



FROM THE CENTER OUT

April - May 1990

PRO/CON ON GUBERNATORIAL VETO DRAWS PRO/CON RESPONSE

The governorship in North Carolina is the third weakest in the nation, the Center said in the latest issue of its quarterly magazine, *North Carolina Insight*, released March 13, 1990. So concluded UNC-CH Political Scientist Thad L. Beyle after comparing the 50 governors on the basis of seven formal institutional powers common to the office. The two biggest factors making the N.C. governor less powerful than governors of most other states are the lack of veto power and the large number of key state officials (nine) who are elected statewide -- and independently of the governor -- in North Carolina.

The media coverage of this study extended across North Carolina. The study was reported in 87 articles and 33 editorials in 53 newspapers and on 97 radio stations and at least two TV stations. Nationally, the Associated Press picked up the study, prompting calls from state capitals across the country.

While media attention was widespread, editorial writers debated the import of the study's findings. Seventeen newspapers -- including those in Boone, Chapel Hill, Clinton, Greensboro, Louisburg, Mount Airy, Sanford, and Wilson -- took Beyle's study a step further and used the results to argue for veto power. An editorial in *The News and Observer* of Raleigh began, "A new study from the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research affirms what former governors, citizens, and even schoolchildren know. North Carolina's governor is a weak branch on the state governmental tree. The solution -- to make that branch, and therefore the rest of the tree, stronger -- is to grant the governor veto power." The *Wilson Daily Times* concluded, "Legislative objections to the veto, claiming it would give the governor too much power, cannot stand up against the careful reasoning of Beyle's study or against the overwhelming will of the public."

On the other hand, papers in Beaufort, Kinston, and Oxford took an opposite view. Columnist Paul O'Connor of the Capitol Press Association argued that the weaknesses are overstated. "[B]eing near the bottom in gubernatorial powers is meaningless," O'Connor wrote. "What counts is whether North Carolina has had good governors and good government with the system as is. North Carolina has. In short, this study doesn't make the case for strengthening the governor's office." Whatever position one may take, the Center is pleased with the debate that the article stimulated in advance of anticipated discussions in the 1990 General Assembly and possibly before the voters in the fall.

ANSWERS TO "WHAT SHOULD WE LOOK AT NEXT?"

One of the ways that you, as members of the Center, can help us determine what issues to examine is to respond to our annual call for topic suggestions. Many of you did just that last month, and we thank you. Here are some of the areas you thought we should study:

- Governance of the public schools: whether we should have an elected Superintendent of Public Instruction and appointed State Board of Education;
- The cost of imposing the death penalty in North Carolina;
- Tax structure in North Carolina;
- What's happening to our rivers;
- Highways vs. mass transit;
- Mental health;
- Home rule for North Carolina's local governments.

These are only a sample of the many responses we received. As you will see on page four of this newsletter, the school governance issue is already slated for September's *Insight*.

RESPONSE TO REPORT ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

The news media in North Carolina quickly and unanimously endorsed the Center's recommendations released in March in *Campaign Disclosure Laws: An Analysis of Campaign Finance Disclosure in North Carolina and a Comparison of 50 State Campaign Reporting Laws* by staff policy analyst Kim Kebschull. A *Winston-Salem Journal* editorial concluded, "[The] public policy center's recommendations for strengthening public disclosure of such contributions ought to be adopted." Editorials in *The Charlotte Observer*, *Asheville Citizen*, *Elkin Tribune*, and *The News and Observer* of Raleigh shared the *Journal's* enthusiasm. A *Watauga Democrat* editorial summarized the importance of the Center's findings, stating, "[T]his is one more way politicians can be held accountable, and the state should adopt a centralized, detailed campaign finance reporting system." So far, the report has drawn coverage in 30 articles in 26 North Carolina newspapers and in the national publication, *Comparative State Politics*. Copies of the report on *Campaign Disclosure Laws* are available from the Center for \$20.90 (including tax, postage and handling).

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER'S SPECIAL YEAR-END APPEAL

Our many thanks are extended to those of you who showed your commitment to the Center by responding to last December's special year-end appeal. The total from all gifts was \$14,990, which will comprise about 3 per cent of the year's total budget. Contributors whom we wish to thank for their gifts or gift memberships include the following:

Thad Beyle	Parks Helms	Edward O'Neil
Bob & Carol Bilbro	Bertha Holt	Michael Patrick &
Richard & Pam Bostic	V.B. "Hawk" Johnson	Meg Kemper
Richard Boyette	Leah Karpen	Piedmont Aviation
Ralph Byers	Jane Kendall &	Foundation
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Karen Gottovi	Mary Norris Preyer	Theresa Trimble
Wade Hargrove	Oglesby	Patricia Watts
Joe Hege	Virginia T. Oliver	Nina & Ralph Yeager

Since the Center is challenged each year to raise its entire budget from a mix of foundation, corporate, and individual support, your contributions are an important way to end last year and to ring in the new. Please accept our sincere thanks.

CENTER RECEIVES FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Center is grateful to have received a grant of \$15,000 from the Janirve Foundation of Asheville for the upcoming study on "How Does the University of North Carolina System Identify and Reward Good Teaching?" This is the second grant the foundation has made to the Center, and we greatly appreciate this exceptional support.

A WARM WELCOME TO THESE NEW CENTER MEMBERS

E. Ann Christian	Calvin Hinshaw	T. Powell
Paul Crissman	Adam Hochberg	Gregory B. Sampson
Janice Dody	Glenda Jenkins	Sampson Community College
Lawrence P. Egerton	Jim Kirkpatrick	Earline Sanderson
Maura Fallon	Mary T. Klenz	Ruth G. Shaw
Chuck Forrester	Pete Leary	JoAnn Smith
Joyce Gallimore	John B. Lewis Jr.	Rufus Stark
Charles Taylor Grubb	Larry Linney	James R. Trotter
Linda R. Hawk	Luther T. Moore	Andy Wells
Dick Heidgerd	William M. Moore Jr.	
Diane D. Henderson	Robert Nichols	

We also welcome Frances Walker as a full-service member. This category of membership includes all research reports in addition to *North Carolina Insight* and "From the Center Out." If you are interested in becoming a full-service member (\$250 per year), please call Mary Fant at (919)832-2839.

OUR THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS

The Center wishes to thank and welcome these new contributors and corporate members:

National Starch & Chemical Co.	\$1000
Summit Cable Services	500

And, the Center's continuing thanks go to these foundations and corporations which recently renewed their support for the Center:

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.	\$2000	Golden Corral Corporation	500
General Electric Co.	1000	Harper Companies International	500
Lorillard Tobacco Company	1000	Volvo GM Heavy Truck Corp.	500
Nationwide Insurance	1000	Chatham Manufacturing	250
Public Service Co. of N.C.	1000	TRW, Inc.	250
Vulcan Materials	1000	Astro, Inc.	100
Winston-Salem Journal	1000		

NEW RESOURCE BOOK ON STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you encourage students to get involved in public service, you'll be interested in the National Society for Internships and Experiential Education's new three-volume work entitled *Combining Service and Learning: A Resource Book for Community and Public Service* edited by Jane Kendall. Volume I contains research, history, and principles of good practice for public and community service programs for students of all ages (693 pp., \$39.50 if ordered alone). Volume II covers practical issues and ideas for programs and courses that combine public service with learning, along with case studies of programs in colleges and universities, K-12 schools, and government and nonprofit agencies. Programs of the N.C. Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are among those featured (528 pp., \$39.50). Volume III is an annotated bibliography (80 pp., \$17.50). All three volumes are \$85 if ordered together. Prices include postage and handling. Send check to NSIEE, 3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 207, Raleigh, NC 27609, or call (919)787-3263.

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR

To paraphrase the words of Alexander Pope,

*I've often wish'd that I had clear,
Three IBM-compatible computers here;
Printers to match and a typing chair,
And some 4-drawer, legal-sized file cabinets fair.*

...If you or someone you know is in a position to contribute one of these items or a document scanner for the IBM family, please call Nancy Rose at (919)832-2839.

CENTER'S RESEARCH BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

On March 14, the Center was invited to testify before the Educational Equity Subcommittee of a Legislative Research Commission (LRC) on Education regarding our research about disparities in school financing among the 134 school districts in North Carolina. Center Director Ran Coble and Policy Analyst Kim Keschull told the group that per-pupil spending in North Carolina varied by as much as 56 percent among the state's 134 public school systems. The Center said the disparities between school districts are caused mainly by differences in local supplements and lead to greatly differing educational programs among the city and county systems. The Center said similar disparities have led courts in other states to find school finance systems unconstitutional, the latest in Texas, Montana, and Kentucky. This testimony marked the second time the Center appeared before an LRC this year. As reported in the last newsletter, Ran Coble and *Insight* Associate Editor Mike McLaughlin appeared before an LRC on Solid and Infectious Waste in January.

UPCOMING IN INSIGHT

Coming soon to a mailbox near you is the June issue of *North Carolina Insight*, with blockbuster articles about the need for a state policy on the homeless and about the Center's latest research reports on campaign finance issues, and with a pungent commentary on the role of newspapers and whether they should treat readers as customers to be entertained or as citizens to be informed. Don't miss a word of the June 1990 issue of *Insight*.

Following in September 1990 will be a pro and con discussion on whether we should elect or appoint the N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction. Should the state's top-ranked public schools' chief be elected in partisan contests? Or should the superintendent be appointed by the governor or by the State Board of Education -- and should members of that board be elected or appointed? What's more, there will be articles on the progress and pitfalls of local and state government leadership development programs. How well do they work? All this and more, in the September 1990 *North Carolina Insight*.

INS AND OUTS IN STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELSEWHERE

Ins: Donald R. Beason as head of the N.C. Drug Cabinet, replacing Paul C. Richardson.... Betsy Justus as Secretary of the Dept. of Revenue, replacing Helen Powers.... Charles Lyons Jr., former chancellor of Fayetteville State University as president of the Center for Leadership Development and Research in Washington, D.C.... John H. MacMillan as executive director of the N.C. Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Authority.... Larry Monteith as permanent chancellor of N.C. State University.... Thomas F. Paquin as special assistant for education at the N.C. Department of Human Resources.... J. Ward Purrington as lobbyist for Gov. Martin during the 1990 legislative session.... Roger Schecter as director of the Division of Coastal Management in the Dept. of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.... Wesley D. Webster as lobbyist for Gov. Martin during the 1990 legislative session.... Jim Woodward as chancellor of UNC-Charlotte, replacing retiring Chancellor E.K. Fretwell Jr.

Outs: Charles L. Cromer (R-Davidson) announced he would be leaving as state representative for the 37th District to become a legislative lobbyist for Gov. James G. Martin.... Dr. G. Thomas Houlihan resigned as superintendent of Granville County Schools, effective July 1.... J. Phillips L. Johnston resigned as chief state regulator of Credit Unions.... William H. Wagoner as chancellor of UNC-Wilmington.

N.C. Center for Public Policy Research
P.O. Box 430
Raleigh, NC 27602

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