

A continuing report on the 1997 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly from Rep. Ron Sutton, District 85

The issue of Campaign Reform continues to be of concern to most people. The sticky problem is how to approach the issue. The Senate passed a rather tough bill and sent it to the House. After long delays it was brought to the House Floor for debate but had been watered down severely. Specifically there were no provisions to stop the flow of "soft money." Soft money is that money that comes into the state, district and local elections that cannot be traced to specific givers. Large contributors can give to political parties and the party then funnels the money into district or local campaigns in an untraceable amount or method.

The Democrats with some help from Republicans caused the weakened House Bill to be sent back to a committee to be reconsidered. After much delay it was again brought back in the last days of the session in basically the same format as before. Forced to either pass a weakened version or no campaign reform bill at all, the bi-partisan group passed the weakened bill. Legislation is expected in the short session to make the law much stronger in an effort to reduce or slow soft money. However, as long as the General Assembly leadership does not want a change, it's going to be difficult to get effective legislation on the subject.

Later this fall, North Carolina will add to some of the toughest drunk driving laws in the nation. A law passed that allows the vehicle used by a repeat drunk driver offender to be confiscated. While that sounds like being tough on crime, and we all want that, it does have its problems. For in-

stance, the vehicle can be owned by someone else, a wife, friend, child, neighbor, and still be taken and sold. It may be the only vehicle in a two parent working household. Yet, it can still be taken and sold with the net proceeds going to the public schools.

I tried in committee to get the bill changed to make the penalties tougher on the drunken driver and not take the vehicle. I reminded members: vehicles don't KILL--drunken drivers KILL. Yet the sentiment was too strong in favor of taking vehicles, so the bill passed and was signed into law. It should be noted this applies to repeat drunken driving offenders and to those driving after their license are revoked for DWI and applies only when they are driving the same vehicles as before.

Another criminal law bill and one I co-sponsored with Rep. Mary Jarrell of Guilford County was aimed at speeders. The bill, under certain circumstances makes it a felony to speed to allude arrest. Almost weekly we read of drivers trying to out run the police and are involved in or cause others to be involved in serious automobile accidents. Our bill has eight aggravating factors that when two of the eight are violated results in a felony conviction and loss of drivers license for 2 years. If three or more are found by the court to be violated the license is gone for three years. One important aspect of this law is that under certain circumstances the owner can be charged even when the officer can not stop the vehicle or the driver jumps to run and gets away. This puts the burden on all of us to know who is driving our vehicles and

understand that we may have to report such a person in order to avoid prosecution ourselves.

Law enforcement, especially the North Carolina Highway Patrol, has wanted this law for years. Similar bills have been filed for at least the past six years, but none have made it into law. Since Rep. Jarrell is not an attorney, I handled our bill throughout the entire process and ours is the first of its kind in the southeast to become law.

Welfare Reform is a topic that almost everyone supports. It is also one of those topics that almost everyone has a different idea of how to approach it. The governor has his well publicized "Work-First" Welfare Reform Plan in position. Again, the Senate had their own plan very similar to "Work First." The House plan was much more restrictive and had the unique provision that would, in essence, allow all 100 counties to develop their own plan for Welfare Reform as long as it met certain broad guidelines. Personally, that sounds like chaos. However, politically it sounds good election time "giving the decision making power back to the people." However, it is not a realistic approach.

Since the Senate and House Welfare Reform versions were so different, and it looked as if the House members would not pass the House version on the floor resulting in Welfare Reform being dead for this two year term, the House leadership put the Welfare Reform package into the House version of the budget, thus ensuring that it would be on the table to be discussed by the confere committee. This was one of the major

delays in passing a budget this summer. Finally, a compromise was worked out resulting in a few counties having the option of developing their own plans while the rest continue with "Work First."

While I know many of you follow the actions of the General Assembly on a daily basis when we are in session, thousands of you do not. It has been my purpose to give a broad overview into some of the major issues before the General Assembly and our response to them.

Certainly in these matters I cannot go into significant depth on each bill or matter, nor can I relate all the details involved. However, rest assured your entire delegation will do whatever necessary to provide you with more details if desired.

In speaking of the delegation affecting primarily Robeson, Hoke and Scotland counties, this has been a monumental session. As the senior member, I was selected Chairman of our delegation and held meetings as necessary to get the word out on items affecting our area and region. We plan to swamp the chairmanship around each term to ensure that all members get a chance to chair the delegation.

While we did not always vote alike or share the same views on bills or issues, we communicated with each other so that we always knew where we stood. The delegation consists of proven leaders who are willing and eager to represent their constituents in a truly professional manner. I commend the entire delegation and a job well done.

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THE HONORABLE FRANCES MCARTHUR CUMMINGS HAS DECIDED TO "KEEP SMILING" AND CONTINUE TO ENJOY "THE BEAUTY OF A HOLY LIFE" WHICH BEARS NO "CONFUSION ON POLITICAL AFFILIATION."

To The Editor:

As I firmly hold my Blessed Pen, my Four-Chamber Heart has Four Letters inscribed - L.O.V.E. for All of Almighty God's Created Mankind.

Lord Jesus said, "Love Ye One Another, As I Have Loved You." Lord Jesus proved "TRUE LOVE" when He accepted his Crucifixion on the Cross of Calvary. Lord Jesus was Peaceful while the Nails were pierced in His Holy Hands. He said to the people who witnessed, "My Peace I Leave With You."

When Lord Jesus was in The Holy Temple, the Doctors and Lawyers Could NOT Have Answered His Questions.

The Holy Spirit can "Heal" the sick souls when doctors Fail and give to Lawyers words to speak on behalf of their clients. The Holy Spirit also knows one's inner secret thoughts. Therefore, let our Thoughts, Words, and Deeds Be Holy. Lord Jesus said, "Be Ye Holy, As I Am Holy" and "Let Even To Thy Conversations Be Holy."

The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings is "REMOVING HERSELF" from the POLITICAL BATTLEFIELD to a "PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE" where there is NO "GREED" for Man-Made "Currency Notes or Coins" and where "Peace Reigns Supreme."

Our Congressman Mike McIntyre should be able to be "UNOPPOSED" for Congressional District 7.

I am sure a Multitude of "WISE" Members of the Democrat Political Party and the Republican Party who always "Vote and Elect" the "Name of a Candidate" and not the "Name of a Political Party" Will Be Very "DISAPPOINTED" over Frances Cummings' Decision.

There was "NO POSSIBLE CHANCE" for Our Congressman Mike McIntyre to Continue to be Our Congressman without Frances McArthur Cummings' Withdrawal from Congressional District 7 Elections. I also approve Mike McIntyre to be Our Congressman.

"WISE" Voters are of the Knowledge that Frances McArthur Cummings can be called an African-American Woman or a Black Woman, but she is a "WISE WOMAN" WHO DID NOT STAY IN THE "BACK SEAT."

Frances Cummings ascended The "Mountain Summit of Creative Ideas" with the "Key To Progress" and had "Successful Legislative Achievements" for: People's Progressive Prosperity.

During Frances Cummings' First Week (1993) in the N.C. General Assembly, Frances observed the Language published in the NC House Rules Book was incorrect, and she made recommendations for the "Correct Language" to be published. The New Language governing the Business Sessions in the House Chamber "WAS APPROVED" by the NC House of Representatives. Then, Frances continued to have her AGENDA from House District 87 "Think Tank" set in "Active Motion."

Frances M. Cummings "Has Always Proven" her "Wisdom" towards Goals she focused her Thoughts and "Gained 100% Results."

I Pray that the Glorious Day will be in the near future when People as Members of the Democrat Political Party and the Republican Party "Will Become WISER" and "Vote and Elect" the "Name of a Candidate" Seeking Election to be their Voice to Speak and Hands to Revise and Write New State Laws for People's Progressive Prosperity.

General Elections 1996, Has Proven to All Voters of House District 87, who did Vote "Straight Democrat Ticket" that they made the "Most Grievous Mistake" in their Life.

Democrat Donald Bonner "Rode on the Name of the Democrat Political Party" as he carried his Political Affiliation in the NC General Assembly only to add a

number to the Democrat Political Party to "Say a YES" to another member of the Democrat Political Party's Senate or House Bill.

Our Senator David Weinstein for District 30, in "Whom I am Well Pleased" had from the General Assembly two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the African-American Cultural Center for House District 87, which includes Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland Counties.

Senator Weinstein also gained one million dollars for the NC Southeastern Agricultural Center. Robeson County, being the largest county in North Carolina, only received one million dollars in 1997 compared to 1997 Appropriations of \$3.5 million to the Eastern Agricultural Center and \$3.44 million to the Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market. The Honorable Frances M. Cummings had for her 1993 proposal for the NC Southeastern Agricultural Center/Farmers Market funding totaling \$6.3 million.

QUESTION: Did Democrat Donald Bonner increase People's Progressive Prosperity for House District 87?

ANSWER: "NO." WHY?

Bonner "Did Not Have the Knowledge" To Be A Lawmaker in the NC General Assembly. Neither did Bonner attend the Political Institute of Leadership. Donald Bonner appears "Not Inspired" by the Holy Spirit. He is not one of Lord Jesus' Disciples who was taught "How To Pray" in Buildings such as Schools, Churches, Home, General Assembly, or under the "Heavenly Skies."

Democrat Donald Bonner's statement in the Fayetteville Observer-Times proves his kind of "Religion." His Elections Campaign Cards state he is a Lay-Leader and Lay-Speaker for the United Methodist Church. YET, Bonner Did "Vote" for "Liquor-by-the-Drink" in the NC General Assembly.

As a Member of the Democrat Political Party and the Republican Party, Frances McArthur Cummings "Has Always Proven Her Wisdom" towards Goals she focused her Thoughts, and she "Gained Successful Results 100%."

MY CONCLUSION: The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings now gives to Our Congressman Mike McIntyre another Term for Congressional District 7.

I am "Very Happy" for Frances' Decision. I do hope Mike will be promoting "Prayer" and will be as Frances McArthur Cummings, had she not withdrawn her Decision to be Our Congresswoman.

The 1996 General Elections "Has Awakened" Voters. There is an Old Saying, "It Is Not the 'Rooster which CROWS' early in the Morning to 'Wake You Up' BUT 'The HEN which Silently Lays the 'EGGS' to Increase 'Prosperity to the Flock.'" Also, "It Is Not the Horse that Starts the Race, But the Horse that Wins the Race."

Frances M. Cummings is giving her "Victory Flag" to Mike McIntyre. Frances, in my presence, said to Mike McIntyre in 1996, "You Will Be A Good Congressman." Therefore, Frances is giving Mike "The Opportunity to Continue" To Be "Better Than" Former Congressman Charlie Rose and Hopefully, Mike Will Be The BEST. I Agree 100% with The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings' Decision.

Our Congressman Mike McIntyre, I believe, will "Pray Unceasingly" as King Solomon for "Wisdom and Understanding" and "Proclaim and Practice" The Philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Go Forward Mike and Remember the "Lumbee Recognition."

I love You Mike.

Peace Be Unto You. AMEN.

Yvonne Maria Leow
 Yvonne Maria Leow
 September 29, 1997