



FROM THE CENTER OUT

September - October 1987

A REMINDER to our members of the upcoming
CELEBRATION OF THE CENTER'S 10th ANNIVERSARY

Featuring: A Look Back - A retrospective on the Center's accomplishments during the
past decade by Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Thad Beyle

A Look Forward With

N.C. Rep. Dan Blue and Phil Kirk, Chief of Staff for Governor Martin
sharing their visions of the future of North Carolina

Friday, September 25, 1987

Sheraton Crabtree Hotel

Raleigh, NC

Cash Bar at 6:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P.

Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

\$25.00 per person

Speakers at 8:15 p.m.

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LOOKING FORWARD TO A LOOK BACK

A special tenth anniversary issue of Insight will be released in October featuring a report on the first 10 years of the Center by Insight Editor Bill Finger and Executive Director Ran Coble. This ten-year report summarizes the goals of the N.C. Center and its organizational growth since 1977. The report also examines whether the Center's goals have been met by looking at its educational role and its watchdog role. Finally, it reviews how Center research has influenced governmental policies over the years.

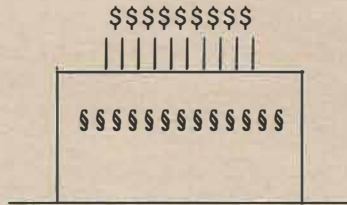
Also in this edition of Insight, Thad Beyle analyzes the impact of the succession amendment allowing governors and lieutenant governors to succeed themselves. Beyle is a Professor of Political Science at UNC-CH and Chairman of the Center's Board of Directors. In addition, the October issue features an article by Associate Editor Jack Betts on how public schools are meeting the mandate of the General Assembly to teach the concept of free enterprise, a requirement since 1975, and a look at the legislature's distribution of pork barrel funds by Seth Effron of the Greensboro News and Record.

THE CENTER'S RESEARCH MAKES AN IMPACT

* The closing days of the 1987 General Assembly saw some 1985 Center research bear legislative fruit. In the November 1985 issue of Insight, Editor Bill Finger found that North Carolina ranked last among the 50 states in the portion of credit insurance premiums used to pay off policy claims. Credit insurance typically is purchased as part of a car loan or an installment purchase of home appliances or furniture, and it is used to pay off a debt if a borrower dies or defaults on a loan. The Center recommended that the legislature pursue one of three options for helping N.C. consumers get more for their dollar. One of those options was that the legislature could lower the rates in the statutes. On August 13, the legislature passed legislation which reduced insurance rates by 12.5 percent, which will save N.C. consumers some \$28 million a year. The bill (HB 1022) also prohibits lenders from requiring credit insurance.

* Insight's June 1987 issue featured a detailed package on the background, advantages and disadvantages of switching from North Carolina's current system of electing judges to a merit-based system for choosing the state's judiciary. In the closing days of the session, the 1987 General Assembly appropriated \$25,000 to finance a judicial selection study. A commission of 20 members is to report its recommendations to the Governor, Chief Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, Attorney General, and General Assembly by February 15, 1989.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HELP WISH US A HAPPY BIRTHDAY



You can still invest in the future of North Carolina with a one-time, one dollar contribution for each year of the first 10 years of the Center's existence, and for each year in the next decade...a total of \$20.

Your interest in the Center over the course of the last decade had a ripple effect on North Carolina. Your investment in the Center produced a more accountable state government and better informed citizenry. Watch for a summary of this work in our upcoming Tenth Anniversary issue of Insight.

Your 10th Birthday \$20 contribution will help produce additional educational and research efforts of interest to you for the next 10 years. We hope you'll help us celebrate.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOLKS WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE TENTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

John W. Davis III
Virginia Foxx
Betty Ann Knudsen
Susan Lupton and Robert Schall

Tom S. Miya
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mountcastle
Virginia T. Oliver
Lanty L. Smith

SEND US YOUR PICTURES OF NORTH CAROLINA'S ENVIRONMENT

The January 1988 issue of Insight will be a theme issue on state environmental policies. All of us who live in North Carolina know how beautiful our coast, mountains, and Piedmont can be, but we have also seen evidence of environmental problems with hazardous or solid waste, fish kills, or forests defoliated by acid rain. Rather than sending out one photographer to try to capture all of this, we thought we'd ask our members to send us black and white glossy pictures (any size) we can use in the magazine. We'll return them if you like and we'll give you credit in Insight... along with our thanks.

WE URGE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BOARD NOMINATION PROCESS

One of the benefits of membership in the Center is the opportunity to nominate persons who would make good additions to our governing Board of Directors. So once again, we are asking you to submit names of persons who would be willing to work hard, attend quarterly meetings, and assist us with fundraising. The Center's Board is responsible for the overall policy and direction of the Center's work and also suggests ideas for topics to be examined in Insight and in research reports. Depending upon their backgrounds and areas of expertise, Board members are also asked to review drafts of articles and major reports for accuracy and clarity. The Board is balanced by race, sex, geographic location in North Carolina, and political party affiliation. If you would like to be considered, or if you want to nominate individuals who fit these qualifications and would be willing to serve a three-year term, please submit the name(s) and background information to Chair, Nominating Committee, N.C. Center for Public Policy Research, P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602. Nominations must be received by October 16, 1987. Elections will take place at the December 5th Board meeting.

HOW TO INCREASE RETURNS ON YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE CENTER: A FULL-SERVICE MEMBERSHIP

The Center is now offering a full-service membership option. Pay an annual membership fee of \$200 and you will receive not only Insight, newsletters, an invitation to the Center's symposium, and announcements of Center reports, but you'll also automatically receive copies of all research reports completed during your membership year,

and your seat and meal at the yearly symposium would be reserved and paid for. For example, full-service members this year would have received -- in addition to 4 issues of Insight and 6-8 newsletters -- a copy of Article II: A Guide to the Legislature, the second in a series of three reports on the for-profit hospital movement in North Carolina, the follow-up report on special provisions in budget bills, our special 10-year report on the Center, and have their reservation at the 10th Anniversary Celebration already paid. Become a full-service member and earn a better return on your investment.

SPEAKING OF MEMBERS...TELL US ABOUT YOURSELVES

Thanks to those of you who have already returned the reader surveys enclosed in the June issue of Insight. If you have not done so, we would really appreciate your sharing your views and interests with us. We'd also like to know more about what you think about Insight magazine. The more we learn about our readers, the better we will be able to serve you.

A WARM WELCOME AND THANKS TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

Dick Clifford	Jack Perry
Deborah D. Franks	Tom K. Scott
David C. Jones	Harry J. Shane
Halley and Norma Merrell	Jim Stevens
Ruth Patterson	John Tanner

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS

The Center wishes to acknowledge and thank these new corporate contributors:

HKB Associates	\$1200
AETna Life and Casualty Foundation	\$1000

And the Center's continuing thanks go to these corporations who recently renewed their support for the Center:

Glaxo, Inc.	\$2000
IBM Corporation	\$1000
Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation	\$1000
Royal Insurance	\$1000
Stedman Foundation	\$1000
The Kroger Co.	\$ 500
Piedmont Natural Gas Company	\$ 500
Champion International Corporation	\$ 250
Epley Associates, Inc.	\$ 250

INS AND OUTS IN STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELSEWHERE

Ins: Lattie Baker as assistant secretary for substance abuse in the Dept. of Correction....L. McNeil Chestnut as general counsel for the N.C. Banking Commission....Former Industrial Commissioner Charles Clay as Public Affairs Officer for the Administrative Office of the Courts....Cynthia B. Cover as director of governmental relations for N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry...Margaret Currin, former professor of law at Campbell University, nominated as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, replacing her spouse, Sam Currin, who was appointed to a special Superior Court judgeship....Joseph L. Hamilton as director of the Division of Prisons....John J. Higgins as deputy secretary for government operations in the Dept. of Administration....Sharon D. Landesman as director of UNC-CH's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center....John G. Patsevouras as director of the Division of Adult Probation and Parole....Ernest C. Pearson as chairman of the N.C. Industrial Commission, replacing David V. Brooks....Charles B. Sutton as chairman of the board of trustees of the N.C. Museum of Art, replacing J. Gordon Hanes Jr....C. Monroe Waters as assistant secretary for programs and personnel development in the Dept. of Correction....Samuel A. Wilson III as chairman of Paroles Commission, replacing Bruce B. Briggs who was named a Superior Court Judge.

Trends in Length of N.C. Legislative Sessions,
Bills Introduced and Ratified, and Percent of Bills Passed

Year	Number of Working Legislative Days		Total Bills		Percentage of Bills Ratified Per Session
	Long Sessions in Odd Years	Short Sessions in Even Years	Introduced	Ratified	
1984		23	525	243	46.2%
1985	118		2278	793	36.8%
1986		29	1170	239	22.7%
1987	135		3723	879	23.6%

LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSIONS

The 1987 General Assembly authorized 59 studies which may be conducted by the Legislative Research Commission before the 1989 session. Those 59 topics are listed below. Some of these will be chosen, some not; even some of the topics chosen will be given so little money that they are likely to have little impact. In addition to these topics, the legislature also approved 30 additional studies to be done by groups other than the Legislative Research Commission. These topics will be listed in the next newsletter.

Acquisition of abandoned railroad rights-of way	Leaking underground storage tanks
Aging	Low-level radioactive waste management
AIDS	Military justice code for National Guard
Animal welfare act	Modern family
Applied design school feasibility	Money market funds treatment under the intangibles tax
Attorney General's staff	Ombudsmen
Automobile insurance	Oregon Inlet
Campaign and election procedures	Outdoor drama funding
Coastal water quality	Parental leave
Child support enforcement	Permitting of septic tank systems
Control of development around small public water supply reservoirs	Pest control
Corporate income taxation	Rest home and nursing home care
Day care	Revenue laws
Dept. of Human Resources liability insurance	Safe Roads Act
Disadvantaged business contracts financed by state funds	School teacher career development pilot program
Economic development and recruiting	Solid waste management
Emergency care volunteer network	Sports laws
Farm issues	State buildings' maintenance
Farmland preservation	State contracts with small businesses
Ferries	State government leasing of office space
Gerontology	State personnel
Housing discrimination	State publications
Housing and need for a state department	State schools for hearing- and sight-impaired children
Historic preservation	Tax collectors selling of auto tags
Inactive hazardous sites protection	Tourism's growth and effect
Hunters' safety/wildlife	Types of high school diplomas
Inland waters and severance tax on phosphate rock mining	Unruly students
Interest rate regulation	Veterans preference in state employment
Interstate banking	Watershed protection
	Wellness program for state employees

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