

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SAY "NO" TO 'LUMBEE BILL' VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

REPRINTED FROM APRIL 18, 1974

Chairman Sam Noble said in jest before Monday night's meeting began, "if anyone introduces anything controversial tonight. . ." And he gestured playfully with his gavel as if he might bop someone across the noggin with it if they dared.

Some Churches still Tardy And proceedings began blandly enough with tax head Pete Jacobs explaining that a number of churches and fraternal organizations still had not complied with the law recently passed

by, as most of the commissioners saw it, some misdirected soul in the N.C. General Assembly wherein churches and fraternal organizations must apply via written application for tax-exempt status. Most commissioners searched the list closely to see if any church

within their district was still tardy. Rather than tax the tardy churches ("and have them mad with us") the board, meeting as a Board of Equalization and Review took no action and continued the matter and decided to try

to contact the churches "one more time." County attorney "Pete" Ward injected that he had heard that a bill had been passed by the Assembly which recalled the law anyway. "I haven't seen it yet," he qualified.

one of his rambling questions, "now Bobby, let me see if I've got this right. . . you want us to vote on whether or not the Lumbee Indians are the same as Indians living on reservations. . ." Locklear: "No, by removing the clause (and he read the clause to them) we would be eligible for certain federal programs, like public health programs. . ."

### Trash Collection on agenda

The board even approved an additional purchase of 50 containers for trash collection without too much fanfare-though H.T. Taylor, as usual, voted against the measure. Too, the board approved the first month's bill from Sanitation Services for serving the county's recently implemented garbage system. The bill was \$3,396.80 and was lower than previously estimated.

### County Board of Education Given Authority to Purchase Fuel Tank

And the board approved a request by the Robeson County Board of education to purchase a 10,000 gallon fuel tank since, as George Reed Pate, Rowland district commissioner said "they do provide bus service for all the school systems."

### Appointments

On a motion by Herman Dial, Maxton district commissioner, Monroe Lowry was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Robeson County Housing Authority.

And at the request of Sam Noble, chairman and one of the two Lumberton district commissioners nominated and the board approved George Briley, a Black, to serve on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Economic Development Commission. Lowry is an Indian and owner of Pembroke Electric Company.

### Board gives to Historical society

And the board approved giving \$2,500 to the Robeson County Historical Society to match a similar grant from the City of Lumberton.

### Then the bomb fell

The commissioner from the Red Springs District, Bobby Dean Locklear, asked the board to approve by resolution the congressional measure recently introduced by Rep. Charlie Rose to remove the restrictive clause from the Lumbee Act of 1956. Herman Dial, the other Lumbee Indian with Locklear on the board, seconded the motion. Chairs scraped, throats cleared, and the board members became wide awake.

Said Sam Noble, chairman "wait a minute now---I can't vote on something like this without thinking about it some. I'd like it tabled until the next meeting at least."

And George Reed Pate began to ask

And so it went.

H.T. Taylor, Lumberton commissioner, wanted to know "will Whites and Blacks get the same thing as Indians in N.C."

Said Noble and Pate both. "I don't understand it. . . why would you want this board to pass on something like this. . .?"

Injected Locklear, "I don't understand why we had, a few years ago, "Black, White and Indian toilets either."

Then Herman Dial said "just forget about the resolution-I've got a substitute motion."

Said Dial "I would like to ask this board to simply go on record as stating "there are 30,000 Lumbee Indians or so in N.C. as recognized by the state of N.C."

And the vote followed ideological paths. Voting "yes" in favor of Dial's substitute motion were Herman Dial, Bobby Dean Locklear, and W.D. "Doug" Wellington. Voting "No" were

H.T. Taylor ("tell 'em now why we're voting this way"), Carl Britt and George Reed Pate (Bobby if all you're wanting is for them to know you're Lumbee Indians, get you a copy of the bill and send it to Rose.)"

Sam Noble, chairman, broke the tie by voting "No". (Said Noble after the meeting "damn it, if they want me to work with them on anything from now on, they'll let me know. I can't understand why they introduced it. Rose may be wanting us to make it look like he's introducing this bill 'cause we asked him to.")

Said Dial simply "I'm disappointed in this board. Locklear added, "this is my first disappointment since I came on the board."

The meeting adjourned and the board members stood around half-heartedly attempting to explain why they took their respective positions long after the meeting ended.

Even Paul Graham, County Manager, confided "I don't understand why they did it."

Said a fellow afterwards, " why you get right down to it, Robeson County still has separate toilets."

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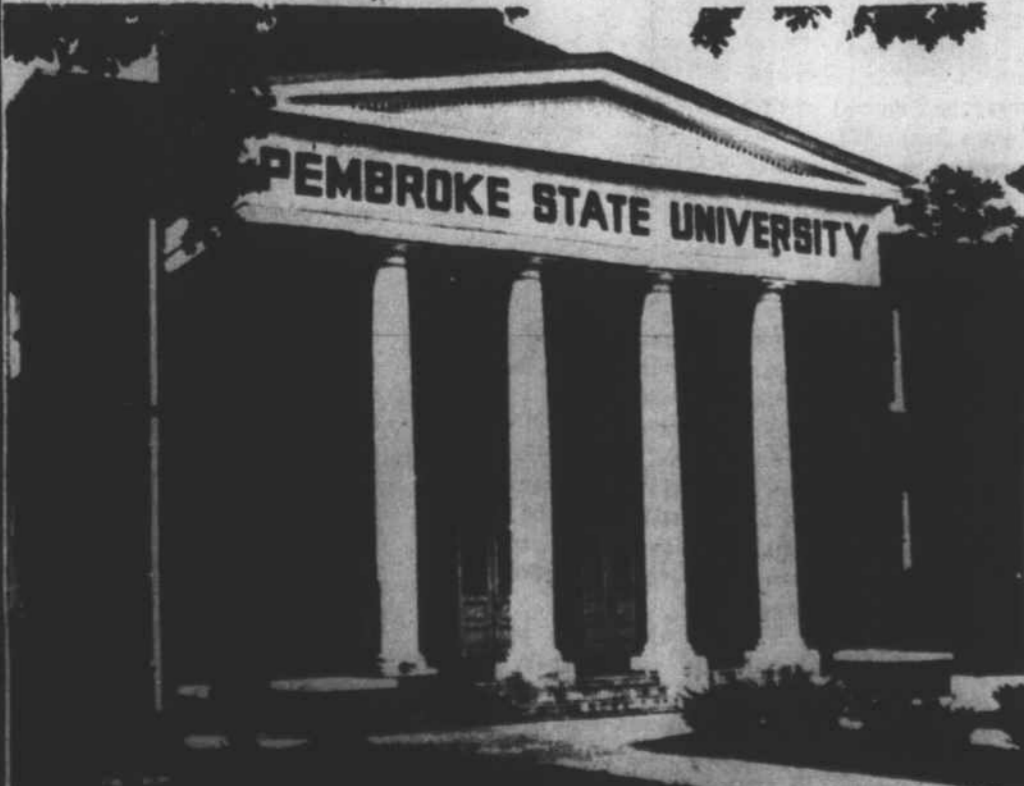
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"THEY MADE US MANY PROMISES,  
MORE THAN I CAN REMEMBER,  
BUT THEY NEVER KEPT BUT ONE;  
THEY PROMISED TO TAKE OUR LAND,  
AND THEY TOOK IT."  
—RED CLOUD OF THE OGLALA SIOUX

## THANK YOU GOVERNOR JIM HOLSHOUSER FOR KEEPING YOUR PROMISES ABOUT OLD MAIN !!!



Gov. Holshouser

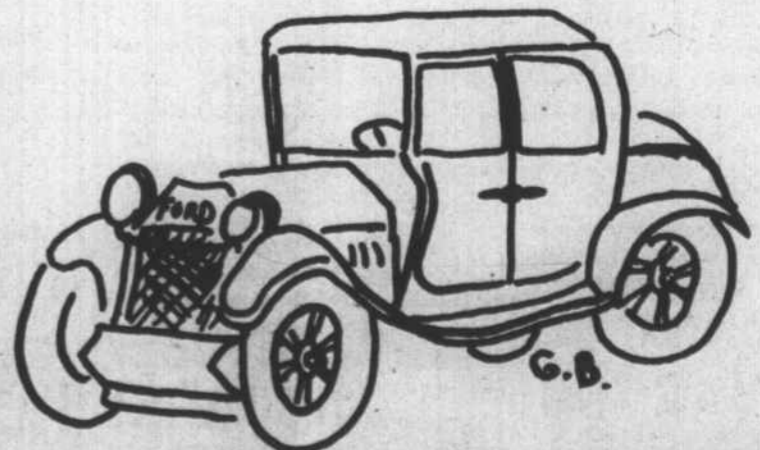


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