

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY
FROM: Charles M. Reeves, Jr.
DATE: September 12, 1973

The enclosed is a Press Conference release used by Senator W. W. Staton at his Press Conference on yesterday at two o'clock, September 11th, in the Conference Office Room of the Legislative Building in Raleigh. All of this information was handed to each of fifteen reporters plus a television commentator. I do not know whether or not it will result in our getting fair treatment in the newspapers but please use it as you see fit with your own friends and other people who may be interested as well as with members of your own family.

CMRJr/oed

Enclosure

STATEMENT: SENATOR W. W. STATON

PRESS CONFERENCE: SEPTEMBER 11, 1973

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT WHEN CONFRONTED
WITH FACTS, "A WISE MAN WILL CHANGE HIS MIND, BUT
A FOOL NEVER CHANGES HIS.

HOPEFULLY THAT IS TRUE; BECAUSE I HAVE CALLED
THIS PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT
AND TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO A FEW FACTS WHICH CAN
NOT BE DISPUTED.

I AM A STATE SENATOR AND BY APPOINTMENT OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

I AM ALSO AN ATTORNEY AND IN THE PRACTICE OF MY
PROFESSION AM REPRESENTING A CLIENT IN LITIGATION
OVER LAND AT CAPE LOOKOUT ON THE OUTER BANKS.

I CAN FIND NO BASIS FOR THE CHARGE OF CONFLICT OF
INTEREST AGAINST ME RELATING TO MY PUBLIC DUTY TO THE
PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND MY PRIVATE DUTY TO
MY CLIENTS IN THE CAPE LOOKOUT MATTER. CAPE
LOOKOUT IS IN AN AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA THAT THE

LEGISLATURE IS STUDYING, LOOKING TOWARDS PASSAGE OF A
COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL ZONING BILL. ON THE OTHER
HAND, CAPE LOOKOUT HAS ALREADY BEEN DESIGNATED TO
BECOME A NATIONAL SEASHORE AS SOON AS NORTH CAROLINA
ACQUIRES THE REMAINING LAND AS DIRECTED BY THE CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES.

NOW IF THIS CONFLICT OF INTEREST CHARGE IS BASED
ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MY CLIENTS ARE PURPOSELY
DELAYING AND TRYING TO BLOCK THE SEASHORE, THIS IS
AN ENTIRELY FALSE ASSUMPTION WHICH YOU WILL SEE.

I HAVE PREPARED AND PASSED OUT TO EACH OF YOU
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR WHAT I AM GOING TO COVER THIS
AFTERNOON STARTING WITH A COPY OF THE LEGISLATION I
HAVE EITHER SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED. SOME OF THESE
PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN ENACTED INTO LAW AND SOME ARE STILL
PENDING BEFORE MY COMMITTEE. I HAVE DEVOTED A
SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME TO THE WORK OF MY COMMITTEE
SINCE WE LEFT RALEIGH IN MAY AND WILL DEVOTE MORE
TIME TO THIS WORK BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RE-
CONVENES ON JANUARY 16, 1974, AND I CERTAINLY DO NOT

WANT ANY HINT OF SUSPICION TO MAR THE WORK OF MY
COMMITTEE.

OUR STATE IS TRULY BLESSED WITH ONE OF GOD'S
GREAT GIFTS OF NATURE IN THAT MAGESTIC AND MYSTERIOUS
STRIP OF LAND JUST OFF OUR COAST WHICH WE CALL THE
OUTER BANKS.

BUT THE OUTER BANKS ARE NOT MY SOLE RESPONSIBILITY
AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL AND
ECONOMIC RESOURCES. MY RESPONSIBILITY, AS I SEE IT, EN-
COMPASSES ALL OF NORTH CAROLINA'S RESOURCES. THIS
MEANS THAT THOSE OF US GIVEN THAT RESPONSIBILITY
MUST SEE TO IT AS WE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE THAT THE
GREAT BOUNTIES WITH WHICH GOD HAS BLESSED THIS
LAND ARE NOT WASTED, MISUSED OR DESTROYED.

NOW, LETS TURN TO MY POSITION AS ATTORNEY FOR
THE OWNERS OF CERTAIN LAND ON THE OUTER BANKS AT
CAPE LOOKOUT. MY CLIENTS IN THIS MATTER ARE MR.
CHARLES M. REEVES, JR. AND MR. SAM BASS. SINCE
MR. REEVES IS THE ONE MORE OFTEN MENTIONED IN THE
NEWS MDEIA, I WILL USE HIS NAME FOR BOTH CLIENTS.

MR. REEVES IS A LIFELONG FRIEND OF MINE, A
BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AND FOR MANY YEARS A CLIENT.

I CAN TELL YOU THAT MR. REEVES HAS NOT REFUSED
TO SELL HIS CORE BANKS LAND TO THE STATE AS HAS BEEN
REPORTED AND AS A MATTER OF FACT HAS NEVER BEEN
OFFERED \$1.869 MILLION FOR HIS PROPERTY BY THE
STATE, EVEN THOUGH A THREE MAN COMMISSION OF
EXPERTS SELECTED BY THE STATE THROUGH ITS COURT
SYSTEM SET SUCH A FIGURE AS BEING THE FAIR MARKET
VALUE OF THE PROPERTY.

THIS IS THE QUESTION BEFORE THE COURTS TODAY,
AND I HAPPEN TO BE THE MAN WHO PROBABLY KNOWS MORE
ABOUT THIS CONTROVERSY THAN ANYONE ELSE OTHER THAN
THE OWNERS.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS WILL SHOW THAT
MR. REEVES AND MR. BASS HAVE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS
SINCE CONGRESS PASSED THE CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL
SEASHORE ACT TO COOPERATE WITH THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL'S OFFICE AND OTHER STATE OFFICIALS TO
ELIMINATE MISUNDERSTANDING AND AVOID LEGAL
OBSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD FURTHER DETER THE

THE STATE'S ACQUISITION OF THEIR LAND FOR THE NATIONAL SEASHORE. BOUNDARY LINE DISPUTES, RIGHTS OF WAY, THE QUESTION OF ACREAGE AND THE QUERIES CONCERNING OCEAN FRONT AND ACCESS TO DEEP WATER HAVE ALL BEEN SETTLED AMICABLY AND WITHOUT RESORTING TO LITIGATION.

TODAY, THE ONLY QUESTION TO BE SETTLED IS THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE LAND ITSELF - THE FIGURE OF \$1.869 MILLION WAS PLACED ON THE LAND BY THE COURT APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS AND IT IS THE STATE THAT HAS REFUSED TO PAY THE AMOUNT SET BY THE COMMISSIONERS AND HAS APPEALED THIS DECISION, FURTHER SLOWING UP THE STATE'S OWNERSHIP OF THIS PROPERTY.

AS I SAID EARLIER, THE APPRAISAL CAME FROM THREE MEN SELECTED BY THE STATE THROUGH IT'S JUDICIAL PROCESS, YET CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MEDIA CONTINUE TO TELL THE PUBLIC THAT CHARLES REEVES, JR. HAS REFUSED A \$1.869 MILLION OFFER, QUOTE, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE HE THINKS HE COULD GET UP TO \$4 MILLION FOR THE LAND IF HE SOLD TO DEVELOPERS, UNQUOTE.

NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTON INTO THE LAND AND ITS COST, LET ME DISCUSS IT FURTHER ALONG WITH THE ECOLOGY QUESTION AS WELL.

MR. REEVES AND HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, MR. BASS, HAVE OWNED THIS LAND FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. DURING THIS TIME THEY HAVE DONE MUCH TO PRESERVE IT'S NATURAL BEAUTY, INCLUDING:

1. SETTING OUT 100,000 YOUNG PINE TREES

 OF EVERY VARIETY, ROSE BUSHES AND

 CEDARS, OVER THE ENTIRE AREA NOT

 JUST ON THEIR PROPERTY. 50,000 OF

 THESE WERE SET OUT WITH THE COOPERATION

 OF THE BOY SCOUTS, THE U. S. COAST GUARD

 AND MR. TONY SEAMON, JR.

2. INVESTED THEIR OWN MONEY AND LABOR

 IN GRASS SEEDING.

3. CONSTRUCTED SAND FENCES AND DIKES TO

 STOP EROSION FROM BOTH SAND AND

 WATER.

I MIGHT NOTE HERE THAT SOME OF THESE TREES PLANTED BY MR. REEVES AND MR. BASS ARE NOW 25 FEET HIGH AND ARE DOING MUCH TO PREVENT EROSION. I SAY THIS AT A TIME WHEN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HAS DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE ITS PROGRAM OF SAND DUNES TO PREVENT EROSION.

I THINK IT WELL TO ALSO NOTE THAT EVEN THOUGH MR. REEVES AND MR. BASS HAVE OWNED THIS PROPERTY FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, THE PUBLIC HAS NEVER BEEN DENIED FREE ACCESS TO THE AREA FOR RECREATIONAL AND SIGHT SEEING PURPOSE.

KNOWING AS I DO HOW MUCH TIME, EFFORT, PLANNING AND ENTHUSIASM MY CLIENTS HAVE EXPENDED IN THE CAPE LOOKOUT PROPERTY, I GET A LITTLE IMPATIENT WITH THOSE WHO WOULD SUGGEST, INFER OR INSINUATE THAT MR. REEVES SOLE PURPOSE IN THIS PROJECT IS PERSONAL GAIN. IN FACT, MR. REEVES, HAS DONE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE TO TRY AND BRING THIS MATTER TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION FOR ALL CONCERNED. MR. REEVES' INTEGRITY IS BEYOND REPROACH, HE HAS SERVED HIS COUNTRY AND STATE IN MANY

CAPACITIES; AMONG THESE - SERVICE ON THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TWO TERMS ON THE STATE BANKING COMMISSION. HE ALSO WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LARGEST BOY SCOUT CAMP IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY --- CAMP REEVES IN MOORE COUNTY WHICH CERTAINLY IS A CONSERVATION PROJECT OF MAJOR INTEREST TO OUR STATE. AS TO THE QUESTION OF PERSONAL GAIN, I ASK YOU, SHOULDN'T A PROPERTY OWNER EXPECT TO RECEIVE A FAIR AND EQUITABLE PRICE FOR HIS PROPERTY? AFTER ALL, AS YOU WILL SEE FROM THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS I WILL GIVE YOU, MR. REEVES HAS IN EFFECT HELD THIS PROPERTY IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

I ALSO GET EVEN MORE THAN A LITTLE IMPATIENT WITH THOSE WHO WOULD QUESTION MY INTEGRITY BECAUSE I AM REPRESENTING ONE OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE COURSE OF PRACTICING MY PROFESSION.

IF I TURNED DOWN EVERY CLIENT WHO TURNED TO ME BECAUSE HIS BUSINESS MAY BE REMOTELY CONNECTED WITH SOME COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IN THE STATE SENATE, MY FAMILY AND I WOULD STARVE TO DEATH.

THE INSINUATIONS ARE RIDICULOUS.

THE TRUE FACT OF THIS MATTER IS THAT THE STATE IS TO BLAME FOR HOLDING UP THE CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE. AS YOU HAVE SEEN, MR. REEVES HAS ATTEMPTED TO WORK WITH EVERY ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE ACT TO GET THIS MATTER SETTLED BUT HAS BEEN MET WITH NOTHING BUT BUREACRATIC RED TAPE OF THE SAME TYPE THAT CAUSED THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE TO LOSE BALD HEAD ISLAND. YOU WILL RECALL THAT BACK IN THE THIRTIES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTED TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPEMENT TO PURCHASE BALD HEAD BUT THEY FAILED TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO CARRY THROUGH AND NOTHING WAS EVER DONE. I MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT THAT BALD HEAD COULD HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AT THAT TIME FOR SOMETHING LESS THAN \$40,000 AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT BROUGHT WHEN SOLD RECENTLY.

I THINK IT WELL TO POINT OUT HERE THAT THIS PAST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS THE FIRST ONE TO ALLOCATE MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF CAPE

LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE, SO AT LEAST WE DO
HAVE A CHOICE IF THE ADMINISTRATION SEES FIT TO
ACT.

WE ALL KNOW THAT COASTAL PROPERTY HAS
SKYROCKETED IN COST IN RECENT YEARS AND I FEEL
IT IS HIGH TIME THAT STATE GOVERNMENT MOVE AND
STOP PASSING THE BUCK.

IN CLOSING, I URGE YOU NOT TO LEAD YOUR
READERS AND YOUR AUDIENCES TO BELIEVE HALF
TRUTHS AND FALLACIES....

TELL THEM THE FACTS -- THEY ARE NOT FOOLS.
THE INTERESTED CITIZENS OF THIS STATE ARE ENTITLED
TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LEADER
IN THE FIELD OF PRESERVING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. I
WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROTECT OUR COASTLINE AS WELL AS
NATURE'S OTHER GREAT GIFTS TO OUR STATE, AND I WILL
WORK TO GUARANTEE THAT IN FUTURE YEARS ALL OF NORTH
CAROLINA'S RESOURCES WILL BE CONSERVED AND UTILIZED SO

THAT THE FULLEST BENEFIT WILL ACCRUE TO ALL OUR
CITIZENS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND NOW I WILL
ENTERTAIN ANY QUESTIONS.....