



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Dedicated to the best in all of us



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 34

PEMBROKE, N.C.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1978

15¢ PER COPY

INDIANS TESTIFY ON BILL ... 'ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTANCE OF CERTAIN INDIAN TRIBES'

HEARINGS HELD AUGUST 10 IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON-The status of more than 100,000 Indians officially designated "non-federally recognized" was what the hearings were all about Thursday, August 10, 1978. Many called it an historic day.

The hearings were held before a house subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands, chaired by Rep. Teno Roncalo of Wyoming who cautioned those appearing before the subcommittee and the packed galleries that "there is a very definite anti-Indian feeling in Congress."

The house bill, similar to one introduced in the senate by Senator James Abourezk of South Dakota, is meeting stiff opposition from the infamous bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Congress (sic) of American Indians and other established and federally recognized Indian groups and tribes.

The hearings were on house bill, H.R. 12996 but the day before the hearings Congressman Charlie Rose introduced a substitute bill that incorporated many of the suggested amendments and changes by non-federally recognized tribes and groups. Congressman Rose counts approximately 30,000 non-federally recognized Indians as constituents, including approximately 27,000 Lumbee Indians (and another approximate 1,000 Indians who spurn the name "Lumbee" and wish to be known as "Tuscarora").

The changes mostly have to do with the definition of "Indian." The latest bill introduced by Congressman Rose lists among others three criteria for designating one an Indian. They are (1) if a group has been identified as "Indian, Native American, or Aboriginal" for a protracted period of time, but mostly, since enactment of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 or (2) that the group exhibits evidence of a long standing tribal political influence or other authority over the members of the

group and or (3) the group has been recognized as an Indian group by the sovereign state in which it is located.

The bill suggests federal recognition if a group meets any two of the three criteria.

All the congressmen support the bill except...

Ten of North Carolina's eleven congressmen supported the bill. The bill was introduced by Congressman Charlie Rose and co-sponsored by the entire North Carolina delegation with the exception of Rep. Lamar Gudger, whose constituents include the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in western North Carolina. The Cherokee, and most so called "federally recognized" Indians oppose federal recognition for Lumbees and other non-federally recognized Indians because they fear the federal dollar will be split into too many pieces with the addition of "More Indians." The Cherokee, like other federal Indians, fear a loss of benefits if more Indians gain federal recognition.

The opposition groups are expected to speak out particularly against a proposed amendment to the bill which would make federal recognition easier for Indians such as the Lumbees.

That amendment, which is being proposed by Janie Locklear, a Lumbee and chairperson of the Indian Recognition Committee from North Carolina, would establish state recognition as a guideline for federal recognition. The General Assembly in 1953 recognized the Lumbees as Lumbees.

For years prior to 1953 the Lumbees, many of them at least, had referred to themselves as "Cherokees of Robeson County." In the 1880s they were commonly referred to as Croatans, ancestors of the tribe which mingled with

the so-called "lost colony" near Manteo.

Through the years, however, the Croatan designation became a derogatory term for many of the Indians in Robeson County. For example, during the years prior to the Civil War the Robeson Indians, along with the blacks, were forbidden to read or write, or to learn to read or write. They then began calling themselves Cherokees, and in 1913 the General Assembly enacted a law designating them "Cherokees of Robeson County."

(That law is still on the books, although it is superceded by the 1953 law officially recognizing the Lumbees as Lumbees.)

The federal government in 1956 gave partial recognition to the Lumbees by enacting a law which stated that the Indian people of the Robeson County area would henceforth be known as Lumbees. That legislation, however, also stated that the Lumbees would not be entitled to federal benefits which the long established tribes were getting.

Both the House and Senate bills, as they now read, list as a requirement for recognition "a longstanding tribal governmental influence or authority over the members of the group."

The Lumbees would have no trouble in meeting the other stipulated requirement, which states that "the group has been identified as 'Indian, Native American, or Aboriginal' consistently and for a protracted period of time, but in any event for a period of no less than forty-four years."

That is why Indian representatives from North Carolina are pressing for the amendment which would make state recognition a third factor. The amendment would call for federal recognition to be

granted if the Indian group could meet two of the three requirements.

"We are not interested in living on a reservation or anything like that," said Ms. Locklear. "We want what is due all other Indians recognized by the federal government. There are thousands, literally thousands, of Indians in North Carolina living in the worst kind of poverty, and a major reason for that poverty is this lack of federal recognition over the years."

Ms. Locklear said federal recognition would mean "millions of dollars" for North Carolina Indians in health services, education aid, housing assistance and business development assistance.

"But there is something else just as important, if not more so," Ms. Locklear said. "Federal recognition would mean that we would no longer have to suffer this continuous slap in the face - of being constantly reminded that we are considered to be a different kind of Indian. Being Indian but not Indian."

"It would mean that our children can grow up without this terrible negative self-concept of being an Indian but yet not being an Indian. It would mean that Indian children can finally get up feeling good about themselves."

Besides Ms. Locklear, others from North Carolina who testified in favor of the bill were: Adolph Dial, a Lumbee, who served on the American Indian Policy Review Commission; Roy Maynor, a representative of the Cumberland County Association of Indian People; Sammy Jacobs, representing the Waccamaw-Siouan; W.R. Richardson, chief of the Haliwa Indians; Lonnie Revels, from the Guilford Native American Association; Rosa Winfree, speaking for the Metrolina Native American Association; and A. Bruce Jones, executive director of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and representatives of other non-federally recognized Indians throughout America, especially from the Eastern Seaboard.

A. Bruce Jones said in testimony before the subcommittee, "With the current emphasis that President Carter has placed on the importance of human rights for all people, our request for recognition of our heritage has never been more timely. As we express to the world our strong belief in human rights, it is only consistent to seek protection for the personal dignity of all Americans. As representatives in the United States Congress, you have a chance to support the human rights of the first

Americans."

Because of the anti-Indian sentiment now evident in Congress the bill's chances for passage in this session seemed uncertain. But the hearings made it clear to any knowledgeable observer that the non-recognized Indian tribes and groups, from far and wide, are finally getting their act together and that it is only a matter of time before such groups will finally receive the recognition and service from the federal government that have for so long been over due.

Pembroke Town Council Holds Brief Session

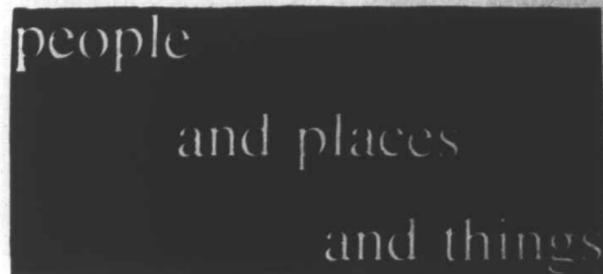
In a quiet and uneventful meeting the board adopted a planning board and then named the following to serve: Ms. Ruth Tidwell, 2 years; Clinton Thomas, Jr., 2 years; Samuel Kerns, 1 year; Wesley Revels, 2 years; and Lindberg Locklear, 1 year. The planning board will consist of seven members; the Robeson County Board of Commissioners will elect two members who although residing outside the city limits will reside within the 1 mile limit allowed all municipalities.

In other items...

Morris Bennett, president of the Lumberton Jaycees, and a number of the Jaycees, appeared and presented a slide presentation of the Robeson County Agricultural and Industrial Fair. The Jaycees are actively trying to sell the fair as a county event, rather than as a Lumberton Jaycee venture only.

Also, a request for expansion of sewer service to a proposed housing development was tabled until it was ascertained whether developers (The Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Association, Inc.) would agree to being annexed, one of the criteria for extending the sewer lines to the development.

Also, Phil Shu (Odell Associates) appeared before the council and detailed work his firm is doing in behalf of the town in developing its 201 feasibility grant. The town has already been approved for a planning grant totaling approximately 4,000 dollars.



PATTY BLUE SPENDS SUMMER IN CONGRESSMAN ROSE'S OFFICE



Patty Blue poses with Cong. Charlie Rose.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Patty Blue, a Lumbee, who is the daughter of Commissioner and Mrs. Brantley Blue, has spent the summer as a staff assistant in Congressman Charlie Rose's office. This fall she is returning to the College of William and Mary where she is majoring in Business and hopes to go to law school.

Her father, Brantley Blue, is a native of Robeson County. He is presently serving as a commissioner on the United States Indian Claims Commission in Washington, D.C.

Her responsibilities in the office included operating a Lanolox word processor which is a small computer that prints all the legislative mail and makes a record of all the constituent's visits, letters, and phone calls.

But the focal point of her work this summer was the Indian Recognition Bill that Charlie Rose introduced in the House. Hearings were held August 10. Patty and staff assistant, Andrea Turner, worked closely with the Lumbees incorporating new language to best meet the needs of all non-federally recognized Indians. Andrea is the daughter of Lumberton's Rev. E.B. Turner, chairman of the Robeson County Democratic Party.

The second step was arranging the hearing for the Bill. Many bills that are introduced in Congress never get to this point, and if

they do attendance is small and interest is lacking. But for this Bill the hearing room was full and the testimony given by representatives from many nonfederally recognized tribes was well written and moving. Now the hardest part is over, but supporters still must encourage support in the House to get the bill through the subcommittee hearings and onto the House floor for a vote.

When Patty first started in May the work on H.R. 15, the Indian Education Bill, was well underway. This bill concerned the "definition" of Indian, and without Rose's amendment it could possibly have kept the Lumbees from receiving many dollars in Education Funds. This amendment passed the House.

Patty's impression of the Congressman's office is a good one. "Mr. Rose enthusiastically works for the Lumbee people. He has a real understanding of his tri-racial district, and is proud of it's interesting blend of people." Patty was surprised to see the consideration given to each individual letter, and the efforts of the staff to answer the personal requests of the constituents.

Patty enthusiastically welcomed all the Indians from Robeson County who attended the hearings on the Indian Recognition Bill August 10. She served as unofficial guide and "Lumbee" host.

New Pembroke Elementary School Ground Breaking Held August 3rd

PEMBROKE--Many dignitaries, county officials, school administrators and parents attended the official groundbreaking for the new Pembroke Elementary School August 3, 1978.

The shovel, used in the ground breaking ceremonies, was presented to Herman Dial, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, who was "instrumental in helping us secure the funds to build this

much needed school," said Purnell Swett, superintendent of the Robeson County School System.

The school will provide for 1100 students and cost in excess of \$3 million.



Shown above are: (left to right) McDuffie Cummings, town manager for the Town of Pembroke; Purnell Swett, superintendent of the Robeson County School System; Blake Thompson, a member of the Pembroke Elementary School Advisory Committee; Lee Neville, chairman of the Pembroke Elementary School Advisory Committee; and James Dial, Principal of Pembroke Elementary School.

In this photo, Ralph Hunt, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education (left) takes part in the ground breaking ceremonies with (left to right) Purnell Swett; Herman Dial, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and commissioner from the Pembroke-Smiths-Mason District; and Bobby Dean Locklear, commissioner from the Red Springs District.

Purnell Swett (with shovel) is shown with members of the Robeson County Board of Education, including (left to right) Ralph Hunt, chairman; Mrs. Shirley Britt; Slim Oxendine; Purnell Swett, Supt.; Mrs. Lillian Payne Locklear; L. Harbert Moore; and Rev. Bob Mangum.