WHAT NEXT????

"I feel like in years to come that when people think of the name Eddie Hatcher they will think of it simply as an ugly tattoo on the arm of Robeson County..."

J RICHARD TOWNSEND, District Attorney

By this time everyone knows that Eddie Hatcher pleaded guilty to 14 counts of second degree kidnapping in the Feb. 1, 1988 takeover of the Robesonian newspaper. The plea agreement had been settled prior to Eddie's appearance in Robeson County Superior Court. Eddie would plead guilty and the judge would sentence him to 18 years in prison. That was the "deal." That was the plea agreement. And that is what happened. So why did the District Attorney, J. Richard Townsend, take that particular time and place to expound on the allegations that had been raised during that incident? It is election time, as we all know. Did Townsend think he would gain some votes by that speech. The district attorney chose that time to defend the system, in our opinion.

It is our opinion that history will treat Eddie Hatcher well. History will record the incredulous fact that in 1988 there was such an oppressive system operating in Robeson County that two Tuscarora Indians reached a point of desperation, frustration and hopelessness that resulted in the Feb. 1, 1988 take over of a newspaper. We believe the issues raised that day were and still are valid. For those who seem to have forgotten the issues, history will record that:

John D. Hunt, a detainee, had been incarcerated in the Robeson County jail for 14 months without trial or conviction;

Jimmy Earl Cummings was shot and killed by Kevin Stone, son of the sheriff of the county, and continues to be paid a salary by taxpayers' money;

The murder of Joyce Sinclair, a Black, remains unsolved in Robeson County;

A Robeson County deputy shot and killed Edward Zabotosky while transporting a prisoner to the Robeson County Jail (endangering the life of Bill Ransom); This deputy, Mark Locklear, too, continues to work for the sheriff's department;

Billy McKellar, a Black, died as a result of an asthmatic attack in the Robeson County Jail. All employees involved in that case continue to work for the sheriff's department even though the Governor's Task Force stated that his death was "negligence;"

The only persons arrested, tried and convicted for drug dealing in Robeson County are minorities, although Hubert Stone, sheriff, testifies and writes letters for drug dealers.

It is our opinion that those issues and numerous others are the ugly tattoos on the arm of Robeson County and no shirt in the world has sleeves long enough to hide it.

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In view of the recent settlement in the "wrongful death" suit of Jimmy Earl Cummings' family against Kevin Stone, Hubert Stone and the county, we keep waiting for someone to re-open that case. Those questions raised on the night of Jimmy Earl Cummings' death are still unanswered. He was shot and killed by Kevin Stone. The county agreed to pay $65,000 to the family in an out of court settlement. Kevin Stone remains a paid employee of Robeson County. Let's review a few of those questions:

The sheriff eventually released a tape of radio transmissions between Kevin Stone, the dispatcher and other officers the night of the killing. Was that a complete tape? How did Kevin Stone get lost within 3 miles of where he was born and raised? Who has the original tape of the communications that night?

And on the inquest which found Kevin Stone killed Cummings by accident and/or in self defense, the questions still remain: why did former district attorney Joe Freeman Britt refuse to continue the inquest long enough for the family to obtain legal counsel? Why didn't Joe Freeman Britt subpoena the medical examiner to testify at the inquest?

Why have an inquest? Why didn't Joe Freeman Britt take the evidence before the grand jury?

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Recently Mike Mangiameli editorialized about certain "racists" in Robeson County. He called Rep. Sidney Locks and Rev. Joy Johnson "racists." We wonder if Mike speaks for the stockholders of that newspaper. We wonder if they endorse his apparent rage at Rev. Sidney Locks' decision to complete his term in the North Carolina General Assembly. In so doing, Rep. Locks evidently stopped Rev. E.B. Turner from being named as his replacement.

We can only assume from Mike's editorial that certain people will not be happy with the appointments to the board of education to be made by our legislators. We, of course, agree with Rep. Locks. People who serve at this time on the board of education should be supporters of merger. Merger is a fact and we must all work together to make it successful. We should all work toward excellence in education. We'd like to remind Mike that merger was voted on by the people.

We understand that Bo Biggs, Chairman of the Board of Elections; John Barker, former chairman of the Lumberton City Schools Board of Education and presently a member of the board of education for the merged system; as well as Dick Taylor of Taylor Insurance Co. in Lumberton are all stockholders in Mike's newspaper. We wonder if they support the editorial position of the newspaper; and where did they stand on the merger issue?

We remind them all that the merging of five school systems into one was the result of progressive thinking people of all races in Robeson County, including Rev. Joy Johnson and Rep. Sidney Locks. Also, our friend, Eric Prevatte paid a high price economically and in the loss of friends because of his stand for merger.

The best we could determine from the editorial, Mike doesn't like Angus Thompson, the public defender, because he "serves at the pleasure of" Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks. For the record, Judge Brooks made his appointment for public defender because Angus Thompson was qualified and capable of doing an exemplary job as public defender. We have seen nothing to indicate that Mr. Thompson was not an excellent choice for that position. He serves the people of Robeson County and is paid by tax dollars, thereby being accountable to the tax payers.

READERS' FORUM

Reader Supports Regan for D.A. and Holmes for School Board

To the Editor:

I would like to express my opinion on a St. Pauls attorney who is running for District Attorney.

I feel that we should have him as our District Attorney. His father, John B. Regan was District Attorney for a long time. Joe Freeman Britt was assistant district attorney. After the death of John B. Regan, Joe Freeman Britt became the district attorney for Robeson County.

Regan treated people of all races equal. I feel it is important that we have George Regan for our district attorney for Robeson County. I feel that he would follow in his father's foot steps.

Mrs. Ailene Holmes who is up for election to the Board of Education for the Public Schools, I believe should also be elected. She serves now by appointment, but I believe that it is important to have her elected. She has accomplished a lot for the county schools. Mrs. Holmes lives in the Saddletree community.

We are looking forward to a victory on May 8, 1990.

James W. Bell
Lumberton, NC

Indian Housing Apartments Available for Immediate Occupancy

The North Carolina State Indian Housing Authority is now taking applications for vacant apartments. The Authority has a limited number of one, two, and three bedroom units available in Robeson and Hoke Counties. The Authority also has a limited number of units designed for handicapped persons.

Residents of Hoke and Robeson Counties who are looking for rental housing must apply at one of the following offices, before they can be considered for an apartment:

Hoke County [Hwy. 211, South of Raeford]:
HAWKEYE SANDS APARTMENTS
A-23 Sands Hill Road
Red Springs, NC
(919)875-6149
Thursday only, 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Robeson County [Red Hills Community near Maxton]:
RED HILLS APARTMENTS
V-144 Red Hills Road
Maxton, NC
(919)844-9119
Monday and Friday only, 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

All applicants must meet U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development eligibility requirements for housing assistance. Applicants must provide the following information at the time of application:

1) Proper identification;
2) Verification of income for all family members (wages, AFDC Social Security, unemployment, SSI, child support, etc.). Verification statement must be signed by the agency or company who pays the applicant income or benefits.
3) Verification of birth for all family members (birth certificates);
4) Verification of whether the applicant is: (only bring what applies to your family)

a) Displaced by fire, natural disaster, or being evicted due to circumstances beyond the applicant's control.

b) Is paying more than 50% of income towards the rent (verification must be provided at the time of application).

c) Is living in substandard housing (housing which is without indoor plumbing or is severely deteriorated or presents a health hazard to the family). Verification must be furnished by the county Health Department or another agency which has the authority to certify whether a house is fit to live in or presents a health hazard to the family.

The North Carolina State Indian Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any applicant who fails to meet eligibility requirements or who fails to submit to a criminal records check or who fails to provide verification of all sources of family income.

EASTERN CAROLINA TUSCARORA NATION RECEIVES CLOTHES FOR THE NEEDY

The Eastern Carolina Tuscarora Nation has received a truck load of clothes for the needy. The clothes were delivered to the soverign land base of the nation on Feb. 10. The delivery was made by Ann Red Owl of the Cherokee-Lenape Nation of Tennessee and five traveling companions. They were met by members of the nation and given a tour of the Tuscarora-Iroquois Museum.

The nation sponsored a supper that night for their guests. Following the supper, a film was shown and a religious ceremony was held. Chief Kever Locklear, Nation Chief; CHief Dee Boyd Oxendine-Wolf Clan Cheif and Ann Red Owl were all dressed in their traditional Indian clothing. Many of the Tuscarora Clan Mothers were also in attending, including head Clan Mother Dink Barton, Bear Clan; Nancy Lowry, World Clan; and Annie Ruth Strickland, Turtle Clan. Members of the Tuscarora Kau-ta-noh Society Social Dancers performed a few social dances for the guest. The guests spent the night with several members of the nation.

Before departing home the next morning, there was a circle pray in which Raweniio was asked to give good weather and safety on their trip back home. Ann Red Owl said she would take back to her chief and nation greetings and thanks from the Eastern Carolina Tuscarora Nation.

The clothing will be distributed to the needy members of the Eastern Carolina Tuscarora Nation.

Oo-neh

Cotton Growers Urged To Support Boll Weevil Eradication Program

Cotton growers are urged by W.B. Jenkins, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, to express their continued support for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program.

Producers of cotton will have the opportunity to vote in a mail referendum on whether to increase the assessment to be used to support the program by not more than $3.00 per acre. Ballots, which will mailed to producers on February 23, must be returned with a postmark of no later than March 3.

According to officials of the North Carolina Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc., the increase is necessary because of the increased costs of program operations and the need for additional finances to complete the current southeastern program and maintain a buffer zone.

After the current phases underway are completed, fees for North Carolina growers can be reduced to costs necessary to maintain buffer zone activities.

"The Boll Weevil Eradication Program is an outstanding success," Jenkins said. "It has been responsible for cotton's increasing importance as an agricultural commodity in this state and nation. I therefore cannot emphasize too strongly that growers owe it to themselves to support this program in order to insure cotton's future."

Say You Read It In The Carolina Indian Voice

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Attention Fishermen

Old Wade Tyner Pond, located just off Hwy. 211 between Lumberton and Red Springs, will be open for fishing March 1, 1990. Fishing rights are on sale now at the Shell Station in Pembroke, in front of City Hall. Rates: $50 per person under 65 years of age, $25 per year for persons over 65. See owner Vardell Ransom or call 521-9110.

Room for 2,000 fishermen (bank fishing or boating).

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Winter Allergies
We look for allergies in the spring and fall, when plants are sending out their sneeze-promoting message that the season is changing. But allergies can also be included on the list of 'winter woes.'
Allergies to dust and housemites (microscopic organisms that live in dust) are often at their worst during winter. The reason: We're indoors more, windows are closed and dust is trapped inside.
For mild, coldlike symptoms that don't improve within a week, a good housecleaning and an antihistamine may bring relief. Ask us about allergy medication...*your health is our business.*
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