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ISSUES CONCERNING N.C. INDIANS & GOV. JAMES MARTIN'S ADMINISTRATION

Over the past year and a half, the relationship between Governor James Martin's Administration and Indian people, particularly the Commission of Indian Affairs has been steadily deteriorating.

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs was established in 1971 for the purpose "to deal fairly and effectively with Indian affairs...to provide aid and protection for Indians as needs are demonstrated...and to promote recognition of and the right of Indians to pursue cultural and religious tradition considered by them to be sacred and meaningful to Native Americans." Such authority must be the guiding principle of the Commission's work.

Although Governor Martin has publicly proclaimed his support his actions, as well as, actions by members of his administration, do not bear out his statement.

On July 25, 1990, Governor Martin sent Lonnie Revels, Jr., Chairman of the Commission, a letter relieving him of his position as Chairman. In that same letter, he stated he was appointing Patrick Clarke of Metrolina Native American Association as the Commission's Chair.

According to the Commission's legislation, the Governor cannot appoint a chairperson, without Indian Commission Board members' ratification of the appointment. In making the move outlined above, Governor Martin violated one of the most basic rights of American Democracy—the right of people, and in this case elected representatives from Indian tribes, organizations and communities across the state, to elect their leader—the Commission's Chairperson.

This action is one of many illustrations, where the Governor and his Administration have not supported critical issues facing Indian people in North Carolina. Let's look at a few others:

1) Federal recognition is one of the most critical issues facing eastern North Carolina Indian tribes. Such recognition is first and foremost a human rights and human dignity issue—the right of Indians to be who they are, identified and acknowledged as such by all departments of the Federal Government. Secondly it is a dollars issue, the right of North Carolina Indians to receive, on a fair share basis, Indian resources set aside for health, education, and economic development of Indian people and their tribes and communities. Although the Commission of Indian Affairs Board of Directors passed a resolution of support for Lumbee and Haliwa-Saponi federal recognition, the Governor's office has not responded to these groups with letters of support, public testimony, or given permission for the Commission's chairman to testify on this critical issue, since 1988. Thus, the Governor is skirting the issue of human rights for 80,000 of North Carolina's Indian citizens and hiding behind Cherokee opposition to this issue. There are 5,000 Cherokees in this state and number of these Indians, except their political leaders, are not opposed to federal recognition of North Carolina's Lumbee and Haliwa-Saponi Indian people. Why is the Governor refusing to fight for the overwhelming numbers of Indians in the state? Is it racism? Is it the fact that he doesn't believe

they are Indians. Was Lonnie Revels too aggressive in pushing the Governor for support of the Lumbees and Haliwas on this issue?

2) Tribal self-determination—since the early days of the Commission of Indian Affairs, the staff has operated a number of statewide programs for all the tribes and Indian organizations in the state, except for the Lumbee tribe and the Lumbee Regional Development Association. These programs included Talent Search, Indian Housing, Joint Partnership Training Act, and Economic Development. As tribal organizations grew stronger a number of tribes moved to take over their own share of these programs. Recently, the Haliwa-Saponi moved to take over and operate their own Joint Partnership Training Program. Commission staff pushed strongly to keep this program in Raleigh—saying the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal organization did not have the professional skills to operate this program and that the funds would be lost to the state. Lonnie Revels went to bat for the tribal organization and encouraged the Commission Board to support the tribe's right to operate its own program. Yet, the Governor was told that Lonnie Revels was disloyal to the Governor's Administration and was undercutting the Commission. Why does the Commission staff feel it should run programs for North Carolina Indian Tribal organizations? Doesn't the state give the Commission enough operating money for its staff? Doesn't the staff believe Indian organizations have the ability to learn to operate federal and state programs? Why are they trying to keep control of all the Indian money coming to the state, except for funds coming into Lumbee Regional Development Association?

3) Political appointments for Minority Professionals. In the spring of 1988, the people throughout North Carolina were shocked and saddened by the news of Julian Pierce's murder. Julian was a candidate for Judge of the Superior Court, a newly established judicial position designed to move minorities into that judgeship. There were six such positions created in North Carolina, one position was assigned to Robeson County. The untimely death of Julian Pierce narrowed the candidates down to one white male running for the Judgeship.

Indians in Robeson County were inflamed by Julian Pierce's murder and many believe it is a case which has invisible links that will never be exposed.

The people—Indian, Black and white, rallied around Dexter Brooks to be the candidate to take the slot to which Julian Pierce was entitled. The only way to get that minority slot was for another judgeship position to be created. Governor Martin met with Indian leaders from the Pierce campaign and agreed to seek the creation of such a slot from the state legislature.

The slot was obtained and Dexter Brooks was nominated for the judgeship. Then the old divide and conquer game started. First the efforts were to discredit Dexter Brooks' personal life. Then another Indian name was thrown into the pot. Neither game was successful.

Much credit for Dexter Brooks' appointment as Superior Court Judge must be given to Lonnie Revels.

Time after time, when the Martin Administration said there was no way Dexter Brooks would be appointed, Lonnie Revels kept mobilizing forces and calling the Governor to assure Mr. Brooks' appointment. Working with local Indians, Lonnie Revels helped keep that old divide and conquer game of Indian against Indian from being successful. Why wasn't Governor Martin willing to appoint Brooks on his credentials? Why must a minority candidate always be judged by a higher standard of conduct than other candidates? Did Lonnie Revels' aggressive support of Dexter Brooks' appointment cost him political chips with the Martin Administration? Were the Robeson County Republicans so incensed over the Dexter Brooks appointment that they let the Governor know that it was just another instance of Lonnie Revels' interfering in Robeson County politics?

4) The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center has the potential for being the most effective economic development boom for all of North Carolina's Indians, but especially for those living in Robeson County. The project has been in the talking stage, since 1977. A Development Director was hired in late 1987 to organize a Masterplan and launch the necessary development to make the Center a reality. The first day of the Development Director's job, the Martin Administration said, take over the site, secure it, and then let us give you a lease. A Masterplan, programs and design for Phase I have been completed and the property has been secured. All signs looked like "go" on this project until March, 1990, when both the Indian Cultural Center and Commission of Indian Affairs board of directors asked that Riverside Golf Course be closed to make way for the development of Phase I. No action was taken and the Martin Administration began saying I support the Indian Cultural Center but I will not close the golf course until the Cultural Center does an impact study of the entire 600 acre site and has \$4.2 million dollars in the bank. No construction can start until then and the lease cannot be final before those things have happened.

With the employment potential (100 jobs during Phase I and 500 jobs at full development), of the Indian Cultural Center, why does the Governor support keeping a golf course, which financially benefits six people, instead of supporting the development of the Cultural Center?

A local Democratic representative has vowed to keep the golf course open forever. Word has it that he has good friends in Lumberton and Laurinburg, waiting for the Cultural Center to fail so they pick up the 400 acres of state property for a song and put a retirement community, with a lake and a golf course. It would only a million dollars to improve the golf course. Why is the Governor working with that local Democratic representative to sell Indians out?

Why has the Governor stated publicly he is for the Cultural Center, yet he and his administration have drawn

a most restrictive long term lease designed to cripple the Cultural Center's development?

Has Lonnie Revels' advocacy for the Cultural Center, particularly in the recent legislature, again drawn the Governor's anger because he can't control the Revels? Lonnie Revels was advocating a long term flexible lease for the Cultural Center, while the Governor was advocating an impact study of the entire site which could tie the Cultural Center's development inknots for 3 or 4 years. There must be a reason why the Governor is against the Cultural Center. Is it racism? Is it working for his local Robeson County Republican donors who don't want to see Indian economic development? Is it for the old time power structure in Robeson County (Democrats and Republicans who intend to keep those Indians in place?) By knocking Lonnie Revels out as the spokesman for Indians, there are no other Indian leaders who care enough for all Indian people to take on the system on issues of fairness and justice whether the issues are popular or not. Why is it so important to the Martin Administration to divide, conquer, and rule Indians in this state?

5) Commission of Indian Affairs staff are to work on behalf of Indian people. Until the last year and a half, Commission members worked as a group to tackle issues and solve their own problems. If there was disagreement, particularly among Indian members, it was worked out by them. The Martin Administration has let it be known they intend to control those Indians. They are doing that by controlling the executive director and by playing Indian board members off against each other. That old divide and conquer game.

Commission staff don't share information of on going issues with board members. It makes it difficult for them to make good decisions. By keeping board members in the dark, the Martin Administration can keep control of Board actions and make sure things stay the same.

Lonnie Revels pushed the staff for major achievements of the Commission these past several decades. He pushed for the legislation on Indian scholarships; economic development; the Cultural Center; the criminal justice system; Indian housing, etc. By taking Lonnie Revels out of the Chairman's position, the Governor thinks he can silence and control them. Does Martin want to make sure Indians keep things they way they are? Does he want Indian people to move backwards? Or is he using control to hide his bigotry and racism against Indians?

It is up to Indian people now to call the leaders to task and make them accountable and responsible for the Indians' future. Indians in this state must move forward to the 21st Century. Indians should not go backwards into the old divide and conquer politics. Indians should make their leaders, from the Indian Commission Chairperson to local Indian organizations, represent and fight for Indian needs and Indian rights.

Carter Appointed To SBA Advisory Council

HAMMONDS MAKES DEAN'S LIST AT NOTRE DAME



Chad Wyatt Hammonds, son of Ronald and Linda Hammonds, Route 8, Lumberton, has been named to the dean's list at the University of Notre Dame for outstanding scholarship during the spring semester.

The dean's list is comprised of a select group of students who have excelled in maintaining a scholastic average of 3.4 and above during the past semester.

Hammonds this fall will begin his senior year in the University's College of Business Administration. He is a 1988 graduate of Magnolia School and majors in management. Hammonds plans to attend law school and pursue a career in corporate law.



Truex Vail Carter

The U.S. Small Business Administration Charlotte District Director, Gary A. Deel, recently appointed Truex Vail Carter to the Charlotte District Office Advisory Council. The function of the Council is to consider and

comment on current Small Business Administration programs, evaluate proposed programs, and also recommend new programs to be developed by the SBA.

Council members also act as advocates for small business throughout the state.

Carter is currently employed as president of Southern Scientific Services, Inc. in Charlotte, a dealer in general laboratory supplies.

Carter is a graduate of Pembroke Senior High and a graduate of UNC-Charlotte with a degree in Business Administration. He is an active member of the Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council, and has held various offices with that organization. In 1980 he graduated from the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Leadership School and is a supporter of its Small Business Services Division. Carter is a volunteer with the Metrolina Native American Association where he was employed for seven years as Executive Director. While employed there he received the Community Service Award, and has twice been awarded the Distinguished Service Award. During the past ten years he has volunteered with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Title V Indian Education Project, and was awarded the Indian Community Development Certificate.

Carter has served on the City of Charlotte Employment and Training Board, the United Tribes of North Carolina Board, as a commissioner on the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority, the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Board, and as Chairman of the Deacon Body at Candlewyck Baptist Church.

Carter is married to the former Wanda Maynor of Pembroke, and they have one daughter, Candice Leigh.

Reflections By Alta Nye Oxendine

LET'S KEEP PRAYING

Let's pray for all the people we know who are going through difficult times. And let's pray at this time for the leaders of our country, of Iraq, Kuwait, all the other Arab nations, Israel, the Soviet Union (which was apparently still sending arms to Iraq at the time that

larger country invaded Kuwait) and all the other areas of our world.

Let's also pray for all the other people around this world, including ourselves.

I ask your prayers, that God will forgive me for my failures and give me His guidance for each new day.



The Lowrys keeping in touch. Shown left to right: Marvin Lowry, Ronald Lowry, Barbara Lowry, Murrill Lowry, Curless Lowry, Talbert Lowry and C.B. Lowry, ages 56-68.



The surviving children of Oscar R. and Susie J. Sampson were photographed July 5 1990. Seated: Charity Sampson Oxendine; standing, left to right: Katy Lee Sampson Lowry, Lucy Sampson Locklear, John Paul Sampson, Martha Sampson, Locklear and Joseph Sampson. The deceased children are: Mary Eliza Sampson, Bessie Sampson, Ruth Sampson Locklear, Oscar Dewey Sampson, Nettie Sampson Locklear, James Albert Sampson, Susie Sampson.