



May 1984

LEGISLATORS' EFFECTIVENESS RANKINGS RELEASED

Senate Majority Leader Kenneth C. Royall Jr. and House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey were again rated the most effective members of the North Carolina General Assembly in the latest evaluation compiled by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. The April 16th release marked the fourth time that the N.C. Center has evaluated legislators' effectiveness. Senator Royall has held the number one spot in the Senate for each of the last four terms recorded, while Liston Ramsey also held the top House ranking during the 1981-82 session, when he was first elected Speaker.

The rankings were compiled from surveys evaluating legislators' effectiveness. The surveys were mailed to the 120 members of the House of Representatives, 50 members of the Senate, registered lobbyists and members of the capital press corps. The legislators, lobbyists, and capital correspondents were asked to rate each legislator's effectiveness on a scale of one to ten (highest) based on participation in committee work, skill at guiding bills through floor debate, and general knowledge or expertise in special fields. The respondents were also asked to consider the respect the legislators command from their peers, the political power they hold, and their ability to sway the opinions of fellow legislators.

The 1983-84 response rate to the survey was the highest return ever in four evaluations. Forty-three of 50 Senators responded, as did 75 of the 120 House members, 80 of 258 lobbyists, and 14 of 44 capital news correspondents.

The 10 Senators rated most effective were: (1) Kenneth C. Royall Jr. (D - Durham); (2) Harold W. Hardison (D - Lenoir); (3) Marshall A. Rauch (D - Gaston); (4) W. Craig Lawing (D - Mecklenburg); (5) Henson P. Barnes (D - Wayne); (6) Robert B. Jordan III (D - Montgomery); (7) a tie between William G. Hancock Jr. (D - Durham) and Joseph J. Harrington (D - Bertie); (9) Russell Walker (D - Randolph); and (10) Robert S. Swain (D - Buncombe).

The 10 members of the N.C. House of Representatives rated most effective were: (1) Liston B. Ramsey (D - Madison); (2) Allen Adams (D - Wake); (3) William T. Watkins (D - Granville); (4) George W. Miller Jr. (D - Durham); (5) H. Martin Lancaster (D - Wayne); (6) Dwight W. Quinn (D - Cabarrus); (7) H. Parks Helms (D - Mecklenburg); (8) Daniel T. Blue Jr. (D - Wake); (9) Daniel T. Lilley (D - Lenoir); (10) Ruth E. Cook (D - Wake). Cook has since resigned to accept an appointment by Governor Hunt to the N.C. Utilities Commission.

The effectiveness ranking is but one part of the Center's biennial publication, Article II: A Guide to the North Carolina Legislature 1983-84. The fourth edition is scheduled for release in May. Article II contains pictures and biographical and voting information on each legislator. Also included are business and home address, party affiliation, district number, counties represented, number of terms, occupation, education, committee appointments, bills introduced, and individual votes on important bills in the 1983 session. Two new items were added in this edition: (a) past effectiveness rankings and (b) the number of bills ratified for which a legislator was the principal sponsor.

Article II serves as a valuable guide in following the work of the General Assembly and as background on prior voting patterns of the legislators. To pre-order your copy, send \$6.00 to the N.C. Center. We will mail you a copy as soon as it is available.