to hand power to an interim government. He could then go into exile probably in Nigeria, but this one