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Delay expected on Lumbee Bill

HR 1426, the Lumbee bill, may not reach the floor by the end of this Congressional session. According to Ruth B. Locklear, Enrollment Director, the Senate is set to adjourn in early October. Unless the bill is voted by then, the bill will die this year. Ms. Locklear stated the tribal

attorney on HR 1426, Dr. Arlinda Locklear, has met with several people on Capitol Hill to gear up for next year's legislative contest in the event the bill dies this year. "In the meantime", she reports, "Dr. Arlinda Locklear is working closely with Senator Terry Sanford's office in Washington, D.C. should opportunity on the calendar arise in September for a 2nd cloture vote." Even if that happens, according to Ms. Locklear, the tribe must have at least 60 of its supporters present for another cloture vote.

ture vote. Typically, the Senate will delay voting on any bill where a Senator has expressed a particular interest or asks that it not be brought up during his absence. Senator Helms is expected back in Washington when the Senate convenes in September. Whether there will be time on the Calendar for a 2nd cloture vote remains highly uncertain, according to the Enrollment Director. Even if time permits another vote before the Senate adjourns in early October, the tribe must have at least 60 Senators present who will vote affirmatively on the cloture motion.

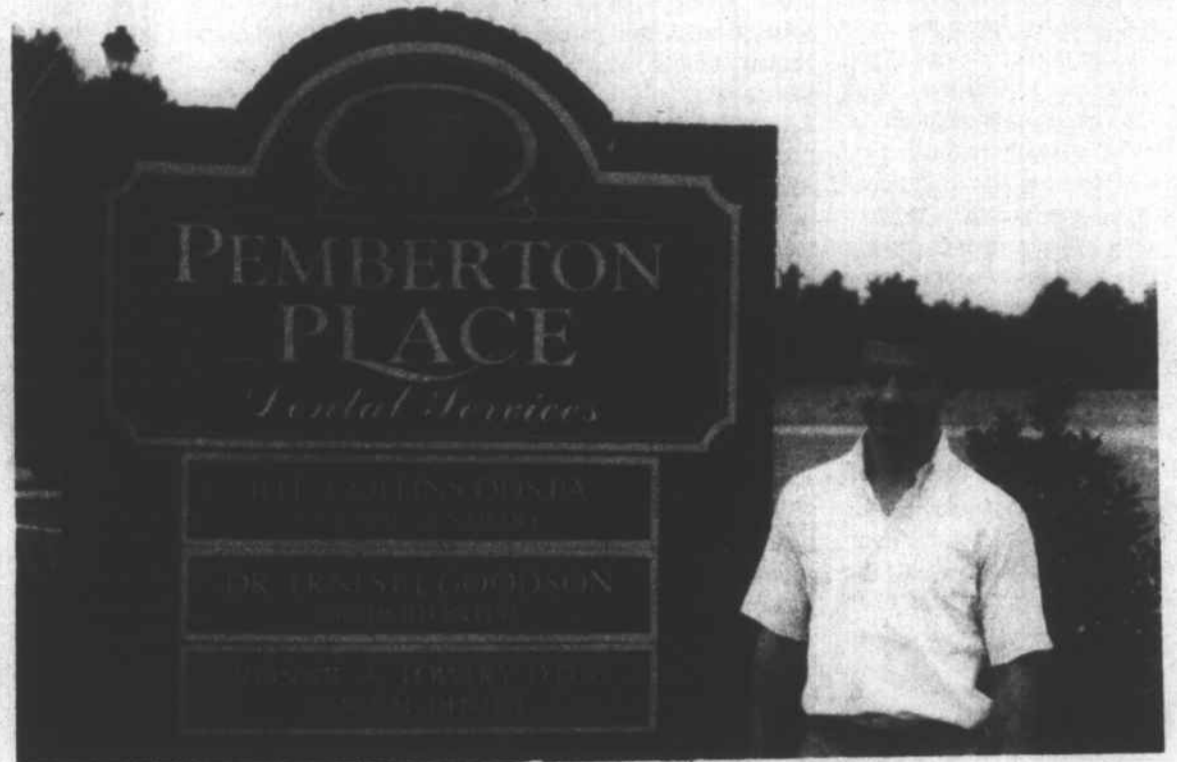
Once cloture has been invoked, it then permits the Senate to consider the Lumbee Bill in debate for an up or down vote. Unlike the cloture vote which requires a 2/3 vote of the Senate, passage of the Lumbee bill will require a simple majority of those Senators present who constitute a quorum of the Senate.

Because of a legislative block on the bill, said by Lumbee to have been organized by Senator Jesse Helms, cloture must be invoked to override the legislative block. Under Senate rules, the legislative block can only be removed when 2/3 or 60 Senators vote to invoke cloture on the bill. On February 27, 1992, the Senate voted 58 to 31 to invoke cloture. Majority Leader George Mitchell promised Senator Terry Sanford another opportunity at the cloture vote which failed short by 2 votes. Senator Helms' unforeseen absence from the Senate brought a delay in moving the bill for a 2nd clo-

time agreement on the debate with the opposing Senator. When the opposing Senator(s) refuses to agree on a time limit for the debate, it signals a filibuster will be ran should the bill arise on the floor. According to Ms. Locklear, neither Senator Helms or his colleagues will agree to a time limit on the floor debate. "It is another instance", she stated, "when the rule of a few is imposed upon the majority."

Senator Terry Sanford is facing a Republican contender in the upcoming November election. He has sponsored the bill in the U.S. Senate for the federal recognition of the Lumbee since 1988. Among other things, this bill extends full recognition to the Lumbee while permitting local Tuscarora groups a legislative opportunity to seek separate recognition through the U.S. Department of Interior, if they so choose. Presently, these groups are barred from Administrative recognition. Also, the bill requires the adult members of the Lumbee Tribe to reorganize under a tribal constitution and establish its form of tribal government.

Dr. Arlinda Locklear is the former Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund in Washington, D.C. She is now in private practice where her clients are restricted to American Indian Tribes. She has been the tribal attorney on the Lumbee bill since its introduction in the Congress. Ms. Locklear said that the Lumbee bill would have never went this far without the hard and dedicated work of Senator Terry Sanford, U.S. Representative Charlie Rose, and Dr. Arlinda Locklear.



Dr. Lowery joins Dr. Collins at Pemberton Place Dental Clinic

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear
Special to Carolina Indian Voice

When Dr. Ronnie Lowery enters the treatment rooms of his Pembroke dental clinic the patients, more often than not, ask him, "Where's the doctor? Who are you?"

It has to do with his boyish look. He looks more like a 16-year-old with a new driver's license than like the 25-year-old newly licensed dentist he actually is.

Dr. Lowery graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry in May. In July he joined his brother-in-law, Dr. Jeff Collins, in a practice at Pembroke Place Dental Clinic in Pembroke.

The 1985 graduate of West Robeson High School (now Purnell Swett High School) completed three years

of study at Pembroke State University before transferring to UNC-CH. While in professional school, Dr. Lowery says he spent practically every week-end in his beloved Robeson County as a respite from the pressure of long intense spent in classrooms and clinics.

"I love the space the rural area of my homeplace offers," he says of the family-owned farm located in the Prospect community. He says it is on the land that he now finds respite from his professional practice as well.

Dr. Lowery, the only son of Praford and Lendora Lowery,

plays an active role in the operations of the farm which has been in his family for three generations. A professed "Country Boy" he says he is equally happy whether donned in a laboratory jacket

or old work shirt. Still single, but engaged, Dr. Lowery says he subscribes to a simple life-style. He still drives his trusty decade-old car and continues to live with his parents at his childhood home near Preston Gospel Chapel. Sandwiched between his professional practice and farming involvements are community sports activities. He has kept close ties with old boyhood friends and joins them in weekly basketball and volleyball practice sessions.

Dr. Lowery is a member of Preston Gospel Chapel where he belongs to "The Encouragers," a group within the church who endeavor to spiritually encourage young people.

Dr. Lowery says he will remain in his Native Land. "Robeson County is my home and is where I want to be. My roots are deeply planted here."

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church extolls value of friendship

The outside appearance of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, situated on a two-acre tract three miles west of Pembroke, at first glance seems to defy ordinary architectural design for a church building. Members of the log structured church say the design and selection of building materials came about only after much forethought. They say they wanted a building constructed of materials traditionally recognized as natural insulators.

"The logs were selected because they tend to keep the building's interior warm in the winter and cool in the summer," explains Rev. Coolidge Cummings. "And, too, the log exterior projects hospitable qualities." The pastor says the church's friendly image doesn't end with the architectural design. "Our church members are genuinely friendly people." Because of those qualities, Rev. Cummings says, the church was so named.

In December 1985, 33 friends gathered to form Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Cummings was elected pastor. Having no actual church building, the group began holding mid-week Bible study sessions in a private home across the road from the present church site. Because of a growing membership, two months later, the group held worship services inside a privately-owned, modified barn house in the Philadelphia community of Robeson County. It was inside the building surrounded by barren farm fields that a determination began to overcome adversity.

Weekly sermon and song within the humble structure obliterated the noise of chattering window panes caused by wind gusts. By winter's end the church group had settled for worship services inside a vacant grocery store on secondary highway 710 between Pembroke and Red Springs. For almost a year Sunday School lessons were taught in rooms partitioned with cloth fabric. It was in the building that members produced and staged the newly-organized church's first Christmas drama.

Months earlier construction of the new church had begun on the Red Springs Rd. site outside Pembroke. Carpentry skills of community men were evident as Maine logs rose on the 4,680 sq. ft. building. Hundreds of man-hours were donated to the project. And though construction was incomplete on Thanksgiving Day of 1985 church members gathered for worship services in the building. There in the midst of building materials stacked on floors, the group engaged in prayerful recognition of the holiday.

Today Friendship Missionary Baptist Church holds all privileges afforded its association with the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. The Sunday School program offers five classes and a nursery. Formal worship services are held weekly. A children's hours precludes the services. Rev. Wolfeally Bullard is assistant pastor of the church. Mrs. Alesha Cummings, program director, says emphasis is given to youth church activities. Once a year the church sponsors an all-night event where members gather around a bonfire

socialize and later watch videos before retiring to a church sleep-in. The church has displayed prize-winning floats in annual Lumbee Homecoming parades. Christian holidays are observed with dramatized programs. The church and its choir host an open invitational song meet every fourth Sunday night. An OUT-REACH program was initiated last year and every second Sunday of each month church members go out into the surrounding community to visit non-church members. Later they return to the church for a covered dish, or bag lunch meal.

The six-year-old church is currently conducting a campaign to raise money for a sanctuary. Mr. Howard Jones, deacon, says funds have come from church membership. "Our church believes in self-support when it comes to money matters," he comments. "We don't sponsor traditional fund-raising events as such. Our doctrine is to support ourself in church financial matters." Every third Sunday is high offering day at the church he says.

Mrs. Denise Bullard, church clerk, says while the church policy is one of self-support, gifts are accepted. A Raleigh resident donated a vintage cast iron church bell which will be used once the sanctuary is erected. And theatre seats were given by a Charlotte church. A piano was donated by a private individual.

From time-to-time the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church recite a favorite scripture which extolls the value of friendship. In so doing the members are afforded reaffirmation of their

Fleetwood recognized for one million safe man hours

Two and a half years ago Kent Johnson, production manager for Fleetwood Homes of N.C. #41 Pembroke, decided that it was time to eliminate disabling injuries in his plant for the sake of the valuable associates. Kent felt that major injuries could be stopped with a few important ingredients.

The first of these ingredients was a total commitment. This meant a serious effort on the part of management and the associates to eliminate injuries. Commitments was uniform from the newest associate to the plant General Manager.

Secondly, a safety committee was formed. Bobby Barnes was the chair-

man of this committee. The committee met once a week to make decisions on how they could install the commitment throughout the plant and improve the workplace where it would be safe and pleasant environment for all. They planned and concluded that a goal of one million safe associate work hours was to be

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church name: A FRIEND LOVETH AT ALL TIMES, AND A BROTHER IS BORN FOR ADVERSITY. PROVERBS 17:17.

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