



FROM THE CENTER OUT

January-February 1987

UPCOMING INSIGHT EXAMINES STATE'S CORRECTIONS CONUNDRUM

To Cicero, it was simple. "Let the punishment match the offense," said the Roman statesman. In the ensuing 2,000 years, civilizations have been struggling to match the punishment to the crime, with varying degrees of success. In North Carolina today, we still labor to devise appropriate sentences for the crimes committed. In most cases, we incarcerate a person convicted of a crime. That prisoner becomes a ward of the state -- ours to feed, clothe, shelter, protect, and sometimes rehabilitate.

A year ago, Gov. James G. Martin introduced his prisons package, titled "Corrections at a Crossroads." In a sense, the state is at a crossroads, a critical juncture where state officials and the 1987 General Assembly must make choices now that will serve the state's prison policy for years -- perhaps decades -- to come. As state Sen. Anthony Rand (D-Cumberland) puts it, "Addressing the prison problem may well be the most important thing we do this session."

The March theme issue of North Carolina Insight seeks to provide state policy-makers, legislators, professional groups, the press, and the public with a primer on criminal justice policies as they have evolved in North Carolina. Our purpose is to help focus debate on the state's prison system and the alternatives to incarceration that could help solve our corrections conundrum. Should North Carolina build more prisons? Should it expand alternatives to incarceration? Should it alter its system of criminal sanctions?

Prison Demographics -- Leading off this issue is an examination of who is in North Carolina's prisons and why our prison system is so overcrowded, by Insight Associate Editor Jack Betts. By the end of 1986, North Carolina's prison population topped 18,000 for the second year in a row. Yet these same facilities, many of them older than the inmates they housed, were designed for only 16,695. The state's 151 local jails, holding over 4,000 inmates, are also overcrowded.

N.C. Prisons Battle Federal Lawsuits -- Not only has overcrowding in N.C. prisons caused problems for inmates, it also has led to a series of lawsuits in federal courts challenging inhumane conditions.

For-Profit Prisons Examined -- One possible solution to the serious overcrowding is the Martin administration's proposal to create more space for prisoners by contracting with private businesses to build three for-profit prisons, a proposal which has stirred hot debate because of the legal, moral and constitutional implications.

Alternatives to Incarceration -- Since 1983, N.C. state government has funded three major community-based programs for adult criminal offenders -- community penalties, intensive probation and parole, and community service. This article by Insight Editor Bill Finger examines how these three programs have evolved and what their future might be.

N.C. Fair Sentencing Act -- Research shows the state's Fair Sentencing Act, adopted six years ago, has actually helped hold down the growth in prison population -- yet proposed alterations might reverse the course and contribute to more prison overcrowding.

Also in this special issue is an interview with Secretary of Correction Aaron Johnson, as well as our regular magazine columns examining the judiciary, legislature, and news media.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE STUDY?

Each year, we invite our members to suggest topics and priorities for future studies and reports. This is your chance to say what you think we ought to research...and why! On March 21, a list of topics will be presented to our Board of Directors in the form of a revised multi-year plan. Let us know if you think any new research topics should be added. Also, please take the time to review the areas below, and tell us what priority you would give to the proposed research topics. Suggestions should be submitted no later than March 18 so that they may be incorporated into our decision-making process. Thanks so much to all of you.

	<u>Accomplished in 1986</u>	<u>Proposed for 1987</u>	<u>Proposed for 1988</u>
<u>Major Reports:</u>	The Investor-Owned Hospital Movement in N.C.	For-Profit Hospitals: comparison of costs, services, tax contributions, and indigent care between for-profit and not-for-profit hospitals	Higher Education: 4-part study (see narrative below)
	Special Provisions in Budget Bills: A Pandora's Box for N.C. Citizens	Campaign Finance in N.C.	
	<u>Article II: effectiveness rankings of legislators in 1985-86 General Assembly</u>	<u>Article II: guide to 1987-88 General Assembly (6th edition)</u>	<u>Article II: effectiveness rankings of 1987-88 legislature</u>
<u>Short Reports:</u>	Rankings of "Most Influential" Lobbyists in the 1985-86 General Assembly		Rankings of "Most Influential" Lobbyists in the 1987-88 General Assembly
<u>North Carolina Insight Magazine:</u>	1 Theme Issue: Economic Development (double issue)	2 Theme Issues: State Prison policy	2 Theme Issues: Health Care in N.C.
	2 General Issues	Status of the Environment in N.C.	Transportation
<u>Conference/Seminars:</u>	4 Forums on Policies Affecting the Elderly in N.C.	2 General Issues	2 General Issues
		Center's 10th Anniversary Celebration in Sept.	Yet To Be Determined
<u>Special Projects:</u>	Campaign Financing in N.C.: presentation of research to State Board of Elections on Open/net cable TV program	N.C. Focus (2nd edition): anthology/text on state government	<u>Article IV</u> evaluation of the judiciary
	Op-ed piece on "N.C.'s Transition Economy"	Program with UNC-TV on Effects of N.C. Becoming a Two-Party State	

The Executive Committee has tentatively selected four topics for research as part of our study of higher education in North Carolina. We would be extremely interested in what priority you would give to the following parts of the higher education study.

1. An examination of any overlap between the curricula of the community colleges and technical institutes and the liberal arts curricula in colleges and universities. Some observers have charged that the technical institutes and community colleges "have gotten above their 'raisin'" and abandoned their principal goal of providing training and job skills for workers in industry.

2. An examination of the manner in which the 16 public colleges and universities identify and reward good teaching, as contrasted with salary and tenure rewards for research, higher degrees, number of publications, service on faculty committees, or other administrative duties.

3. The successes and failures of the tuition grant program to private colleges and universities and its budgetary and educational policy implications for the future.

4. A look at the university restructuring law 16 years after its enactment, particularly with respect to contrasting the effects on "flagship" institutions like UNC-CH, N.C. State, and UNC-G with effects on smaller campuses like UNC-W, Fayetteville State, Pembroke State, and UNC-A.

FOUNDATION GRANTS, CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS, AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Foundations, corporations, and individuals all helped make significant contributions to the Center during the last few months. We extend special thanks to the A. J. Fletcher Foundation of Raleigh, whose grant of \$8600 will help us produce a second edition of N.C. Focus, an anthology of articles on state government in North Carolina. The first edition of Focus was used as a text on state government by colleges and universities, as well as by social studies teachers in the public schools. We have completely sold out of the first edition, which was published in 1981.

The Center also wishes to acknowledge and thank the following new supporters of the Center:

Angell Care, Inc.	\$1000
Consolidated Diesel Company	1000
The John William Pope Foundation	1000
J. Lee Peeler & Company, Inc.	100

Just as important as the new contributors are those corporations who renewed their support for the Center. Our sincere appreciation to the following:

Burlington Industries	\$2000	Macfield Texturing, Inc.	500
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NCNB Corporation	1000	Daily Reflector of Greenville	100
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of N.C.	500	Spectator Publications	100

We also want to thank three companies which made in-kind contributions to the Center. Alphanumeric Systems, Inc. helped us all be more productive by donating a CPT 8100 word processor. Also, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of N.C. and Commercial Printing Company are each printing four newsletters as in-kind contributions. We thank all of these companies for innovative ways of helping the Center.

Finally, we want to thank the 65 Center members who sent in special, year-end contributions. We were delighted that 10% of our membership responded in this special way. The following donors merit special thanks due to the size of their contribution:

Wade Barber	Jordan Price Wall Gray & Jones	Edward H. O'Neil
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INS AND OUTS IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Ins: Mary K. Deyampert as director of the Division of Social Services....William A. Dunn as deputy secretary in the Dept. of Commerce....Virginia Foxx, former deputy secretary for management in the Dept. of Administration, as president of Mayland Technical College....R. D. McMillan Jr., back as lobbyist for the UNC system....John Syria as assistant secretary for budget and management in the Dept. of Human Resources....Ben T. Tison III, as state Banking Commissioner....S. Leigh Wilson, former director of the N.C. League of Municipalities, as liaison for the Lieutenant Governor with local governments.

Outs: Hugh Battle Jr., chief deputy to the State Auditor, retired....William W. Bradshaw, removed as director of budget and management in the Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development...Ray F. DeBruhl, removed as director of the state construction and property officer....Dr. R. Page Hudson, chief medical examiner, resigned....Mebane M. Pritchett, chairman of the State Board of Education, resigned.

Other: Beth Branch as executive director of the N.C. Leadership Forum, replacing Tom Terrell, who resigned to practice law in High Point....Ken Eudy as executive director of the N.C. Democratic Party....Jack Hawke as interim executive director of the N.C. Republican Party.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Twelfth annual N.C. Indian Unity Conference, March 12-14 in Charlotte. Write Lumbee Regional Development Association, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC 28372 or call (919) 521-8602.

"Women, Faith, and Economic Justice," a conference on the N.C. General Assembly's impact on the lives of poor women and their families, March 25-26 in Raleigh. Write Jeanette Stokes, P.O. Box 1365, Greensboro, NC 27402, or call (919) 272-0844.

"Understanding Families of Children with Special Needs," April 16, 28 and May 7 in Charlotte, Greensboro, and Greenville, respectively. Write Becky Hart, UNC-CH School of Public Health, Miller Hall 028H, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 or call (919) 966-4032.

Second National Workshop on Female Offenders, April 26-29, in Raleigh. Write Juanita Baker at N.C. Dept. of Correction, 840 W. Morgan St., Raleigh, NC 27603 or call (919) 733-2557.

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