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A Front Page Editorial

Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend Challenged by Mike McIntyre

It was hardly a surprise, but Mike McIntyre made it official Monday when he called for a runoff against Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend in spite of the fact that she beat him by more than 5,000 votes on May 7 in the Democratic Primary for the right to replace Rep. Charlie Rose in the 7th District Congressional race. There were other surprises though, and Lowry-Townsend supporters were quick to point them out.

One surprise is the fact that Mike McIntyre has decided the only way to beat Lowry-Townsend is to throw a little dirt here and there. The Lumberton attorney was quick to criticize Lowry-Townsend by saying, "Will the people of this district support a candidate who has been living in Raleigh or someone who has been down here in the district making a difference?" Lowry-Townsend, a Lumbee Indian from Pembroke, had to smile gently to herself about that one. After all, she is the daughter of Pembroke's Rev. Welton Lowry, a retired teacher and Baptist preacher who pastored West End Baptist Church in West Lumberton for more than thirty years. Local Indians chided McIntyre for his approach. After all, someone mused at Town and Country, a Pembroke Restaurant, "I'll bet you the Lowry name has been in Robeson County at least as long as the moniker 'McIntyre'." The truth of the matter is that Lowry-Townsend is still on a leave of absence from the Public Schools of Robeson County while she leads the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE). Lowry-Townsend was the principal of Union Elementary when she won the post to lead the state-wide association of educators. Lowry-Townsend has her roots deep in Robeson County. McIntyre would be politically foolish, in our editorial opinion, to belabor the point of her living in Raleigh the last few years.

McIntyre also negatively cried out, "Will they (the voters in the 7th Congressional District) support a candidate who raised more than 70% of her money from 48 other states, including Alaska and Hawaii?" Come on now, Brother McIntyre, where do you stand on the issues? Voters here at home applaud Lowry-Townsend for being an effective campaigner, and for her ability to raise the funds needed to run a winning campaign. After all, the question should be, was the money raised legally? Of course

it was. Another question might even be, where does McIntyre's money come from? Both campaigns have to publicly tell who is financially supporting them. Will McIntyre be damned for accepting money from Lumberton's business community, for instance? Of course not! It's hard for us to believe that the working men and women inside the 7th Congressional District are going to damn hard working people outside the district for financially supporting Lowry-Townsend. McIntyre, as we see it, won't get far with the political trick of tarring and feathering those who work for an honest living, especially NCAE members across the district and beyond. It is encouraging that people outside the district recognize Lowry-Townsend as the probably winner on June 4.

ROBESONIAN ONCE AGAIN SHOWS ITS TRUE COLOR...

Not surprising is the fact that the *Robesonian*, the so-called county daily newspaper, is showing its true color in the way it is covering the two candidates. McIntyre, on Monday, was showcased again on the front page of the *Robesonian* as he called for a runoff against Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend. It is already the second time McIntyre has made the front page of the daily (sic) newspaper. He was in living color on the front page the day after the May 7 primary, in spite of the fact that McIntyre finished second to Lowry-Townsend in the 7th Congressional race. Lowry-Townsend's picture finally appeared on the front page of the *Robesonian* Tuesday, a week after leading McIntyre by more than 5,000 votes in last Tuesday's Democratic primary. We imagine she'll probably make the front page of the *Robesonian* again after this editorial chastisement appears in the *Carolina Indian Voice*. It will be interesting to see if the *Robesonian* will have the editorial guts to endorse McIntyre outright rather than do it unofficially as they are now doing. Lowry-Townsend has mostly ignored the *Robesonian* in her campaign. That's probably a good strategy, although it would be nice if the so-called daily truly represented all the people in the county and treated both candidates fairly and above-board.

Some of Lowry-Townsend's supporters were also amused to find that Brant Clifton, the Republican staff writer of the *Robesonian*, was assigned to the story of McIntyre's call for a runoff. Watch that one Clifton is the master of the political dig, the classical, political writer who seemingly invents when the story is not forthcoming. It is hard for Clifton to disguise who he is supporting when he covers political events like McIntyre's call for a runoff against Lowry-Townsend. Who else would refer to a run-off for a seat in the United States House of Representatives as "A Robeson Rumble." That's what Clifton did when announcing McIntyre's decision to call for a run-off. Even the *Robesonian* editors, or some one came back the next day and stated in the "Correction and Amplification" that McIntyre did not refer to the race as a "Robeson Rumble." Well, if Mike didn't that only leaves Brant. That is just the kind of reporting (sic) we've come to expect from Brant Clifton. After all, he was particularly vindictive and mean-spirited in the Sheriff's race when Glenn Maynor beat Republican James Sanderson in November of 1994. Indians recall that campaign well. It is our opinion that at that time, the *Robesonian* and its staff reiterated and emphasized their true feelings about Indians. Obviously, they do not like us. And their reasons, in our opinion, for disliking us, is because of the color of our skin. That seems so silly and petty to us. Of course, we believe they would like it better if we were not so proud of being Indian. But our Sheriff has said it well, "I am Indian by the Grace of God." Yes, we are proud! And, yes, we will support the Indian candidate, Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend. We challenge the *Robesonian* to be honest and announce who their candidate is. History has proven that they have never endorsed an Indian or a Black candidate. It will be interesting to see if Brant Clifton takes any pot shots against Lowry-Townsend as the runoff nears. It will be interesting, but it certainly will not surprise the Indians who, just for the record, make up the majority population in Robeson. Keep reading and tell all your friends and neighbors. June 4 is the day we elect the first female Native American Democratic nominee for the Seventh Congressional District! Remember! Only in Robeson!!



Bells observe 40th wedding anniversary

James F. (Buddy) Bell and Sarah Bell of Pembroke, NC celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a dinner at the Barn in Southern Pines, NC on May 5, 1996. Attending the dinner were their three sons and their spouses: Attorney Greg Bell and wife Bonita; Dr. Joey Bell and wife, Vicki; Dr. Ronny Bell and wife Natalie.



Observes 95th birthday

Eunice Sampson of Pembroke, NC celebrated her birthday on April 29, 1996 at Linda's Restaurant with family and friends. Ms. Sampson is the wife of the late Stanley Sampson and mother of Sarah S. Bell and James W. Sampson, all of Pembroke, NC. Ms. Sampson is the grandmother of Attorney Greg Bell, Dr. Joey Bell, Dr. Ronny Bell and Miss Kristy Sampson and the great grandmother of seven, Jamie, Ashleigh, Tori, Isaac, Stephen, Benjamin and Johnaton Bell. Shown in the photo is Ms. Sampson with her birthday cake. (Photo by Greg Bell)

Rep. Cummings' legislative voice and hands gets swift, head start

With the May 13, 1996 convening of the NC House "Short Session" and the expected June 21, 1996 adjournment (six weeks), the Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings has wasted no time moving forward with a strong advocacy for Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties-District 87.

State Representatives Cummings sponsored and introduced the first two House Bills in the 1996 Short Session which began at noon May 13th. In addition, she has gained approval of fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars for a Robeson County initiative.

Rep. Cummings' first House Bill (1071) appropriates the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) for the 1996-97 fiscal year for the completion of the Southeastern Farmers' Market and Equestrian/Agricultural Center facility in Robeson County. Rep. Cummings said, "I believe in Economic Development and diversity in the market place, therefore, I had to follow-through with the project for which I wrote the proposal in 1993." Agriculture Vice Chairperson Frank Mitchell and Speaker Harold Brubaker have given their support to see that the funding is allocated in the 1996 budget, making the

funds available July 1, 1996. Cummings said.

Rep. Cummings' second HB 1072 changes the name of Pembroke State University to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Rep. Cummings said, "I was proud to bring this issue to the floor during the Short Session and I expect ratification of the House Bill within the next few days." This action is a direct result of Rep. Cummings being a member of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee which passed her motion to approve her House Bill recommending the name change, according to Cummings. Rep. Cummings said, "It is a good feeling to be able to support an initiative for such an outstanding University as Pembroke State and to do what I can to be sure the University is readily recognized as part of the University System." I have always been a true advocate for Pembroke State University. Rep. Cummings said.

Rep. Cummings has also gained approval of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the NC Cancer Institute, Inc. located in Lumberton, Robeson County of which five thousand (\$5,000) will be presented

next week. These funds will be used by the Cancer Institute to enhance the skilled nursing care and planned new facilities. Rep. Cummings said, "I am humbled by the opportunity

to help the elderly, the disadvantaged, and those who need the best in nursing and medical care."

State Representative Cummings is working on a Regional Concept with the Children's Developmental Center of Rutherford-Hoke County in an effort to acquire funding for new facilities.

Rep. Cummings said, "The people and I can do more, working together, for our counties than any one individual. I believe the majority of people accept and admire me as a State Representative who keeps my thoughts in active motion for progressive prosperity for ALL people."

Rep. Cummings also said, "Robeson, Hoke and Scotland counties deserve a progressive future, and I have always been a successful legislator since 1993 having gained millions of dollars for our District. I have the 'Key to Progress' which opens doors of opportunities for ALL people. My desire is that our counties get their fair share of the revenue pie. We are

no longer the 'forgotten', 'taken-for-granted', 'abandoned' counties."

State Representative Cummings is expected to file three additional local House Bills next week—one at the request of Mayor Robert B. Midgett of Maxton, and two at the request of Mayor Raymond B. Pennington of Lumberton.

Sutton re-elected for House of Representatives

Incumbent Ronnie Sutton, Representative for District 85, easily overcame a challenge by Harold G. Dial of Pembroke to retain his seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives on Tuesday. Rep. Sutton is a member of the Pembroke Law Firm, Locklear, Jacobs, Sutton and Hunt. There is no Republican opposition in this race.

Sutton stated that he was thankful for the trust that the voters of the 85th district had placed in him by re-electing him and pledged to continue to provide effective leadership to the district and the state of North Carolina.



Prospect United Methodist Church will be the site for a Gospel Sing on Sunday, May 19, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. Prospect UMC is located on Route 3, Maxton, across the road from Prospect School.

The sing will feature the Skylite Boys Quartet of McColl, South Carolina. The Skylite Boys, known across the Carolinas, will minister to us as they present the Gospel message in a bubbling, evangelistic style. Local church groups and visitors will participate in this evening of good gospel music.

You are invited and you do not want to miss this gospel music concert.

Gregory Cummings named new Industrial Development Director for the County

Robeson County Manager, Mr. Willie A. Best, announced today that Mr. Gregory C. Cummings has been selected as Robeson County's new Industrial Development Director.

The recruitment for the Robeson County Industrial Director began approximately three to four months ago. The County received approximately twenty-six (26) applications for the position. The group was narrowed to five (5) candidates and finally to two candidates. After evaluating both of the final candidates, Mr. Best has selected Mr. Gregory C. Cummings as Robeson County's new Industrial Development Director.

Mr. Cummings brings twenty (20) years of experience working with industry in the four county area and thirteen years experience in Industrial and Private Business Developments. Mr. Cummings has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pembroke State University in addition to course work in Basic Economic Development from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He brings his knowledge and experience in addition to his people skills which will collectively prove to be a great asset to the County.

Cummings, a member of the Pembroke Town Council and prominent businessman, is scheduled to begin his employment with the county on June 10, 1996.

