

STATEMENT OF DR. SCHEIRBECK

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Lumbees and 5.6 percent in the State of North Carolina as a whole.

Let me highlight for a moment what the President's budget would do to the Eastern Indian tribes, organizations and communities: Department of Education: The President proposes to abolish the Department of Education in 1983 and replace it with a Foundation for Education Assistance responsible for block grants and consolidated aid for state and local educational agencies, student loans and grants, and other educational functions. All Indian groups have participated in Title I, ESEA, as a source for remedial basic education, improved curriculum, and home and school liaison. The proposed cut from \$3.1 to \$1.9 billion would cause a loss of all the critical skills teachers in both the public schools and the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. Student loans and grants have been the only source of under graduate financial assistance for the 600 Eastern American Indian students in higher education. Without such assistance, it appears to us that 500 of these students could not gain the skills available at technical schools and colleges, because they could not enroll.

Another part of the President's proposal is to transfer the Department of Education's assistance programs funded under Title IV of the Indian Education Act to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. This program would be cut by \$26.7 million. If such a transfer takes place, all urban, rural, and other American Indians not under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs will lose these programs. Indeed, all the Indian children attending public schools (300,000) would be in jeopardy of losing these services. The critical elements of parent involvement with the local educational agency, Indian professional scholarships for lawyers, doctors, and business majors will be lost, as well as the pilot R and D projects in curriculum and adult education. This one act would do irreparable

damage to the positive educational achievements of the past decade.

Department of Health and Human Services: The Administration for Native Americans is the major agency in this department charged with promoting Indian self-sufficiency and self-determination. It has been helpful to urban and rural Indian not living on Federal reservations, by funding tribal organizations, administrative capability, social service, and recognition grants. This agency is targeted for an 18 percent cut next year, which would put their budget at \$23 million. The Financial Assistance grants are to be cut by \$4.3 million next year; this would reduce Indian projects from 179 to 135. There is no doubt in my mind that urban and rural Indians not living on Federal reservations would receive the largest share of these cuts. This agency, under its present leadership has steadily moved into supporting tribal governments on Federal reservations, instead of maintaining its original initiative to serve urban and rural Indians not living on Federal reservations.

Indian Health Service funds the Health Manpower Services Program, under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which grants scholarships to Indians in the health professions and those pursuing Master's of Public Health at Schools of Public Health: University of California, Berkeley; Hawaii; North Carolina; and Oklahoma. These schools provide our only source of trained Indian man and woman power in the health field. We strongly urge that these programs be continued and funded at their current FY '82 level of \$240,000.

Department of Labor: Much progress has been made under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act which is expiring. Our people understand and appreciate the Administration's concern with waste, fraud, and more cooperation with the private sector. Yet, it is important to realize that the technical

assistance grants which could have been of primary assistance to all Indian grantees were never funded. This meant that many of our programs were not as effective as they could have been. We urge this Select Committee to look closely at any new legislation proposed for this area to ensure that urban and rural non-reservation Indians are included and that technical assistance is incorporated into any new proposals.

The Indian Information Project is extremely concerned about the draft Administration bill circulated for comment last week. That proposal would serve only the "Federally recognized" tribes and completely leave out urban and rural Indian tribes and organizations. Our project endorsed the statement by the Indian and Native American CETA Coalition and filed a letter stating this.

It is our understanding that the President's budget requests \$30 to \$50 million for Special Target Programs. American Indians would be included in this category. It is not clear how much would be earmarked for American Indians, and if the indicators we have seen hold true, urban and rural Indians would not be included.

Legal Services Corporation: The President proposes zero funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Funds from this Corporation would be combined with human services block grants to the states. No mandate would be given to the states regarding whether or not to fund Legal Services. The funding level in FY '82 was \$241 million. Our project recommends continuing this level for FY '83.

The Legal Services Corporations has been a lifesaver for many Indians, minorities, and people at the lower socioeconomic level of our society. For Eastern Indians, the Legal Service Corporations have just expanded into rural areas in the last three years. Prior to that, the majority of our people had no means of accessing the judicial system for settling disputes, particularly civil ones, and, thus, many were denied any justice at all. In the case of my own tribe, the Lumbees, the Lumbee River Legal Services Corporation has assisted in ensuring justice in cases of Gerrymandering, voting rights,

and employee discrimination in industry, in addition, this group is aiding all the North Carolina Tribes in their quest for legal recognition. If entities like the Lumbee River Legal Services Corporation are defunded, the cause of justice for America's minorities and socio-economic deprived will become rhetoric.

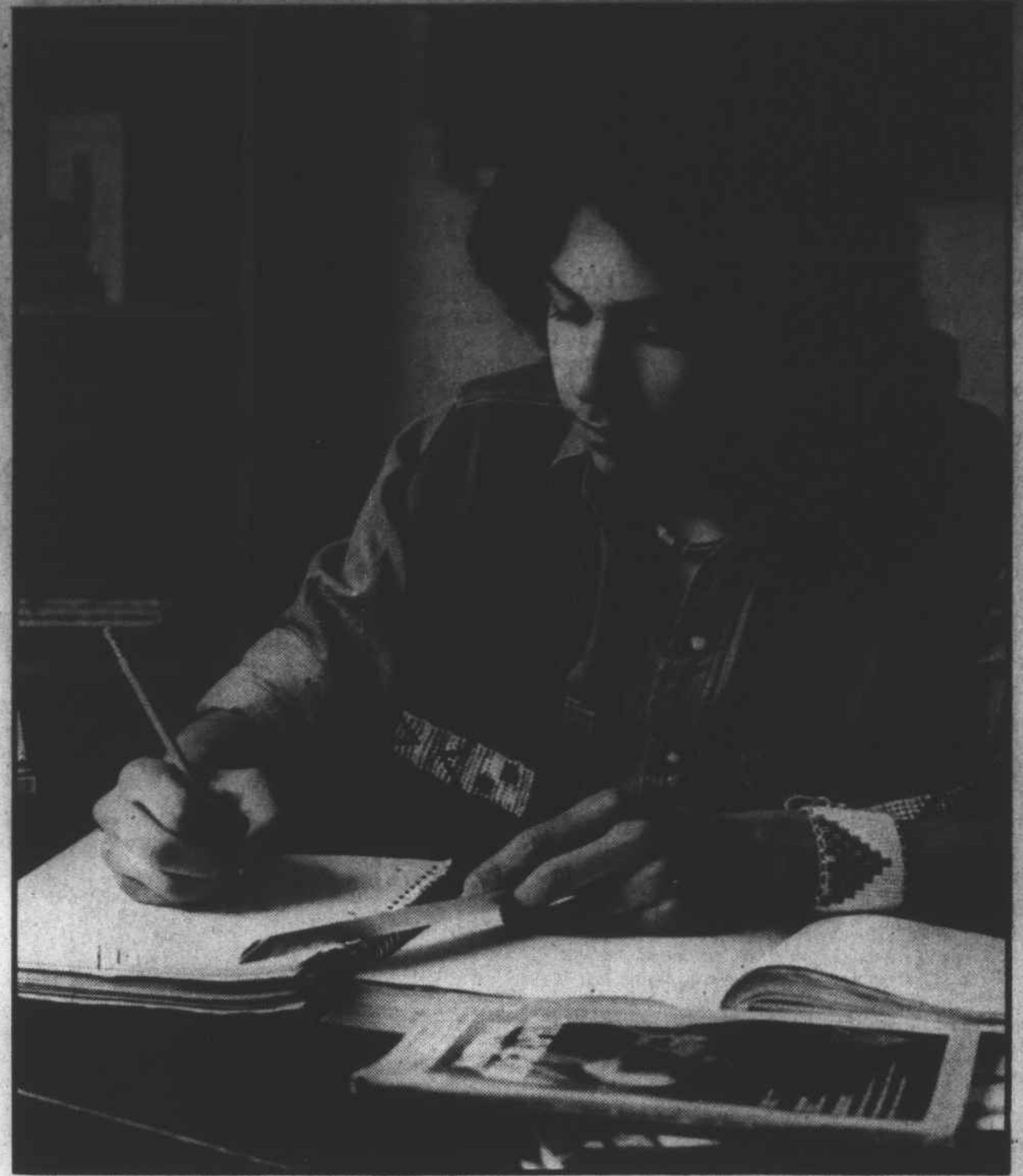
Conclusions: Although our project speaks directly about the needs of Eastern Indian tribes and organizations east of the Mississippi River, let me state our support for all the programs serving Indian people. All Indian people are at a developmental and transitional stage in our nation's history. All of our tribes and organizations are striving for self-sufficiency and self-determination. This last decade has seen increased trained Indian men and womenpower, planning and concrete evidence of increased opportunities in the various Indian tribes and communities.

All of us are concerned about the economic recovery of our nation. That recovery cannot occur if people who are being trained for employment (semi-skilled, skilled, and professional) are moved from potential employees to the unemployed and underemployable rolls.

It is imperative, Mr. Chairman, that the positive development of Indian tribes, organizations, and communities continue so that our people can move into the category of self-sustaining. I urge you to recommend to the Budget and Appropriations Committees a continuation of these vital Indian programs at least at the minimum level of FY '82 and, where possible, an increase to reflect the costs of inflation.

Mr. Chairman, our people support our President when it is possible to do so; however, in this instance, the President's proposal would devastate the important developments which occurred for all Indians in the last decade. The President's proposed budget would be most harmful to Indian people (tribes and organizations) who live east of the Mississippi River. We urge this Committee to be the spearhead in fighting for justice and equity for all American Indians.

"Teach thy tongue to say, 'I do not know.'" Talmud



"I shall see our young braves and our chiefs sitting in the houses of law and government, ruling and being ruled by the knowledge and freedom of our great land." - Chief Dan George

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