

DURING THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS I HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A NUMBER OF PARTISAN ATTACKS SUGGESTING THAT I RESIGN MY OFFICE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL BECAUSE I AM NOW A CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE,

I AM NOT SURPRISED BECAUSE I EXPECTED THESE ATTACKS TO COME.

THEY HAVE SAID I SHOULD RESIGN IN ORDER TO "TURN THE OFFICE BACK OVER TO THE VOTERS." BUT, IN FACT, NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE MINDS OF THOSE ATTEMPTING TO EXERT THE PRESSURE.

THEY DO NOT WANT THE OFFICE TURNED OVER TO THE PEOPLE; THEY WANT IT TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE PRESENT REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION AND IN TURN TO BE GIVEN FREE REIN FOR SOME APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL, NOT ELECTED ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO MANIPULATE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR PERSONAL POLITICAL GAIN FOR SOME 10 MONTHS.

I, FOR ONE, AM NOT IMPRESSED WITH THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF THE AGENCIES THEY ALREADY CONTROL, SUCH AS SOCIAL REHABILITATION AND CONTROL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND CERTAINLY HAVE NO INTENTION OF HANDING OVER ANOTHER TO THEM.

THE PROGRAMS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, INCLUDING THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, ARE TOO VITAL TO

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO BE SUBJECTED FOR ALMOST A YEAR TO THE WHIMS OF A CARETAKER ATTORNEY GENERAL, AN ATTORNEY GENERAL NOT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, BUT PICKED IN IN THE PROVERBIAL SMOKE-FILLED ROOM BY AN INTRA-PARTY FACTION.

I HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT IF NOMINATED BY MY PARTY, AS I HOPE TO BE, I WILL RESIGN IN TIME FOR THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES TO CHOOSE CANDIDATES THROUGH ORDERLY, LEGALLY PRESCRIBED, DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL IN NOVEMBER.

THE PEOPLE CAN THEN MAKE THEIR CHOICE; BY THEIR VOTES THEY CAN DETERMINE THE FUTURE COURSE AND POLICIES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THIS WAY THE OFFICE, IN FACT, CAN BE TURNED BACK OVER TO THE VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA---THE SAME PEOPLE WHO INTRUSTED IT TO ME. THIS IS THE WAY I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA WANT IT TO BE.

I RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT THIS IS NOT THE WAY REPUBLICAN PARTISANS WANT IT TO BE.

IT SEEMS THEIR APPETITE FOR POWER CANNOT BE APPEASED, AND THAT THEY WOULD RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER THE VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A KEY STATEWIDE OFFICE BY PRESSURE POLITICS RATHER THAN THE BALLOT BOX.

IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE BEEN CHARGES THAT RECENT ACTIONS BY MY OFFICE ON BEHALF OF THE CONSUMERS OF THIS STATE WERE