

ROBESON-HOKE-AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES (DISTRICT 87) DO NEED A WISER REPRESENTATIVE THAN DEMOCRAT DONALD BONNER FOR NC HOUSE DIST. 87

To The Editor:

"Glory Be To Almighty God." Let all People in Robeson County give 'Praise and Thanks' to our State Representative Ronnie (Ron) Sutton for his approved Success to have 'Extension of Time' for the NC Indian Cultural Center to raise the necessary funds to establish a well-organized NC Indian Cultural Center; thus, allowing all people to have a valuable opportunity to learn the True Life-Style of the Native Americans who lived here in Robeson County and elsewhere before other People arrived from other countries. Thank you Ron.

A SHAME AND DISGRACEFUL ACT

QUESTION: Why did Democrat Donald Bonner decide to accept the "Old ELK Building" for his People's Cultural Center?

ANSWER: Bonner "IS NOT LOYAL" to Rev. Joy J. Johnson whose idea was to have an African-American Cultural Center.

I, Yvonne Maria Leow, witnessed the Ribbon Cutting at the Cultural Center and read the name Donald Bonner as a Board Member.

Rev. Joy J. and Omega Johnson, who being members of the Democrat Political Party, supported Democrat Donald Bonner during his Elections Campaign period. They both had known that he (Bonner) "Can Never, Ever Surpass" The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings' Successful Legislative Achievements during his life period on Earth, but they called themselves "Democrats."

O, "How Sad" it is when People who should be recognized, as "Christians" conceal "TRUTH" instead of speaking the "Holy Word" (Truth).

During General Elections, such "So-Called Christians" Vote and Elect the Name of a Political Party instead of a "Wise, Proven, Successful Candidate" to Continue Progress. "Straight-Ticket Voting" Elects many "Unwise Candidates" who delay People's Progressive Prosperity from being in Active Motion.

During 1996 General Elections, Democrat Donald Bonner is an Example of Voting "Straight-Democrat Ticket." Bonner "Should Have the Courage" to Accept the FACT that "He has FAILED to be a Successful Man" in the NC General Assembly for his people, and Bonner "Should Remove his Name" from the Elections Ballot.

Democrat Donald Bonner "FAILED to GIVE" the African-Americans of Robeson County any "Hope" of having a Beautiful African Cultural Center. Rep. Ron Sutton made a "Giant Step" for the NC Indian Cultural Center, and our Beloved Senator David Weinstein gained Thousands of Dollars for the NC African-American Cultural Center.

Donald Bonner should "Hang his Head and Cry" and "Be Ashamed of himself" for being a Member of the Robeson African-American Cultural Center. Bonner "Failed to Honor" his responsibility for the Cultural Center.

Democrat Donald Bonner "Should have had the Knowledge" to introduce a House Bill in the NC General Assembly to appropriate funds for the African-American Cultural Center.

Bonner "Should Have Never Agreed to Request from the Robeson County Commissioners" the Old Storage Building, namely "ELK Building" in Lumberton to be used for the African-American Cultural Center. Bonner's decision for the "ELK Building" Proves his "Ill-Thought for his People" to Continue to Accept the "Remnants of Earthly Materials."

It is being said, "Donald Bonner is New and now Learning."

QUESTION: Why Should Taxpayers' dollars pay for Bonner's Legislative Tuition Fees for his Legislative Lessons?

The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings carried an Agenda as she ascended the Stairway of the General Assembly as the Proposal for the NC Southeastern Agricultural Center (Farmers Market) was funded over Six Million Dollars (\$6.3 M) through the "Wisdom of The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings."

QUESTION: Did Democrat Donald Bonner carry a Blank Book and a Pen to the NC General Assembly to Learn? From Whom?

In the Near Future, the Farmers Market in Lumberton and the 3,000 capacity seating of an Assembly Hall and Meeting Rooms will be completed from the \$6.3 Million Appropriation. This is Phase #1.

Frances M. Cummings was Very Successful to Gain Many Ratified House Bills which were favorable for All People in the State of North Carolina.

Hopefully, Rep. Ronnie Sutton, being the Senior Member of the Robeson Delegation, I am sure, will do his "Utmost Best" to have Phase #2-Horse Arena completed. Sutton 'Can Expect' Bonner to give a "Yes Vote" and "Take Credit" for Phase #2.

In 1992, the Robeson County Legislative Think-Tank was organized. TRUE FACTS: The NC Southeastern Agricultural Center is the Creative Idea from Cummings' "Think-Tank."

July 21, 1992, Cummings' Vision of a Robeson County Think-Tank was proposed to a Group of Five prospective Co-Chairs who accepted the Leadership Role and Agreed to support the Philosophy and the Efforts. The Proposed Plan-of-Action was approved and was immediately "Set Into Active Motion."

REMEMBER: A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with the First Step.

A "Giant Step" from the Robeson County Legislative Think-Tank's Agenda will add People's Progressive Prosperity to Robeson County.

Frances McArthur Cummings' Vision will soon become "A Reality." Phase #1 is already under construction. Senator Weinstein gained One Million (\$1M) dollars for Phase #2. I expect Rep. Ronnie Sutton to complete Phase #2.

Ron was a Co-Chair with the Cummings' Think-Tank for Robeson County.

Think-Tank Chairwoman: Frances M. Cummings

Co-Chairs: Billie Britt

Ronnie Sutton

T. L. Gerald

Wilton Wilkerson

Charles R. Conley

Let Truth Reign Supreme in Our Hearts.

Peace Be Unto You. AMEN.

Yvonne Maria Leow
Yvonne Maria Leow

The Way I See It

by Dr. Dean Chavers, President
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Improving Indian Schools

The "Improving America's Schools" conference in Dallas, TX a few days ago was one of the best conferences I have attended in years. It could do a great deal for Indian Education in the next 30 years.

The conference was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). I must admit I was dubious before I went toward of the conference. I thought it would be pretty good, even excellent. Instead it was outstanding.

For one thing, the conference planners clearly know that education in the U.S. is changing. In just a few years the "minorities" as we are known will be the "majority" in this country. In some parts of the U.S., we are already the majority. The balance of power is shifting, fairly quickly, from male anglos to women and to minority members.

Second, the ED is acknowledging that schools have slipped in quality. Without casting any stones, the leadership is asserting that every child has a right to an excellent education.

This type of assertion not found much in the history of U.S. education. Education was supposed to be good from the very beginning, in the 1700's. But not everyone was supposed to have access to it. The rich, the powerful, the white, and the males were clearly defined as having the right to an excellent education. The rest of us were supposed to wait, or put up with what we could get.

The population at the conference clearly reflected the new realities. Out of 1,300 people there, almost 200 were Indian teachers, Indian school board members, Indian special project directors, Indian superintendents, Indian principals, and non-Indian teachers at Indian schools.

There were hundreds of Chicanos, a few Vietnamese and Philipinos, and fairly large numbers of Chinese Americans, Korean Americans, Japanese Americans, and others there.

Third, there are people in the schools doing amazing things. We heard documented cases of schools at the bottom going to the top in a few years of concentrated effort. This is happening in reading, in math, in science, with test scores, and in language. It is happening in all types of ethnic communities. But it is not happening enough, especially in Indian Country.

Fourth, communities and school boards are starting the old schools accountable for educating their children. When the grassroots finally wakes up and realizes its power, the minority children in the nation will start to get the education they deserve. Unfortunately, I heard many people at the conference say that parents still have a hands-off attitude with the schools. We need more parents in the educational process, at all levels, and in all areas.

Fifth, the teaching corps is definitely spotty. Minority students have less than a 50% chance of getting a science or math teacher with both state license and a degree in the subject he or she is teaching. One-fourth of new teachers hired are not fully qualified for their jobs.

Sixth, teachers are underpaid; plumbers putting in a new bathroom at a school make 50% more than teachers.

Seventh, schools are overloaded with non-teaching staff. In Belgium, 80% of school staff are teachers, 10% are supervisors, and 10% are other administrators. In the U.S., 43% of school staff are teachers, 24% are supervisors, and 33% are other administrators. This is crazy. Fire all those

bureaucrats and re-program their salaries for teachers.

Eighth, we need more teachers who are minority. Already 32.7% of public school students are minority, but only 13.3% of teachers are minority. Over 42% of U.S. Schools have no minority teachers at all. Over 92% of all urban school districts have an immediate demand for minority teachers. Bilingualism is alive and well, but neglected in practice.

Ninth, there is a tremendous need for new teachers. Some 30% of today's public school teachers have more than 20 years of experience. In the next ten years, almost all of these will retire, creating the biggest crush of new teachers in the history of the nation.

(I got to put in my two cents worth here, in the first general assembly. My question was what AED could do to help prepare 20,000 new Indian teachers, the number we need in the next decade and a half. The Assistant Secretaries and other ED leaders said there is \$300 million in the President's new education funding package.)

Tenth, the new teachers currently coming out of college are not majoring in the greatest areas of need. Special education, bilingual education, math, and science are the leading areas which need teachers. Very few of the new Indian and minority teachers are earning degrees in these fields.

Eleventh, our best pool of new teacher for Indian schools are the tutors and aides now working in them. In a given Indian school, 93% of the classroom teachers are non-Indians, but 98% of the paraprofessionals are Indians. Somehow we have to find

Forest Management Helps Wild Turkey Thrive

(NAPS)—Families gathering to enjoy their Thanksgiving birds may not fully appreciate the wild turkey's contribution to this American tradition. But our taste for turkey, the cherished symbol of our Pilgrim heritage, began with this humble native.

When European settlers first set foot on the North American continent, the wild turkey was the most abundant ground-dwelling bird. Yet as our population expanded and vast expanses of forests were cleared to fuel the Agricultural Revolution and literally build America, the wild turkey nearly disappeared from the American landscape.

The wild turkey's comeback is one of wildlife management's greatest success stories. It began in the Great Depression, when abandoned farmland began to revert back to forestland, providing a hospitable habitat for the bird.

By the end of World War II, wild turkey recovery programs had gained momentum. The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), working with government fish and wildlife agencies and the private sector, successfully re-introduced new flocks of birds to ever-widening areas across the country.

As a result, the wild turkey is now found in every state except Alaska, according to the NWTF. Wild turkey populations now total 4.5 million.

One factor contributing to the resurgence of the wild turkey is the careful management of forestland. Well-managed forests strike a balance between producing timber revenues and creating an inviting habitat for wild turkey and other wildlife.

A key aspect of modern forest management is controlling the brush and weeds that compete

ways to get this pool of people into college full time, earning their teaching credentials.

I learned at the conference that the same thing holds true for many other ethnic groups. Many times, however, this paraprofessional is a woman with a family, and making the transition to go to college full time is very hard. Where possible, colleges need to bring their classrooms to Indian communities, at nights and on weekends.

In the past ten years my organization, the Native Scholarship Fund, has helped 34 people earn teaching credentials or degrees in education. Six of them are in graduate school, one is not teaching, the work of four are not known by us at the moment, and 23 are working in education, mostly in the classroom.

That is a drop in the bucket when we need 20,000 people. But the Navajo Nation is on its way to producing 1,000 new teachers. Other tribes need to follow. If education is really important to tribes, they need to put up some money to help fund new Indian teachers.

Fawn Lewis from Pyramid Lake High School made me go to the conference. Thank you, Fawn. ED is doing some very important work, and needs to be supported. Secretary Riley's speech was informed, inspirational, fact-filled and wonderful.

We certainly need all the help we can get, especially in Indian schools. We have a long way to go, but we have to start somewhere. Let's start by getting a whole generation of Indian teacher aids to go finish their degrees. Our Indian children deserve the best education they can get.



with the growth of desirable trees and vegetation. Unwanted brush and weeds can shade out the food plants preferred by wild turkeys and other wildlife, making their habitat unsuitable.

Traditionally, controlled fires have been used to burn away undesirable vegetation, but they had little impact on low-quality hardwoods. And burning is less feasible in many areas today because of increasing regulatory restrictions and liability concerns.

Today some foresters use high-tech, selective herbicides to manage forest vegetation, which in turn helps to improve wildlife habitat. These advanced products are specially developed to control brush and weeds while leaving beneficial food plants and valuable trees free to flourish. Such herbicides inhibit growth enzymes found only in plants. Fish, birds and mammals don't possess these enzymes, which explains, in part, why these herbicides have little effect on animals.

A free brochure, "Managing Timberland for Wildlife," is available from American Cyanamid Company, manufacturer of herbicides used in forest management. For your copy, call 1-800-545-9525, ext. 1155. American Cyanamid is a corporate sponsor of the NWTF, supporting its educational programs and conservation efforts on behalf of the wild turkey. For more information about the NWTF, call 1-800-THE-NWTF.