

STATEMENT OF ALTON LENNON, M. C.
7th DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 16, 1962

DEDICATION OF FAYETTEVILLE AREA INDUSTRIAL EDUCATIONAL CENTER

MR. CHAIRMAN, GOVERNOR SANFORD, MR. ALFORD, OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
AND FRIENDS:

LESS THAN FIVE YEARS AGO ALL THAT YOU HAVE SEEN HERE TODAY DURING YOUR INSPECTION AND VISIT WAS AT MOST A 'GLEAM IN THE EYE' OF CITY SUPERINTENDENT REID ROSS, MEMBERS OF THE FAYETTEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND OTHER INTERESTED CITIZENS. FOR IT WAS IN MARCH 1957 THAT REID ROSS DROVE THROUGH THIS AREA AND THEN WROTE ME ON MARCH 20, 1957. HE STATED THAT THESE 75 ACRES PLUS, KNOWN AS THE HONEYCUTT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, WERE AN IDEALLY LOCATED SITE FOR A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WITH FACILITIES FOR EXPANSION TO HOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE FAYETTEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND AN INDUSTRIAL EDUCATIONAL CENTER TO HOUSE THE AREA'S VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. OF COURSE, YOU KNOW HOW REID CONCLUDED HIS LETTER, "INVESTIGATE AND ADVISE AS TO WHAT PROCEDURE WE SHOULD FOLLOW, ETC."

MANY OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN INTIMATELY CONNECTED AND INTERESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS OVER-ALL PROGRAM KNOW SOMETHING OF THE WORK AND PROBLEMS THAT WERE INVOLVED.

THE CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND NUMEROUS CONFERENCES WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE IN CONNECTION WITH OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THIS PROPERTY LASTED OVER A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. EVENTS CAME TO A RATHER SUDDEN CLIMAX WITH MY RECEIPT OF A FOUR-PAGE, SINGLE-SPACED, TYPE-WRITTEN LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF MARCH 3, 1959, IN WHICH HE SPELLED OUT GSA'S INTENT TO SELL THIS PROPERTY WITH ITS BUILDINGS FOR A CONTINUING LOW-COST HOUSING PROGRAM. MY IMMEDIATE