

EDITORIAL PAGE

ASI SEE IT



by
Bruce Barton

Re-thinking my LREMC bid...

I noted a few weeks ago that I was seriously considering running for the board of directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation in October. I mentioned, too, that I would be vying for the seat of the incumbent, Lacy Cummings, who is a very nice man from the Mt. Airy Community. I asked for comments from our readers...and that is just what I got. Comments, pro and con. I must say that most of the telephone calls and personal contacts have encouraged me to run. But one letter in particular that was printed in our "letters to the editor" last week suggested strongly that I re-think my LREMC bid. And that is what I am doing.

But a few comments are in order, I think. Lacy Cummings toppled an incumbent, John Paul Jones, who is an Indian too. It is more than an Indian against an Indian. It is democracy that is important, not the race of the aspirants. Cummings is an Indian, John Paul Jones is an Indian; and so am I. There was a time a few years ago when Indians were definitely barred from running for the LREMC board of directors. Thanks to Rev. Elias Rogers, who is still on the board, that is no longer the case. His suit against the then all-white board of directors opened the doors to anyone who wishes to run, regardless of race. The proof is in the pudding. The twelve member board is now made up of eleven Indians and one black. Racism and discrimination (even condescension!) have been banished from the LREMC premises. It is now a situation where one can run on his merits, no matter what color he (or she) is. That's the way it ought to be. If I run, I will not be running against an Indian, Lacy Cummings; I will be running, hopefully, on my merits. I sincerely believe that I would make a good board member, based on my activities as a consumer in the past. I was the one who opened the board meetings up to the membership. I got arrested accomplishing that policy. And I have been concerned

over the years, and have tried to be an activist in behalf of the grass roots consumer. Still, Mrs. Carletter Locklear's letter did get my attention. I have made it a policy over the years to print letters to the editor that expressed the opinion of the writer, not necessarily mine. A good "letters to the editor" feature should encourage people to express themselves responsibly. But I must say that I have not agreed with every letter that has appeared in the Carolina Indian Voice. Still, people have a right to write letters to this newspaper, assuming they are in good taste and not libelous. The letters must also be signed and verified as "real" letters so that people can respond to them if they want to.

I love America, and I love democracy. I hate racism, condescension, and any other mode of expression that inhibits the human spirit. Carletter Locklear has always been my friend, and her letter enhanced that friendship. I admire her for expressing herself, even though it goes against the grain of our friendship. Friends, however, should be able to disagree agreeably. Carletter Locklear has expressed herself honestly, and I have taken notice of it. I am re-thinking my LREMC bid. Still, I want to serve on the LREMC board of directors. I will just let the possibility lay on the table for a while, and, in the meantime, I will pray about it and think about it and act on it in the very near future. I said a few weeks ago that I was 99% sure that I would run; well, I have down graded that to about 95%.

Bartons gather on Pine St.

Last week was a good week for the Bartons. My sister, Renee Barton McCrary, from Cullman, Alabama, was home for a few days. She visited my mother, Mrs. Berna Barton, on Pine Street where the rest of us congregated for a family reunion of sorts. Like most families, the Barton family has known divorce (my father Lew Barton and mother divorced a number of years ago).

The Budget Deficit: A National Imperative

by Robert D. Kilpatrick
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer,
CIGNA Corporation
Chairman,
Business Roundtable Budget Task Force



Robert D. Kilpatrick

Two years ago the deficit was \$110 billion. This year it will likely reach \$220 billion. As chairman of The Business Roundtable's Budget Task Force, I have worked hard with my colleagues to convince Congress and the President that this trend is simply unacceptable, indeed dangerous. But this is not just a business issue, and business alone cannot convince government to do what must be done.

We are borrowing from abroad and from our children to pay for what we get from government today. This growing indebtedness can lead only to serious economic disruptions. If we do not stem the tide of the federal deficit, by 1990 the interest bills alone will equal today's deficit. Even now it takes almost 40 percent of total individual tax payments to pay the interest on our national debt.

We must make hard choices. If we are serious about reducing the deficit, we must focus on the big ticket items in the budget, and that includes defense and Social Security and Medicare—and all the other non-means tested entitlements in which benefits are paid without respect to income or assets.

We speak of special interests that get in the way of solutions to the deficit. We are the special interests. We should take great care to protect the truly needy, but the rest of us must bear our fair share of the burden.

Congress has initiated action that will do just that—require each of us to bear his or her own fair share. This action is indeed a serious beginning to solving the deficit crisis. It is not, however, the solution. Congress and the President must sign off on a concrete deficit plan.

If Congress passes this budget the deficit will go down instead of up. In other words, passing this budget is perhaps the most important single step our government can take to ensure the continued health of the country's economy.

This compromise is fair. It includes almost every program and agency in the budget. Defense and Social Security would not grow as fast as under current law, or as fast as under the President's original budget proposals.

Virtually every program in the budget would be frozen at last year's level; many would be cut further, and some would be eliminated. It is important to subject programs enacted in past years to the same tough standards we impose on new ideas. Ask yourself this question: Of the programs to be cut by the compromise, how many would Congress pass today?

Finally, this compromise attempts to insulate the very

poor from the worst effects of budget cuts. The supplemental security income program for the elderly poor, for instance, would receive a real increase.

The compromise answers the objections of those who insist tax increases are needed to cut the deficit. There are no tax increases in this package. Senators and Congressmen have a clear choice. They can vote to cut the budget at least as much as this compromise would do; or sooner or later they will have to raise our taxes to pay for higher federal spending.

As Congress debates the budget, every constituency will want its favorite programs protected. There will be vote after vote, on amendment after amendment, to restore funds for almost everything the White House and the Republican Leadership have agreed to cut. Every one of us will probably want at least one cut restored. But if any of us win, we will all lose. If Congress puts back funds for one program, it will likely upset the careful balance that is needed to hold any compromise agreement together.

Write your Senators and Congressmen, call their offices, see them while they are back home. Tell them we understand we all must give a little to solve the deficit crisis. Tell them to support a budget package that provides for proportionately equal cuts in all spending areas. Tell them to oppose attempts to exempt any area from the budget cuts. Ask for a budget that is fair and equitable to everyone. Tell them no single constituency, no program, is as important as the nation's economy. After all, our future and that of our children depend on it.

Timeless Tidbits

The darkest hour in any man's life is when he sits down to plan how he can get money without earning it.

illness, hard times, disappointments and, even, death. My oldest sister, Ruth, and one of my younger brothers, Ernie, died in automobile accidents a few years ago and the pain is still with us.

That's the way it is with all families. We know the joy of birth and the pain of death all in one life time. So, when we get together, we reminisce and love one another desperately knowing, within the deepest recesses of our hearts, that it might be the last time the family circle is intact.

My sister, Connie Brayboy, our associate editor, and the heart of the Carolina Indian Voice, has been out all week with a kidney infection and a bout with her erratic thyroid, and we miss her very much. I could not continue without her. I love her madly, irrationally even. She knows my darkest secrets, and we have shared much together. Pray for her...if you will. A devout Christian herself, Connie believes that one should not unduly pray for themselves. She believes that we should pray for each other. I hope she'll be back to work soon. I don't know where a darn thing is...

TWO MINUTES

WITH THE BIBLE
BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PRES.
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635



"WASHED, SANCTIFIED, AND JUSTIFIED"

"And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:11).

The preceding verses of 1 Corinthians 6 contain a long list of vile sins and vices into which men have fallen, and the Apostle adds: "And such were some of you." God's Church is not made up of "good people" who have never fallen into sin. It is rather made up of sinners, saved by grace, through the infinite payment made for sin by Christ on Calvary's cross.

"And such were some of you." Had the Apostle included the more "refined" sins, such as pride, self-righteousness, etc. he would have had to say: "And such were all of you."

Note further that the Apostle says: "And such WERE some of you."

Thank God, he goes on to say of those who had been stained with sin: "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord

Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

How beautiful these three phrases: "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified." The word "but" appearing before each phrase indicates that each should be considered separately. Such vile creatures were some of you, "but ye are washed", cleansed from the sin that contaminated you. "But ye are sanctified". Having been cleansed, you are now set apart as sacred for His glory. "But ye are justified". When God justifies us, who can condemn? "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth?" (Rom. 8:33,34).

All this is done for the believing sinner, as our verse says, "in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God". It is because Christ died for us that we can now claim cleansing, sanctification, and justification, and it is "by the Spirit" that all this is applied to our lives.

EDITORIAL EXPRESSION Magnolia School inadequacies case of educational chickens coming home to roost in ol' Robeson

A group of concerned parents calling themselves Concerned Parents of Magnolia have filed a list of at least 26 grievances detailing inadequacies at Magnolia School. They heard responses to those grievances Monday night in a special called meeting at Magnolia School by school officials; including Purnell Swett, superintendent, Dr. Gerald Maynor, the chairman of the Robeson County Schools, and Noah Woods, principal of Magnolia School.

Most of the complaints centered around the run down condition of the school, and its general inadequacies in staff and facilities. The dialogue pointed out anew the need for a new school in North Robeson. Therein is the rub.

The parents are genuinely concerned about the educational offerings their children are receiving at a union school that attempts to serve some 1100 students. Principal Noah Woods noted, among other things, in his response to the specific allegations, that he has only one full time assistant principal. Supt. Swett squarely faced the issue when he noted that building plans were essentially on hold until the Robeson County Schools Study Commission presents recommendations; although he did note that some \$1.4 million had been set aside toward the realization of a new school if and when the recommendations warrant it.

The parents have legitimate complaints. A cursory look at the school satisfies even the most cynical one among us that their complaints are justified. The school is run down, and inadequate for the purposes that are being attempted there.

But who's really to blame? Is the history of Robeson County in such dialogue? We think that it is. The principal, Noah Woods, is facing a no win situation, unless the county commissioners lessen his burden by providing necessary funding for a new school. As we see it, no man could serve as principal at Magnolia School and not be subjected to unbelievable pressures.

And parents are justified in pressing their complaints. They are serving a good purpose by pressing the point that they have been mistreated educationally over the years. They definitely have, no doubt about it. But whose fault is it?

The blame rests squarely on the shoulders of the politicians who have practiced pure and simple racism and, in turn, have even denied decent funding for their sordid exercises in benign neglect. Magnolia School, nestled in North Robeson, has, for many years, had to contend with Lumberton High School, Parkton, and St. Pauls wrestling over funding and priorities. Magnolia has always come up short at budget time.

Mrs. Darlene Ransom, chairman of the concerned parents, said it best, in a recent interview, when she said, "We have been pushed in the background. Maybe they're hoping we'll go away. We're going to petition and present our grievances again

and expect them to act on it. If not, we'll pursue another avenue—Federal Court."

That might be the only remedy. Federal Court. The presence of Phil Diehl, a Raeford lawyer, who sued the county in behalf of the parents a few years ago, seemed to indicate that a federal court suit is in the offerings as a remedy.

Our only dissent from the stance of the parents is in identifying who "they" are. We believe "they" are the county commissioners, and the short sighted individuals in Robeson County who have opted for five school systems at the expense of people like the Magnolia parents who demand satisfaction. Only one school system, and adequate funding by the county commissioners, will guarantee a decent education for the children of Magnolia and the rest of Robeson County. Anything else is an empty exercise.

A federal suit might force total and complete merger. But even a merger, without decent funding, would create a similar set of problems in the future. The parents are to be commended for demanding that their children receive an adequate education; and the school officials are to be commended for facing the questions that cry out for answers.

Parents from Magnolia said in a suit in 1980 that "Our suit asks that federal, state and local tax monies not be used to support the five school systems that have each selected to perpetuate segregation through manipulation of school district boundaries...." The 1980 suit further noted, "...We ask, however, as our most important goal that the school systems in our county be required to submit a complete plan for a unified and non-discriminatory system that will eliminate all vestiges of past and present racial discrimination."

That suit was settled for political considerations before it was fully heard in federal court. Hopefully, if a new suit is filed in federal court, parents will not allow the politicians to distract them from their task of demanding that their children receive an equitable and adequate education.

Until adequate funding is provided, the complaints will continue and the answers to those complaints will be given according to the letter of the law, and not in the spirit of decency and fairness.

It is a Catch-22 situation, and can only be solved by going to the budgetary trough where the county commissioners gorge themselves on other priorities. The parents of Magnolia and the Robeson County Schools administrators are attempting to have dialogue. The sad situation is that the wrong parties are engaged in dialogue. The county commissioners and the politicians must become part of the dialogue. If not, people will continue to talk at each other and not to each other as this critical situation demands.

It is a fair editorial assessment to note that the Magnolia School inadequacies point out the fact that the educational chickens are coming home to roost in ol' Robeson.

PROFANITY

JEST IN FUN

Courtship: the period when a girl tries to find out if she can do any better.

—American Way Features

It is no mark of a gentleman to swear. The most worthless and vile, the refuse of mankind, the drunkard and the prostitute, swear as well as the best dressed and educated gentleman. No particular endowments are requisite to give a finish to the art of cursing. The basest and meanest of mankind swear with as much tact and skill as the most refined; and he that wishes to degrade himself to the very lowest level of pollution and shame should learn to be a common swearer. Any man has talents enough to learn to curse God, and imprecate perdition on himself and his fellow men.

Profane swearing never did any man any good. No man is the richer or wiser or happier for it. It helps no one's education or manners. It commends no one to any society. It is disgusting to the refined, abominable to the good, insulting to those with whom we associate, degrading to the mind, unprofitable, needless, and injurious to society; and wantonly to profane His name, to call His vengeance down, to curse Him, and to involve His vengeance, is perhaps of all offenses the most awful in the sight of God.

—Martin Luther

Dr. Sherwood Hinson, Jr.

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