

NOTES for Harnett Central High School Groundbreaking
Lillington, North Carolina
Monday, November 10

1. Glad to see a new school built -- shows people are still willing to bet on themselves and the future, even when polls show the least confidence.
2. Concept of stewardship -- the people of each generation are responsible for institutions which must outlive them.
3. Education is one of these --- cannot leave it diminished.
4. Not the case that education will take care of itself, and that knowledge will automatically grow.
 - a. Interesting historical fact -- some of the original settlers in this country arrived with a certain level of education.
 - b. Those who settled on the good land prospered, built schools, and their children followed them in knowledge.
 - c. But others who did not prosper were unable to establish schools, and the result was that as time passed learning and even basic literacy were lost in the community -- the descendents knew less than their grandparents.

6. We have a fine school system. But cannot take it for granted. We are not that far, in historical time, from the one-room schoolhouse in this country.

7. This is why the exercise of our stewardship is so important -- we have to make sure our children have the freedom to know.

8. Today, this community exercises its responsibility -- pleased to be invited home to take part.