

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

...the voice of the drum is an offering to the Spirit of the World. It's sound arouses the mind and makes men feel the mystery and power of things.
—BLACK ELK



The Wilmington 10 Hearing: An Emotional Experience For Robeson Residents

by Mac Legerton and Connee Brayboy

On Monday, May 16th, Marti Locklear, Carlester Locklear, Connee Brayboy and Mac Legerton traveled to Burgaw, NC to witness the Post Conviction Hearing on the Wilmington Ten Civil Rights Case. We found the Pender County Courthouse in its usual place, in the middle of town. The residents of Burgaw didn't seem very interested in the important hearing, now in its second week, going on in the courthouse. TV news reported that many of the people in Burgaw felt like it was none of their business. They seemed to feel that the case had nothing to do with them. Those of us from Robeson County knew better. What is happening in Burgaw, NC today is affecting the whole world.

psychologically, in our opinion, pressed Hall to admit that he was lying at the Hearing when he told the Court that he originally lied about the involvement of the Wilmington Ten in illegal activities in 1971. He was successful in getting Hall to say what he (Stroud) wanted him to say, but only after revealing to us some of the most devious tactics we had ever seen in operation. Stroud even lied to Hall, if we understood the recording, when Hall asked if the conversation was being taped.

The second tape was played late in the afternoon. It was even more shocking and horrifying to us than the first. Stroud did almost all the talking again. He put words into Hall's mouth and appealed to his insecurities. He psychologically used the man that he was professing all during the tape to care so much about. We were sitting in the second row, directly behind the press. While we listened to the very eerie, disturbingly soft voice of Jay Stroud on the tape, one member of the press scribbled "Nearly Hypnotic" next to Stroud's name. The following are excerpts from what we heard Jay Stroud say to Allen Hall during the recorded conversations:

TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

It seems like a new day in Robeson County and it's about time. The only complaints I have heard about the new superintendent concerns the method of his selection. Some folks in the community contend that there are many Indians qualified to be superintendent. They are right, of course. That's what is so wonderful about the Lumbee Indian experience. The dissidents contend that the board should have waited and considered applications from the likes of Dr. Dalton Brooks, Dr. V.R. Thompson, Dr. Waltz Maynor, Dr. Dean Chavers, Helen Schierbeck (who is completing requirements for her doctorate), Assistant Superintendent Albert Hunt, Dr. English E. Jones, Dr. James B. Chavis, and others residing in the county and in other parts of America.

The irony is that few of us ever thought we would see the day when an Indian would be seriously considered for the position of superintendent of the Robeson County Administrative School Unit. Yes, times they are a changin'. When the time came, the Indians mentioned above and others were ready. They were qualified to serve. Any of them would, as I see it, make a good superintendent. The board saw fit to name Purnell Swett. They had been thinking about it for years, just in case the opportunity ever presented itself. They did not, as I see it, act with undue haste. They had been considering possible candidates for a long time. And they made their decision based on their knowledge of the climate of the times, and their familiarity with all those qualified to serve as superintendent. They had a choice.

Little did any of us know, as little as two years ago, that a time would come like this one. And when the opportunity did come, the Indians were ready.

Hopefully, all those possible candidates listed above will share their wisdom and knowledge with Purnell Swett. Hopefully we will unite around the man and his work—the education of our children.

The lesson is this: an Indian youth can accomplish whatever he wants to accomplish if he (or she) is ready when opportunity presents itself. Yes, our Indian youth can be whatever they want to be—even county school superintendent—if they are willing to work hard toward the attainment of their goals. It has not always been like that in Robeson County, Yes, I am proud to say that times they are a changin', even in Robeson County.

AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton



AN INDIAN SUPERINTENDENT: A LIFELONG DREAM REALIZED!

I'm dazed! In a state of shock almost. I am not really sure that it has registered on my emotional system yet. The Robeson County Administrative Unit now has an Indian superintendent. My verbiage (my natural state) has been muted by the surprising developments of the last couple of days. I am happy, surfeited as if I had just climbed Mount Everest after countless failures. I am not gloating even. I am just justified to know that the good guys have finally won a war instead of a needless battle.

Now comes the hard part. The Robeson County Administrative School Unit has been in turmoil for a number of years. Y.H. Allen, the long time nemesis of progressive education in Robeson County, was operating the schools with a mandate of 5-4 and his support had slipped even further with the advent of the new board elected without the debilitating effects of double voting. Allen resigned to go to Lenoir County for more money and less responsibility. I wish him well. And I am delighted that we are finally rid of him.

Now Purnell Swett is superintendent with the unanimous support of the board of education. Even the chairman (Ralph Hunt) asked to be recorded voting in favor of Mr. Swett. The board is anxious to work with him for the betterment of the children. The children, as I see it, have never been the top priority of the Robeson County Board of Education. I think the new superintendent and the Robeson County Board of Education can now do what is best for the children. Hoory!

I for one plan to support the cause of education in Robeson County with renewed vigor. I shall frankly look for the best in the superintendent and the board of education. But I shall not look past what I consider evil doings and bad policy. But I shall give them (the superintendent and the board of education) the benefit of the doubt.

Education, as a matter of fact, is only as good as the people who support it. The children have never had an opportunity, generally speaking, in Robeson County. The politicians, in times past, have controlled education in Robeson County. It seems that the vote of the Robeson County Board of Education was a statement in support of education and not the political parasites that have fested on the bones of education.

PURNELL SWETT, THE MAN AND HIS CREDENTIALS

Purnell Swett, above all else, as I see it, is a decent, God fearing man. His life's work has been devoted to the cause of education. And he seems imminently qualified. He has had experience at every level of education: as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, and now superintendent.

I wish Purnell Swett well as superintendent. He is going to need all the luck and prayers and support he can get.

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No More 'Cotton Pickin' In County Schools

Young H. Allen goes to Lenoir County

AN EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE is the departing figure of Young H. Allen is going to Lenoir County superintendent of that school system with him well, and say, with a sigh of relief, "Praise God! There will be no more cotton pickin' in the Robeson County Administrative School Unit."

Allen's mode of delivery of condescension. He was able as administrator and a failure as a human. He cared more, as we see it, about buildings and facts and figures than did the human development of a student.

As the titular head of the county system Allen taught the students, generally speaking, to not think well of themselves. Teach a child to think well of himself and trigonometry will be mastered in the end.

To the bitter end, Allen and adherents sanctioned double voting of all the evil tenets of the northern practice. Our grave yards are people with the failure of the county system reach the youth to think well of themselves. We visit the failures of school system weekly in our prisons. Illiteracy and economic and political deprivation speak loudly of the failure of Allen and the white conservative education he advocated.

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE was replaced as superintendent for the same reason that we advocate the majority rule in South Africa and South Rhodesia. The people have the inherent right to govern themselves.

Y.H. Allen leaves a school system of unrest and confusion. The people miss one another. Suspicion is in the air. Allen was a master psychologist. He played people off against one another. Children suffered.

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE considered it a moral affront to have a white administrator over a school system that is, at the present time, 60% minority—60% Indian and 20% Black. far back as Dr. Herbert G. Oxendine, further Indians had educators eminently qualified to serve as school superintendent. They never had an opportunity. Many of them died of broken hearts; many of them were psychologically destroyed by the man who supposedly taught us.

Yes, as the Robesonian said in laudatory editorial Wednesday, May 19, 1977, Allen presided over the affairs of the county system through turbulent times. Many of the turbulent times were of his own making.

Allen had a knack for surviving until the bitter end when he left the county system for a better job in Lenoir County. One day, when Robeson County joins the Twentieth Century, we will reward those who have done us wrong.

We wish Y.H. Allen well in his endeavor and say, without a malice glint in our eye, "good riddance!"

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 28, 1977
Riverside Country Club

SHOTGUN START: 9:00 A.M.

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Notes On Trip


Dear Bruce:

It is impossible to give a complete picture of the experience four of us had this week at the Hearing about the Wilmington Ten Civil Rights Case. We went to Burgaw on Monday to witness the beginning of the State's testimony against the Wilmington Ten. The article in this issue of the paper begins to tell the story, a story that will never leave me as long as I live. The struggle of the Wilmington Ten is destined to become one of the historical, civil rights cases in our history. They are asking for a re-trial. I hope their freedom comes soon.

Mac Legerton
Pembroke, NC

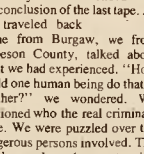
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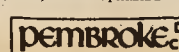
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Neither Holy nor an Empire

Like the Holy Roman Empire — which was neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire — the so-called Health Care System in this country is neither Health nor Care nor a System. Today, 97% of the medical effort in the United States goes to Disease, not to Health. It deals with Cures, not with Care. And it is not a System, but a haphazard conglomeration of red tape for patients, pharmacists, and doctors, alike.

It's a frustrating mess that's what it is! When our leaders channel this nation's health expenditures into sensible disease prevention programs, greater health education and a reduction of computerized fumbling?

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