

Editorially Speaking

Joe Freeman Britt, long time enemy of Indian people, attacks us again

Joe Freeman Britt, former District Attorney and Superior Court Judge, has long been an enemy of Indian people. His removal from public office, some of us hoped, would keep him out of Indian affairs. As you will notice by the letter reprinted below, this has not been the case.

Recently Horace Locklear, the first Lumbee to be licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina, has applied for re-instatement as an attorney. Nearly seven years ago, Mr. Locklear lost his license because of a guilty plea to an obstruction of justice charge. Many of us remember that story and know that it was a political move by the powers that were in charge at that time, Joe Freeman Britt and Hubert Stone. Both of these power brokers, seemingly, hated Horace Locklear because of his political stand. They hated him, we assume, because of his commitment to Julian Pierce in his bid for election to a Superior Court seat. They hated the rest of us, apparently, because of our stands against power brokers and corruption in high places. Others they just hated, it seems, according to Ol' Joe's letter because of the color of our skin.

If there was any doubt about how they felt and continue, according to Joe's letter, to feel about it, Ol' Joe has removed that.

Can you believe that Ol' Joe would use the terms "integrity" and "character"? That is almost beyond our comprehension. Nevertheless, the letter reprinted below speaks for itself.

A hearing is scheduled on Horace Locklear's reinstatement on October 10, 1997. It is time for Indian people to gather and we should gather at the hearing. I hope others will join me at the hearing. Also, letters can be written in support of Horace Locklear and in defiance of Joe Freeman Britt to: Ms. Carolin D. Bakewell, Counsel and Assistant Director, the North Carolina State Bar, P.O. Box 25908, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Notice what Ol' Joe said about Horace Locklear's pedigree. Was he saying that Horace Locklear should not have his license reinstated because he is a Chihuahua? Or because he is an Indian? Neither reason is sufficient. Pedigree as defined by *New World Dictionary, Second College Edition*: "Pedigree n (a crane from the lines in the genealogical tree) 1. A list of ancestors; record of ancestry; family tree 2. descent, lineage, ancestry 3. a recorded or known line of descent, especially of a purebred animal"

Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus defines the word this way: "pedigree n 1 Syn: Genealogy, begets, family tree, stemma 2 Ancestry, blood, descent, extraction, lineage, origin"

It is amazing to us that Joe Freeman Britt thought we either didn't read and comprehend what we read. Or he thought mistakenly that we do not understand subtleties and nuances. Neither is the case. The way things

work in Indian country, a copy of this letter, has circulated far and wide. As publishers of the "Indian newspaper" we would be derelict in our duties not to do our share to spread the gospel, according to Ol' Joe Freeman Britt. It would not be quite as bad, if Ol' Joe had simply called Horace Locklear a dog. But, no, he couldn't stop there. He called every Indian here and abroad a dog, in our opinion and according to the above referenced dictionaries. If Ol' Joe is licensed to practice law, in our opinion, integrity, morals and character are not a prerequisite. We stand boldly and defiantly as we always have in the face of the old enemy, Joe Freeman Britt. He built his reputation on the blood of Indians and Blacks. Even when he made Guinness' Book of World Records as the world's deadliest D.A. We knew that the record of overturned convictions and other dubious practices in the courtroom spoke much louder of his commitment to justice, equality and fair play. And least someone think we have forgotten, Julian Pierce is dead!! And Ol' Joe served as Superior Court Judge by default and served without distinction and we believe and remind others that his judicial robe was not necessarily clean. We believe that his black robe was more of an indication of the content of his heart. He has spoken again. And again he has spoken loudly and brutally against a Nation of people. And again, we, editorially speaking, protest!!! Or in courtroom terminology, "We object, your honor!"

Mr. A. Root Edmonson, Deputy Counsel
The North Carolina State Bar
P.O. Box 25908
Raleigh, NC 27611

RE: Reinstatement hearing of Horace Locklear
97 BCR 3

Dear Mr. Edmonson:

I have been acquainted with Mr. Horace Locklear since he was first admitted to the Bar and, on a personal basis, have always found him to be likeable and very out-going.

However, it would not be in the public interest for Mr. Locklear to be reinstated in my opinion.

He has previously proven his pedigree as to his moral qualifications and fitness to practice law, and I am aware of no evidence of a change in his character, there are public perceptions as well as substantial ethical questions involved in this hearing, and I believe that reinstatement would be detrimental to the standing and integrity of the Bar.

Sincerely,

Joe Freeman Britt
Joe Freeman Britt



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Tuesday, October 7, 1997

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- * BUSINESS MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 p.m.

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A message from United National Indian Tribal Youth

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