

NFQ **School Control³⁻²⁻⁷³ Sought**

Robeson County Indians — in a two-pronged campaign this week — renewed their efforts to gain political control over the county schools that educate their children.

At a symposium in Pembroke Monday and at the General Assembly in Raleigh Tuesday, Indians charged that white voters in Robeson County have the voting power to elect both municipal and county school boards.

Most Robeson Indians, some of whom call themselves Lumbees, live outside city limits and attend county-operated schools. City residents, however, cast votes for both municipal and county boards of education and have traditionally held the registration edge.

This, according to the Indians, deprives them of representation.

About 50 Indians, who call themselves Tuscaroras, talked to legislators about the situation Tuesday.

Feedback Symposium

The long effort to change the voting system surfaced Monday during the first night of a Lumbee Indian Feedback Symposium, funded by the N. C. Committee for Continuing Education in Humanities.

About 100 persons attended the Lumberton symposium which was conducted by Dr. Gregory Peck of N. C. State University.

A referendum to merge Robeson County's five municipal school districts with the county district under a single board was defeated in November.

County school enrollment is about 60 per cent Indian, while in some municipal districts Indian enrollment is as low as 20 per cent.



Cornell Locklear, Bennie Locklear, Dennis Banks

trio protested Tuesday to Robeson County school board

T 11-1-72

Tuscaroras end protest, say nothing accomplished

LUMBERTON, N. C. (AP)—Spokesmen for an Indian group seeking restoration of its own public schools say nothing was accomplished at their meeting with Robeson County school officials, but their demonstration is officially over.

A group of about 200 Indians, identifying themselves as Tuscaroras, staged an all-night vigil Monday night outside the Robeson County Board of Education building after being denied an audience earlier in the day.

There were no incidents and no arrests and a meeting was arranged Tuesday. Dennis Banks of Minnesota, a Chip-

pewa who is a lawyer and national director of the American Indian Movement, said that besides being negative, the meeting might have widened the gap between the Indians and the school officials.

Banks, called in by the Tuscaroras to help, said the Robeson County group will continue to push for better educational facilities and control of their own schools.

Another leader, Cornell Locklear, secretary-treasurer of the Eastern Carolina Indian Association who also described Tuesday's meeting as a failure, said he will lead about 200 Tuscaroras to Washington

to join several thousand Indians converging on the nation's capital to dramatize the "trail of broken treaties."

Out of the gathering, which is already under way, the Indians hope for meetings with government officials to discuss broken treaties and what they describe as a trend toward economic exploitation by oil men, ranchers, fishermen and others.



Tuscaroras

Governor dismisses protest

T 4-16-B

By DAVE BRADLEY
and CHRIS SHERMAN

Times staff writers

Gov. Jim Holshouser today labeled Indian demonstrators in Raleigh "a small splinter group that doesn't represent anyone but themselves."

Holshouser told a press conference today that the demonstrators' motives were "seriously subject to question." The statements were the harshest criticism yet of the Tuscarora demonstrators who have marched and camped here for over a week to dramatize their grievances.

As Holshouser spoke in his Capitol office, a few blocks away about 50 Indian demonstrators continued to

Growing up in Robeson
'rough,' page 9-A.

camp out in front of the office building that houses the N. C. Commission on Indian Affairs.

A dozen employees of the state Office of Economic Opportunity went to work through the back door this morning, avoiding the Indians in front.

The only two full-time employees of the Indian affairs commission, the target of the Indians' protest, stayed away this morning.

The Indians had arrived at the building Saturday morning, for a meeting with the Indian affairs commission, that never occurred.

The Indians blamed commis-

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Gov. Holshouser says protestors a splinter group

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son officials for not coming to the session.

Holshouser this morning blamed the Indians for a "breakdown of communication" that led to the cancellation of the meeting.

Holshouser said that he won't order police to move the Indians as long as they "stay within the bounds of the law." He said he realized the problems of the Robeson County Indians. He said he has been going down to that county since 1969 "discussing their problems with them."

"We have demonstrated an interest far beyond the past administrators," he said. "We've helped them get federal grants."

He said the demonstrators weren't expressing the total concerns of Indians.

He noted that the administration met with a broad segment of Indian representatives three weeks ago. That group included Tuscaroras, he said.

The governor said the pur-

pose of a march or demonstration is to call attention to a problem.

But, noted, the executive director of the Indian commission, Earlie Maynor, is also mayor of Pembroke. "He obviously knows the problems as well as anyone," Holshouser said.

The Indians in front of the Indian affairs commission office at 213 East Lane St. said today they would not attempt to stop government office workers from entering and leaving the building.

About half the group had slept out Saturday and Sunday night, while children and elderly Indians stayed in indoor accommodations.

Spokesman said they had still not heard from Gov. Jim Holshouser or the Indian commission in response to a list of demands they have been reading aloud to an empty building.

Rumors circulated that black militant Angela Davis, who is speaking in Raleigh tonight, would appear to talk

with the Indians.

Jeral Mooneyhan, one of an anti-war group that tried unsuccessfully Sunday to deliver relief supplies to a military terminal at Sunny Point, said the clothing and blankets would probably be given to the Indian group.

Chief Howard Brooks of the group seeking recognition as Tuscaroras said police would "have to kill us" before the Indians would leave. For the first time in the week they have been in Raleigh, the Indians camped out in the open Saturday night and pitched a tent Sunday.

Indians took turns with a few black and white sympathizers in reading almost continuously the speech and grievances the chief had planned to bring to the commission. They dealt with schools, police brutality, discrimination and relief for the Indians.

A half-dozen policemen and plainclothes officers spent the weekend sitting in cars across the street.

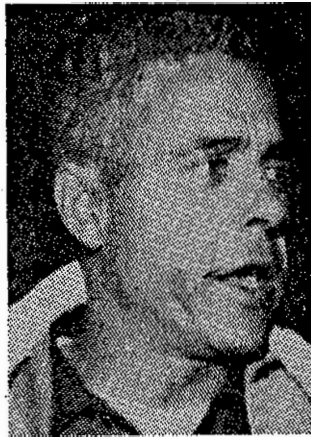
Indian Leader Urges Robeson Voter Drive

NJO
4-24-73

PEMBROKE (AP) — Reversing his policy, Tuscarora Indian leader Howard Brooks called Monday for a voter registration drive aimed at adding 5,000 to 10,000 black and Indian voters to Robeson County's election books.

Brooks, who has been leading a drive for local reform and federal recognition of his followers, said in a statement that he intends "to see this county becomes a people's county, not one controlled and run by a handful of rich individuals . . ."

"If we can get the Indian people and our black brothers and sisters into a coalition with common goals, we can control the politics of this county...With the help of the grass roots people and interested people who don't live here, we



Howard Brooks

can bring justice and fairness back to Robeson County," Brooks said.

In the past Brooks has repeatedly rejected any proposals that his movement

seek its goals through the political process.

"Politics has no place here, not for my people. We will go after our goals through other ways, taking each one step by step," Brooks said in an interview in mid-March.

Brooks could not be contacted Monday, but his white press aide, Joe Edwards, said the voter registration drive was begun as a matter of expediency.

"I think the reason is that the chief has seen that, by putting together the blacks and the Indians, he can accomplish more quickly exactly the same goals he was out to accomplish to begin with, except for the question of recognition," Edwards said.

Robeson County's population of about 85,000 is split about equally among whites, Indians

and blacks, but white voters have controlled elections. Brooks and other members of the minority groups contend they do not have adequate representation on county boards, such as those controlling public schools and the welfare system.

Brooks formed a coalition with black civil rights organizer Golden Frinks earlier this month for a march to Raleigh that ended Friday night when they met with the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs.

The commission has agreed to meet in Robeson County May 28, and to help Brooks and his followers win recognition as Tuscaroras. Brooks contends recognition will entitle his followers to federal aid for Indians and restore their cultural heritage.