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## Hew Recommends Enforcement of Civil Rights Legislation Against Robeson County Board of Education

The board meeting began quietly enough. Item 13 was buried in the middle of an unusually long agenda and was simply listed as "Report on information we have received from HEW."

But what information! The United States Health, Education and Welfare Department outlined its grievances against the county school system in a detailed, 15 page letter to Y. H. Allen. To secure a copy, this reporter was forced to pay 50¢ per page to have the letter xeroxed in keeping with policy established by the board of education at an earlier meeting when it was dictated that 50¢ per page would be charged to anyone wishing to xerox any information from the files of the Robeson County Board of Education.

### WHAT ARE THE BASIC COMPLAINTS?

HEW's William H. Thomas, Director, Office of Civil Rights (Region IV) outlined the grievances in a letter to Supt. Y. H. Allen.

"Our letter of August 21, 1975 outlined three areas where your district's policy, procedures, and practices failed to comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In two of these areas your district has not taken action which promises to eliminate the compliance problems..."

Thomas stated, "We are forwarding your district's files to our Washington office with a recommendation that appropriate enforcement action be initiated..."

One area prompting the chastisement by HEW is in the area of faculty and staff assignment to schools. The letter noted that the racial ratio of teachers in each school must be substantially the same as the racial ratio of the total district faculty and staff.

HEW was exacting and specific in stating that "...Faculty members will generally be assigned so that the ratio of Negro, Indian and White teachers at each school will approximate the current ratio of such teachers through

out the district."

The other area where the county school system failed to satisfy HEW and compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act is in the area of assignment of students to the programs for the Educable Mentally Retarded. The letter noted that "This is the area of concern that we are calling to the attention of the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction as well as referring to the Regional Attorney for appropriate action..."

### FACULTY AND STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

During the early part of 1971, suits filed in Federal District Court concerning Title VI requirements for Robeson County Schools. As a result of that action, HEW has not fully applied the intent or letter of the law in regard to teacher assignment.

At times the non-compliance has been costly. Thomas reminded Allen in the letter that "When your district

applied for Emergency School Aid Act funding, you were notified by Dr. Dean Bistline, Acting Regional Commissioner of Education, on June 2, 1973 that your school system was ineligible for funding because your faculty and staff assignments continued to identify schools as schools for pupils of a particular race..."

At the present time, the racial ratio of teachers teaching in the Robeson County school system is 17% Black, 27% White and 56% Indian. HEW noted in the letter that "...Based on your current racial ratio of faculty and staff, each group of 100 teachers in your district would include 17 Black, 27 White, and 56 Indian in order to reflect the total district racial ratio. This means that under your desegregation plan and under Title VI, it is expected that the faculty and staff of each school would include 17% Black, 27% White and 56% Indian teachers..."

HEW also charged that "The principals have been assigned on the basis of race. The race of the principals of 23

schools of the 24 schools in your district continues to be the same as the race by which the school has been historically identified. The exception is at Green Grove, formerly an Indian school, where there is now a Black principal. This school and Hilly Branch, a Black school, were combined at the beginning of the 1975-76 school year into the present Green Grove School, and the Black man was named principal..."

The communicate also states "There is no evidence that you or your board have initiated actions which promise to result in the elimination of racially identifiable faculty and staff before the beginning of the 1976-77 school year."

"In order for your faculty and staff assignments to comply with the requirements of Title VI, your faculty must be assigned by no later than the beginning of the 1976-77 school year in a non discriminatory manner where the racial ratio of each faculty approximates the total district faculty ratio. In addition, nondiscriminatory policy, procedures and practices must be established for the selection and assignment of principals..."

### THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The letter continues...

"The other area where your district's

policy, procedures and practices fail to comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is in the area of assignment of students to the programs for the Educable Mentally Retarded. This is the area of concern that we are calling to the attention of the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction as well as referring to the Regional Attorney for appropriate action.

"Your attention is directed to Section 80.3 (b) (1) (i-vi) of the Regulation implementing Title VI. Further, as our letter of August 21, 1975 advised:

"When there is overinclusion of minority group students among the students assigned to a program, the denial of equal educational opportunity that arises from improper placement rests more upon the minority group students. Therefore, the improper assignment of students to the EMR program in Robeson County would result in a failure to comply with nondiscriminatory student assignment requirements under Title VI."

"Dr. Bistline in his June 2, 1973 letter, regarding your district's ineligibility for Emergency School Aid Act funding, mentioned previously, advised your district that the placement of students into an EMR program on the basis of a score obtained on the Slosson Intelligence Test constitutes an improper EMR placement."

"...There is no provision in North Carolina for temporary placement of students into an EMR program. The full psychological evaluations, including the consideration of a measure of adaptive behavior, are to have been completed before the district-wide EMR placement committee meets to consider the appropriate placement of a student into an EMR program, then the parent or guardian is requested to provide permission for placement. The superintendent or the employee who has been designated the responsibility for the Program for Exceptional Chil-

dren is required to assure that each of the pre-placement procedures has been completed in a proper sequence before a student is assigned to the EMR program.

The records of students assigned to your EMR program were compared to the state standard during our visit in March, 1975. Our August 21, 1975 letter pointed out many instances where the EMR records showed that students have been placed before the proper screening and evaluation procedures have been completed, and many instances where the students were assigned to the EMR program but were denied complete evaluations before and after placements, and instances where the permission of parent or guardian has not been obtained, or were obtained at an inappropriate time such as before the psychological evaluation or after the student had been placed in the EMR program.

"The report provided April 27, 1976 shows 674 students assigned to the Robeson County EMR program, including 44 white students (6.5%), 228 Black students (34%) and 402 Indian students (59.9%). Your district's student racial ratio is 20% white students, 21% Black students and 59% Indian students. Therefore, minority group students are over included in your EMR program."

"Because of the exceptionally large number of students assigned to your EMR program without complying, either before or after placement, with your state Rules and Regulations governing ERM placement, and because of the exceptionally large number of students who were improperly assigned to your EMR program for the first time during the 1975-76 school term, we are unable to accept your assurance that there will be no improper assignment of students to the Robeson County EMR program at the beginning of the 1976-77 school term.

SEE HEW CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Native American Resource Center an Attraction at P.S.U.



Paintings, arrowheads, miniature cabins, etc., are still part of one section of P.S.U.'s Native American Resource Center.



Beads and necklaces are on display as beautiful examples of Indian culture at PSU's Native American Resource Center.

By GENE WARREN

PEMBROKE — For tourists or citizens of this area who would like to spend an enjoyable time looking at Indian relics, artifacts and paintings of every description, the place to visit is the beautiful Native American Resource Center on the Pembroke State University campus.

The Center, located on the second floor of PSU's Mary Livemore Library, is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. every Monday through Friday. Since January, the Center, which is spectacularly decorated with its tapestries of colors, has had 1,200 visitors. They came mostly from a radius of six counties surrounding Pembroke — and from such distant states as Oklahoma, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Ohio and New Mexico.

Brochures about the Center are placed in motels and the North Carolina border.

The Center has been open for two years, but is constantly

adding new attractions.

"Our visitors have been wanting to see an Indian war bonnet, so we have a new one on display from the Sioux Reservation in North Dakota," said Mrs. Pauline B. Locklear, who is completing her first year as director of the Center.

Other new additions are Hopi Kachina dolls from the Hopi Reservation in New Mexico. One has a wolf head, used in Indian religious dances, and another an eagle head, used in other dances.

The Center also features a new display on "Strike at the Wind," the new outdoor drama near Pembroke whose hero is the famous Lumbee Indian outlaw, Henry Berry Lowrie. A portrait of Lowrie (a popular attraction of the Center) is also featured. Its artist is Gene Locklear, Lumbee Indian who is an outfitter with the San Diego Padres. Locklear also has a painting of Lowrie's home at the Center along with many sketches of Robeson County

scenes.

For many who think "Strike at the Wind" is the first drama about Henry Berry Lowrie the Center offers a surprise. It has displays of two other drama scripts about the Indian "Robin Hood," the first being one in April, 1926, entitled "The Scuffle Outlaws," written by William Normont Cox of Robeson County. He was a member of the Carolina Playmakers. Another, produced by the Playmakers Theatre at UNC-Chapel Hill on July 15, 1939, was written by Clare Johnson Marley of Cary and entitled "Swamp Outlaw." There is a Lumbee school register from 1891 and a newspaper about Lumbee from 1919.

### PAINTINGS

Other new additions in the Center are paintings of six famous Indians, all the work of Gloria Lowry of Pembroke. The six subjects of the art work are Cochise, the Chiricahua Apache chief; Pontiac, the Ottawa

chief; Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief (a statue of whom is at the U.S. Naval Acad. my.); Sequoyah, who invented the Cherokee alphabet; Osceola, a Seminole chief; and Pocahontas, known to every school child as the Indian princess who interceded for Captain John Smith.

There are other paintings by Ramona Hunt, a Lumbee who now lives in Puerto Rico. One is of Dr. Governor Locklear, who was educated at Johns Hopkins University and became the first Lumbee medical doctor in 1911. He was the son of Preston Locklear, a member of the first Board of Trustees of the Indian Normal School (now Pembroke State University). The Center includes a photograph of Preston Locklear.

Other paintings are on display of Sitting Bull, the Sioux chief; Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce chief; and Joseph Brant, the Mohawk chief, also by Ramona Hunt.

The Center has a collection of

arrowheads (22 boxes), valued at \$5,000, from North Carolina.

### SECTIONS

The Center is divided into four sections: Southeastern Indians, Southwestern Indians, Northeastern Indians, and Northwestern Indians. Under each section is a collection of filmstrips, books, cassettes with record albums, art, handicrafts and artifacts from the many tribes that live in that section of the country.

There is a treasury of museum pieces about the Lumbee Indians. "We have acquired all the material we can find about the Lumbees, including copies of documents from UNC-Chapel Hill which date back to the 1800's," said Mrs. Locklear.

Mrs. Locklear, who earned her B.S. at Pembroke State University, has an "A" certificate in Library Science and has done additional work in Library Science at Appalachian State University and East Carolina University, points out

that for those desiring to do research on American Indians, books may be borrowed from the Resource Center. She notes that there "are 263 Indian tribes in the U.S. alone, ranging in size from 7 people to 125,000. The largest is the Navajo Tribe. We Lumbees claim to have the second largest (45,000) and the largest group east of the Mississippi River."

It is difficult to estimate the value of the Resource Center. It contains a head basher that is 3,000 years old. "This relic was found by archaeologists in North Carolina and is valued at \$1,675," said Mrs. Locklear of the head basher. "We also have here 6,000 other Indian stones from Robeson County."

As one enters the Native American Resource Center, a handsome Sioux plaque greets you with this famous Indian prayer: "Great Spirit, grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins." After examining the picturesque Center with its wealth from the past, one feels he has worn those moccasins. It is a visit one won't forget.

### CONGRESSMAN ROSE'S MOBILE SCHEDULE

Congressman Charlie Rose, D-NC, announced the Seventh Congressional District Mobile Office schedule for July 28-31.

Rip Collins, Congressman Rose's administrative assistant and representative in the district, announced that the mobile office will be parked as close to each post office as possible.

### HOKE COUNTY

July 30, Friday - Raccord Post Office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### ROBESON COUNTY

July 31, Saturday - Lumberton, Biggs Park Shopping Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### STRIKE AT THE WIND CONTINUES THROUGH AUGUST 14

Strike at the Wind is continuing to play before enthusiastic audiences. The newest of the new outdoor dramas plays each Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 8:30 p.m. The outdoor drama will run through August 14 at the Lakeside Amphitheater at Riverside County Club near Pembroke in the Red Banks Community.

Produced by the Robeson Historical Drama Association, Inc., ticket reservations and information can be obtained by calling 521-2401.

### JOE BROOKS MEMBER N. C. INDIAN COMMISSION

Owen Grove, CETA director for the North Carolina Indian Commission was recently elected president of the nation's first Regional Indian Manpower Planners and Administrators Association at a meeting in Atlanta, Ga., June 14-16.

Among the stated purposes for such an organization is to exchange information and program assistance with other Indian prime sponsors in Region IV, to upgrade planning and administration skills for Indian programs relating to CETA, and to present positive image characteristics of Indian Manpower programs.

The other elected officers were: Henderson Williams, Choctaw director for Manpower services, president; Glenda Rackard, o the Creek Indian Nation, secretary-treasurer. The members of the board of directors include Joe Brooks, director of Lumbee Regional Development Association's CETA Project; Barry Higgs, assistant manpower coordinator, Eastern Cherokees; Cherokee; Charles King, director manpower, United Southeastern Tribes, Inc., Nashville, Tenn.; Rueben Billie, director manpower, Micoosukee Indians of Florida; and Jack Smith, manpower director, Seminole Indians, Florida.

"The implications for such an organization are enormous," according to Fritz Niegeler, Choctaw coordinator and chairman for the first meeting of the organization, "as this gives the Indian prime sponsors a forum to ventilate their opinions and wishes on a regional level. The association has the ability and the responsibility to address itself

to matters concerning national Indian matters, as they relate to CETA."

Among the first items the association plans to fulfill is the preparation of a monthly newsletter to keep each of the Indian prime sponsors in the region apprised of current activities.

The Indian prime sponsors in Region IV are: Eastern Cherokees; North Carolina Indian Commission; Lumbee Regional Development Association; the Mississippi Band of Choctaws; the Creek Indian Nation; the United Southeastern Tribes, Inc.; the Seminoles and the Miccosukees of Florida.

### ROBESON DEMOS TO HOLD RALLY

Robeson County Democrats will hold a meet-the-candidates rally July 29 at the new Jaycee Fairground.

Rally organizers say gubernatorial candidate Ed O'Herron is definitely slated to appear, and other candidates for state and county officers are expected.

Tickets for the p. m. dinner and rally are \$3.

### CANDIDATES NIGHT PLANNED

A cordial invitation to the public is extended to attend the "Candidates Night" program which will be held on Tuesday, August 3 at the LRDA Annex Building in Pembroke at 7:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the LRDA Educational Advisory Committee.

Those who are invited guests include the candidates for the Robeson County Board of Education, Board of Commissioners, the state legislature, district judgeships, and county register of deeds. Most of the candidates have been contacted and have agreed to attend this program.

An informal reception will be held prior to the program. The suggested format for the program consists of a panel discussion of issues (educational and others) pertinent to the upcoming Democratic primary election in August.

If you have any questions, you may call 521-2401 or 521-9761.

## OUR NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 521-2826

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A newspaper is only as good as the readership it purports to serve. Most news comes from the readership. And news is people doing things...observing birthdays, marking an anniversary, meeting classmates suddenly turned older at class reunions, etc. etc. Just people doing things, living normal lives, taking part, meeting at church and breathing fire about politics. People are news.

### TELL US HOW IT IS...

We are your humble servants. The newspaper is your newspaper. If you do not read the Carolina Indian Voice, we are shouting into the wind-no one can hear us unless you listen by reading and

commenting and taking part. Call us at 521-2826 and tell us what is happening in your area. Are you getting married?

Is your child or mother or brother or father or sister observing a birthday? We care about that. Is your church holding a revival? We want to know about it and so does your friends.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

One of our most popular features is our "Letters to the Editor." Some people get upset about politics, something we said, or something we failed to say. Write a letter to the editor. No cussing please, and no libel. Don't call someone a #1% unless you can prove it. They might sue. Also, write and tell us how to do our job better. Don't shoot or cut us. A letter to the editor is better than the negative feedback of a shotgun blast. Honestly, letters to the editor do not

necessarily have to agree with the editor although our ego appreciates it when they do.

Your letters to the editor should be signed and note that the letter is for publication. We reserve the right to refuse to print a letter although we have seldom exercised the prerogative. Letters in good taste and free of libel are sure to be printed. Also, include your telephone number so that we can call you and talk to you if the need arises. We know for a fact that Unreasonable Oxendine does not exist. Even Reasonable Locklear avows that they are not related. Your real names...please! We want to hear from you.

### TO PLACE A DISPLAY OR CLASSIFIED AD...

Simply come to our office on Highway

711 East or call 521-2826 and we will come to you.

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We hope to hear from you. You are our life line. Our survival depends on it.