



FROM THE CENTER OUT

NEWSLETTER III: It's been awhile since the last newsletter, but we haven't forgotten you. Things have been hopping at the Center this fall with two major reports and two issues of N.C. Insight hitting the streets.... In the future, we'll try to publish the newsletter more regularly ... so stay tuned.

GRANTS: Good news ... the Z. SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION of Winston-Salem has made a grant to the Center of \$100,000 for general operating support during 1981, and the MARY REYNOLDS BABCOCK FOUNDATION of Winston-Salem has made a grant to the Center in the amount of \$100,000 a year for 1981 and 1982. These two grants, plus an earlier matching grant of \$25,000 a year for 1981 and 1982 from the BABCOCK FOUNDATION, put the Center on a firm financial footing and guarantee a full schedule of activities for the next several years.

In recent months, Center staff has also contacted nearly 20 other foundations, seeking support for various specific projects: health education, reapportionment, the Sunset Commission, Indians, teacher certification, and primary health care delivery. Please let us hear from you about suggestions for other studies and magazine articles.

RIPPLES IN THE POND: Recent Center publications have created widespread interest and discussion. "Foreign Languages and Area Studies: Options for North Carolina," released cooperatively with the North Carolina Council on International Education, drew several editorial comments endorsing the report and its call for more adequate foreign language and area studies in the state's public schools. Mail has also been positive.

SUE PRESTI's "Health Education: Incomplete Commitment," also garnered much notice ... stories the day of the release ran on Channels 8 (WGHP, High Point) and 11 (WTVD, Durham). Heavy mail has been received with favorable comments on the study, and numerous persons have requested extra copies, including all six Health System Agencies, several local public health departments, health professionals, university professors, and health education coordinators ... no comment yet from the Department of Public Instruction, though Dr. Craig Phillips has been asked for an official response. Is there a connection: the Public School Finance Committee made health education last of twelve education budget priorities, but that is up from 28th on the Board of Education expansion budget priority list ... this came after the report's release. On the other hand, prime legislative sponsor Rep. Clyde Auman lost in his bid for re-election.

The summer issue of N.C. Insight, "Forces of Paradox," has generated plenty of attention. BILL FINGER's lead article explored different perceptions of North Carolina history, culture, and politics. Two letters in reaction to it appear in the just released Fall issue, and a Nov. 30, 1980, Charlotte Observer article on North Carolina's tarnished image quotes from "Paradox." Several newspaper editorialists as well as columnist BILL NOBLITT have taken the Center to task for raising questions about the state's image ... while Raleigh News and Observer writer DAVID GILLESPIE acknowledged the "paradox" and noted, "I am more concerned that we deal with the social and economic problems at home that underlie our loss of image outside." Two hundred copies of the issue were distributed at the November meeting of the Travel Council of North Carolina.

Other past Center publications continue to make an impact ... 150 copies of last winter's energy issue of Insight were distributed at the November meeting of the Coalition for Renewable Energy Resources. Copies of the energy issue and several major reports have been used in classes at the UNC-Chapel Hill this fall. The Summer/Fall 1980 issue of "Perspectives," published by Legal Services of North Carolina, spotlighted "How Can a Farmer Survive Without any Land," from the Spring issue of Insight. Last, but not least, a document on organized labor in North Carolina adopted by the N.C. Council of Churches referred to the Center's "Which Way Now," and "Making North Carolina Prosper."

PREVIEWS: Work proceeds on several fronts here at the Center. The long-awaited study on the role of tobacco in the North Carolina economy will be published this spring. An anthology of articles and excerpts from earlier studies will also appear early in 1981.

On April 24, 1981, at the Raleigh Hilton, the Center will host the first of what will be a continuing series of seminars on North Carolina policy issues. This inaugural conference will be called "Public Policy and Native Americans in North Carolina: Issues for the '80s." Indians, state and federal policymakers, businessmen, and the press will gather to discuss four critical issues facing North Carolina's Indians: federal recognition, education, health, and economic status.

The Center is also considering some changes in its modus operandi. Till now, the Center's main activity has been the publication of major and lengthy studies as well as its quarterly magazine N.C. Insight. In the future, however, the Center has plans to increase the size and frequency of Insight, produce shorter but more numerous reports, host seminars, and produce studies for television. We'd be interested in your comments ... so please write.

FORGING LINKS: The Center has become an Associate Correspondent with the BETTER GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF FORSYTH COUNTY, INC. We will exchange information and publications on matters of common interest.

HOW TO AVOID A LOVE CANAL: The Governor's Task Force on Hazardous Waste Management will hold a series of public meetings to acquire citizen reaction to its draft report. The meetings will be held Monday, Jan. 19, through Thursday, Jan. 22, at seven locations across the state: Waynesville, Wilkesboro, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Fayetteville, Jacksonville, and Williamston. ROBERT DALTON of the staff is following the work of the Task Force in connection with a Center project on solid and toxic waste disposal now underway.

SEASONAL SPIRITS: Best wishes from the staff for happy and safe holidays!

