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3,000 ATTEND GSX MEETING

RC/CALC Release

Preceded by a "Trail of Tears March" sponsored by the West Robeson High School and a barbecue plate dinner served by area volunteers, a joint Robeson/Scotland County meeting on the proposed GSX hazardous waste treatment facility drew over 3,000 people to PSU's Performing Arts Center. Though the auditorium held only 2,000, another equally enthusiastic 1,000 people stood and listened outside. Hearing testimonies and technical reports from over two dozen speakers were officials from the State Department of Human Resources and the Governor's Waste Management Board. Meeting with the public for the first time on the GSX proposal, the officials were impressed by the great interest and participation shown by the citizens of Robeson and Scotland Counties.

Before hearing reports from the public, Phillip Kirk, Secretary of the Department of Human Resources assured the audience that a sound decision would be made on the GSX license application. "I can make you one promise tonight, and that is unless all questions concerning the quality of water are addressed to the 100 percent satisfaction of our health officials, this permit will not be approved," Kirk said.

From different interests, many presentations followed Kirk's remarks each one of them expressing opposition and the inappropriateness of the GSX facility proposed for Scotland County. Politicians, health experts and community residents appealed to the state officials for a denial of the GSX application. State Representative, Sidney Locks, largely concerned about the quality of life and water, plainly told the officials, "We don't need, we don't want it, and we refuse to accept it."

While many of the speakers discussed the company's poor integrity, its financial stability and corporate background, Dr. Fred Lee, environmental engineer with the New Jersey Institute of Technology, talked about the technical aspects of the company's application. "It is my professional assessment that GSX has grossly underestimated the potential water quality and public health impacts of the treated waste water discharged from its proposed facility," Lee told the audience. He went further in saying that the facility would represent, "...a significant unnecessary increased hazard to aquatic life in the Lumber River and to the public who consume water in the city of Lumberton."

Cass Miller, environmental consultant, made clear that the contamination of the surface water supplies or groundwater would seriously jeopardize the safety and quality of health of area residents. Miller pointed out this critical fact in relation to the company's proposal to site above one of the state's most active ground water aquifers.

Rod Johnson, community organizer with Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned, assessed the North Carolina General Statutes in relation to the licensing decision. Pointing out that the GSX plant, if licensed, would be the largest hazardous waste treatment facility in the United States, said, "The proposed facility is directly across the street from the airport and just a few miles from the nearest school. We find that GSX proposed to operate just 4,000 feet from the Lumber River and in an area with high soil permeability and high groundwater table. In addition, the proposed plant is a great distance from the major sources of waste generation. According to the N.C. Statutes, each of these factors considerations which must be taken into account, thereby make the GSX as being eligible for operating here."

Mac Legerton, executive director of Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned, said in a statement: "While residents, politicians, environmentalists and technical experts continue opposing GSX, the State Department of Human Resources, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch still wrestles with the application review. It is important that citizens remain aware of this process and to work to assure the denial of the permit. The futures of our families and our children require each of us to be involved in this ever important decision. Continue to write letters to Gov. Martin and Mr. Kirk and become more informed and involved. Today is not too late."



The public meeting also drew Rep. Charlie Rose [checking his notes] who thundered in opposition: "I like to drink Campbell Soup and I don't want no GSX waste in it." To his right is Rep. Bill Hefner.

GSX PUBLIC HEARING BARBECUE CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL... GRATITUDE EXPRESSED BY WYVIS OXENDINE

Commissioner Wyvis Oxendine, a member of the Steering Committee for the GSX Public Hearing held Monday evening at PSU's Performing Arts Center expresses heartfelt appreciation to all those who worked so diligently to make the barbecue which preceded the hearing so successful.

Special thanks are extended to all the local agencies, organizations and individuals who worked untiringly to prepare the food, serve the thousands who were fed, and clean up afterwards. Oxendine expressed his gratitude to all those connected with the preparation. Said he, "The barbecue was a culmination of many people and civic organizations working together for a common cause - the preven-

tion of locating a waste treatment plant in nearby Scotland County. As always, it is the people, working together, who make anything successful. I am humbled by the attitude and efforts of the people."

Most of the food and drinks were donated for the barbecues. These contributions are deeply appreciated. Those donating the 22 hogs were: Commissioners Wyvis Oxendine (2), Jack Morgan (1), Henry Douglas (1) and Sammy Cox (1); also UCEE (4), Superintendent Purnell Swett (1) SCAT (3), Sheriff Hubert Stone (2), Rep. Danny DeVane and Rep. Sidney Locks (1), Leroy Scott (1), Phyllis and Kenny Locklear (1), Harold Deese (2), Ralph Hunt and Greg Bryant (1) and Revels Barbecue (1).

Indian Religion Museum Open House

The Indian Religion Museum, a project of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, will receive visitors during its Open House ceremony Saturday, March 29, 1986. The doors will be opened 1:00-3:00 p.m. immediately following the Associational Union Meeting scheduled to be held on the Odum Home campus adjacent to the museum. The museum is located immediately behind the Baptist Building across from the Performing Arts Center on the PSU campus.

The Indian Religion Museum will have pictorial displays and other interesting historical and current material relating to the religious life of churches in the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association.

The public is invited to view their unique "people oriented" museum which is housed in the renovated one hundred plus year old Burnt Swamp Baptist Church.

GSX Meeting Attracts Largest Crowd Ever To PSU



Chancellor Paul Givens... Speaks against having hazardous waste treatment plant in this region of the state.

By Gene Warren
Having Monday night's GSX public meeting on the PSU campus was a master stroke publicity-wise for PSU. There has never been an event on the PSU campus which attracted so many people--well over 3,000 speaking conservatively. And the most people ever--over 2,000--packed into the Givens Performing Arts Center to hear the speeches. People were sitting in the aisles and standing on the corridors and at the entrances.

The speeches were announced on the public address system outside the Performing Arts Center for those who were unable to squeeze inside.

Media-wise, it was also a triumph. A number of TV stations were represented, coming from such distant points as Raleigh and Durham.

WRAL-TV in Raleigh did live on the spot reports on its 6 p.m. news and carried another report on its 11 p.m. news. Films were shown of the entrance signs to PSU with the yellow protest ribbons tied around the huge blocks of concrete with the words on the signs, "Pembroke State University" standing out very vividly.

Interviews were conducted of the people marching at the rally, including those carrying candles signifying their protest.

Chancellor Paul Givens of PSU, who made the welcome in the Performing Arts Center and then commented on the GSX situation, was also shown on the WRAL-TV news cast at 11 p.m.

Givens received two ovations. The first came after he made his welcome, saying it was appropriate that such a public hearing be held at a public university setting. It followed when he said: "I've just spoken to you as the chancellor of Pembroke State University. Now (he pulled out a yellow protest ribbon and pinned it to his lapel), I'm speaking to you as a citizen of Pembroke." The crowd roared its approval as he did that. Then he proceeded to say: "Just because this region has

a low income per capita doesn't mean the quality of life here is any less than the quality of life elsewhere. People here are concerned with the cleanliness of the Lumber River and what this proposed hazardous waste treatment plant would do to their drinking water and fishing. People who work all day long to come home and put a fishing line in the river. But if this facility comes to this area, they are concerned that there would be no fish to catch in the Lumber River. We don't want this plant in our area and advise that they take it elsewhere."

This is when the chancellor received his second and greatest ovation. His remarks set the stage for the strong anti-plant rhetoric which followed.

Native American and United Methodist Leadership hold a Consultation

Fayetteville-The theme and place, "Developing and Strengthening Native American Ministries across seven-teen (17) Annual Conferences and nine (9) states was the discussion for more than 126 participants coming from twelve (12) Conferences and eight (8) states of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, and representatives from eleven (11) Native American tribes, which were involved in the Consultation held at Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC on March 7-9, 1986. The participants consisted of leadership from major Boards and Agencies, Conference Council on Ministries, District Superintendents, pastors, laity, and Native Americans. The majority of the participants were Native Americans.

The cafeteria and the chapel was the setting for this large gathering which featured Ben Busyhead, Director of the Native American Center Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma, as the keynote speaker. Busyhead captured the group's attention with his humorous anecdotes that were filled with truth and meaning. He related the sufferings, oppressions, drugs, and alcohol among Native Americans across the nation. Many Native Americans were below the poverty level in the nation. The church needs to respond to these needs and concerns. He quoted Fredrick Douglas, during his struggles said, "When I look at Jesus, I see unwillingness to allow unjust situations to go unchallenged. Our theology today should challenge these situations." He commended the Southeastern Jurisdiction for organizing the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association for Native American Ministries to address the needs of Native Americans in the Southeast.

On Friday evening following the welcome by James A. Jones, Chairman of the Program Committee, greetings were given by Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, President of Methodist College. The program began with a Historical and Purpose statement by Rev. Dr. Israel L. Rucker, Director, SEJ, Commission on Ethnic Mi-

nority Concerns. Rucker says, we are here to address the needs and concerns of Native Americans. We are to form strategies to address these many needs and concerns. He applauded the United Methodist for its diversity, inclusiveness to all people.

The Biblical and Theological Perspectives, "The Vision," by Simeon F. Cummings, Coordinator for SEJANAM and Robert L. Mangum, pastor, Prospect UMC. The speakers described ways & means how Christians can share their faith in love & deeds. Our ministry is climaxed in the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament.

The evening closed with a Celebration of Togetherness led by Belton Joyner, Director, CCOM NC Conference and Ms. Delora Cummings, Art Instructor, Robeson County Board of Education. P.D. Midgett III, pastor, Trinity UMC Southport, NC., portrayed John Wesley in the "Early Methodism Coming to America." Special music rendered by Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Lowry.

Music and dancing from the traditions of Native American was featured by the Soaring falcon Dancers, Cumberland association for Indian People, Fayetteville, NC. Then afterwards the group fellowshiped around the dinner table and enjoyed Native American foods consisting of venison, smoked turkey, shrimp, various vegetables, potato bread, apple cider and grape juices; prepared by Roscoe Jacobs and Ms. Delora Cummings. Saturday morning, the group assembled in the chapel for the keynote address. The liturgist, Ms. Gloria Y. Davis, social worker, and Rev. Wilton Holden, pastor, Choctaw Mission, Philadelphia, Mississippi. The keynote address by Ben Busyhead, Director, Native American Center.

Following the keynote address, the large group divided into State groups for the purpose of sharing Need/Dreams and Assessments. Following Chester E. Brown, Associate Director, Alabama-West Florida CCOM, gave formal introductions of all persons representing Boards

and Agencies, Conferences and Tribal Councils.

In the evening the second session of the State groups met in Problem Solving/Strategies. Each group was to focus on one state wide issue and one specific problem. Following, plenary session was held to share the findings and discussion. Such issues came from the groups, to be recognized as Indians, state recognition, education, unemployment and church, etc., etc.

On Sunday it was a time for sharing existing Native American Ministries.

The large group divided into small conference groups to build upon a follow up relationship in an annual conference and to identify support groups and resources for assistance in the annual conference.

In a closing session for the work groups, a role play was developed, "What it will be like back home," led by the Naismond Tribe in Chesapeake, Virginia. This was informing and meaningful experience to the whole group. The group learned that there still remains frustrations and a job to do.

Ms. Mable Haught was the liturgist for the eleven o'clock worship service. Special music was provided by Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Lowry. Dr. Rene' Givens, Deputy Secretary of the Jurisdiction, Board of Christian Education, gave the Fourth Message. The scripture lesson came from Joel 2, topic, "Judgement and Hope." Bideaux says, "What can you say to people who are celebrating, their presence when they are suffering from dehumanization and oppression? They have the highest unemployment level and the lowest poverty level." He emphasized, "It is time to turn around and come back and claim your heritage." He concluded, "I have great hopes for the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association for Native American Ministries, in providing a ministry with Native Americans."

The Rev. Simeon F. Cummings, Coordinator of SEJANAM, presided over the Consultation.

Ruth Dial Woods Receives Award



AWARDS PRESENTED-Five Distinguished Women of North Carolina Awards were presented March 21 in Raleigh by Gov. Jim Martin to [left to right] Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke, Maggie Aze Wachacha of Robbinsville, Dr. Helen G. Edmonds of Durham, Elizabeth Scott Carrington of Burlington and Gertrude S. Carraway of New Bern.

Five women from across the state received Distinguished Women of North Carolina Awards Friday.

Gov. James G. Martin presented medallions to Gertrude S. Carraway of New Bern, Elizabeth Scott Carrington of Burlington, Maggie Aze Wachacha of Robbinsville, Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke and Helen G. Edmonds of Durham.

Miss Carraway, a journalist, author and historian, served as the first executive director of the Tryon Palace Restoration Complex from 1957 to 1971. In 1939, she founded what is now known as the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina. She also served a three-year term as national president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Carrington was recognized for more than 45 years of work to improve the quality of nursing education in North Carolina. She helped establish the nursing school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the school bears her name.

Mrs. Edmonds, an educator, historian and author, served N.C. Central University for 38 years as a history professor, chairman of the history department and dean of the graduate school of arts and science. She is recognized as the first black woman in the United States to become a dean of a graduate school of arts and science. A recipient of the O. Max Gardner Award from the UNC System, she is a visiting scholar at Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Mrs. Wachacha, 82, is a Chero-

kee Indian who has served as clerk for the Cherokee Tribal Council for the past 49 years. She transcribes the minutes of each meeting into Sequoyian Syllabary, the Cherokee language.

Mrs. Woods, a Lumbie Indian and assistant superintendent of the Robeson County schools, was the first woman to receive an at-large appointment to the UNC Board of Governors. She also organized the N.C. State Consortium on Indian Education and was co-organizer of a national network of Native American educators.

A committee appointed by the N.C. Council on the Status of Women selected the winners from 91 nominations. The awards were presented at the council's third annual banquet ceremony at the Raleigh Marriott Hotel.