


FROM THE CENTER OUT

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research ■ December 1992

Insight Focuses on Economic Issues

The September 1992 edition of *North Carolina Insight* generated a lot of media attention with its focus on the economy. The magazine featured pro-con evaluations of two important economic issues: the state's proposed air cargo complex near Kinston, and the use of professional sports franchises as economic development tools.

Twenty-seven newspapers published 34 articles and 13 editorials on the air cargo articles. The 90-station N.C. [Radio] News Network also aired an interview with *Insight's* associate editor, Tom Mather. *The Charlotte Observer*, in an editorial reprinted by six papers, said the Center's "cautions ought to leaven the euphoria over the Global TransPark's success. By any measure, the facility is a long shot." An editorial in the *Morning Star* of Wilmington said, "The new issue of *N.C. Insight*, the non-profit policy magazine out of Raleigh, adds plenty of fodder to the airport debate." The *Salisbury Post* reprinted most of the "pro" article to balance a previously published column opposing the facility.

Insight's look at professional sports featured an overview and a personal account by J. Barlow Herget, a Raleigh City Council member involved in the city's attempt to build a Triangle sports park. The *News & Record* of Greensboro wrote of the Center's study: "If you're looking for guarantees, don't look to athletics, a report from a Raleigh think tank says. Spending public money on sports is like watching your favorite team in triple overtime: It may be entertaining, but losing is a risk."

Center Releases New Lobbyist Rankings

The press also covered extensively the Center's rankings of the Most Influential Lobbyists in the General Assembly, released in early August. Some 35 newspapers published 51 articles and 11 editorials or columns about the rankings. The Center's news release noted that lobbyists working for only one client and female lobbyists continued to gain ground in the rankings. Also increasing their effectiveness were lobbyists for public-interest groups and nonprofit organizations. The Center compiles its biennial lobbyist rankings by surveying all legislators, lobbyists, and capital press corps members who cover the legislature on a daily basis. Among those praising the Center's rankings was the *News and Record*, which said the rankings were "invaluable in tracking influence in Raleigh."

Health Care Bill in the Works

The Legislative Study Commission on Access to Health Insurance is drafting legislation that would provide universal health care coverage for North Carolinians by 1997. The Center, in the November 1991 edition of *Insight*, identified several options for broadening access to health care coverage. In addition, the state Department of Human Resources is expected to propose legislation in 1993 for providing temporary management of nursing homes that repeatedly are fined for harming patients -- as the Center recommended in the May 1992 edition of *Insight*. A similar bill stalled in a Senate committee in the 1992 session.

In other action, two legislative study committees moved around the state this fall to discuss proposals for land use planning in the mountains and statewide -- options the Center offered in the December 1990 edition of *Insight*. Also progressing is the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources' plan to publish a biennial list of environmental indicators, which the Center recommended in the October 1988 issue of *Insight*. The first such report is expected in late 1993.

Recent Center Contributors -- People Who Help Keep the Center Working

A warm welcome to our new corporate contributors:

Abbott Laboratories	\$1000
Time Warner Cable: Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Raleigh-Durham and Chapel Hill	1000
Muhleman Marketing, Inc.	500
Carolina Medicorp, Inc.	200
First Factors Corporation	200

Corporations which renewed their support and to whom we give our special thanks include:

Commercial Credit Corporation	\$2500	Fayetteville Publishing Company	\$300
The Charlotte Observer	1500	N.C. Beer Wholesalers Association	300
Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation	1500	Southern National Bank	300
Burroughs Wellcome Company	1000	The Transylvania Times	300
Carolina Power & Light Co.	1000	United Guaranty Corporation	300
Carolina Telephone & Telegraph	1000	Chesapeake Corporation	250
Greensboro News & Record	1000	Moore & Van Allen	250
The Haworth Foundation, Inc.	1000	BASF Corporation	200
N.C. Retail Merchants Association	1000	Cone Mills Corporation	200
Parkdale Mills, Inc.	750	Lee Iron and Metal Company	200
Bank of Granite	500	N.C. Association of Broadcasters	200
Epley Associates	500	N.C. Cable TV Association	200
Sara Lee Corporation	500	N.C. School Boards Association	200
Oldover Corporation	350	Sandoz Chemicals Corporation	200

The Center welcomes our new full-service members and offers thanks to the full-service members who recently renewed their support for the Center:

James O. Barber	NCDPI Office of Financial Services
Leslie Bevacqua	Porter, Steel & Porter *
Ronnie Capps	Currituck County Board of Education
Eugene W. Cochrane, Jr.	The Duke Endowment *
Dennis Julian	N.C. Textile Manufacturers Association
Richard Pelt	Stockhausen, Inc.
James A. Stem, Jr.	United Transportation Union
Jerry Williams	N.C. Restaurant Association

*Denotes new full-service member.

We welcome these new individual supporting members and thank those individual supporting members who renewed their Center memberships with special contributions:

John Q. Beard *	Patric Mullen *
Kathleen Bryan Edwards	Elvin R. Parks *
Charles Evans	William Rustin
Stanley Frank *	Richard A. Schwartz
W. Burns Jones	Margaret & Lanty Smith
William Keenan	Ed Williams

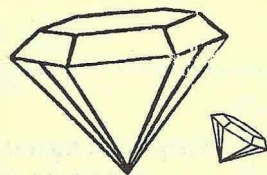
* Denotes a new individual member.

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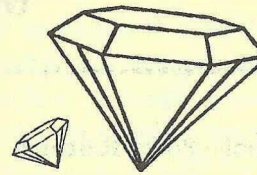
Pam Adams	Florence F. Gatten
W. R. Baker	Richard Harrill
Thomas Blackburn	William R. Kenan Jr. Fund
Edward N. Booker	Thomas F. McLarty
John M. Booker	Stephen Meehan
William H. Carstarphen	John H. Orth
Marlene Chasson	Jeffrey B. Parsons
Bernard Clayton	Liz Rogers
Sue W. Cole	David Warren
Harry R. Coleman	Albert Lee Wiley Jr.
David Danehower	Patrick N. Woodie
George T. Everett	
Patricia Fairchild	

A special welcome to these new organizational members:

Sindy Barker	NC Nurses Association
Jane Basnight	DEHNR
C. Brownfield	DEHNR
Peggy H. Davis	Total Care, Inc.
Lisa Poovey Greene	American Cancer Society
Lynn Hardy	Duplin Home Care & Hospice
Susan Hill	National Women's Health Organization
C. Edward McCauley	N.C. Hospital Association
Janet Mills	National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Fred W. Norden	Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce
Stephen W. Raper	City of Kinston
Dennis Thompson	County of Surry
Patrick N. Woodie	Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce



DIAMOND CLUB



This year marks a milestone in corporate giving to the Center. Four companies have now contributed to the Center for 10 consecutive years, and we welcome them as charter members of the Diamond Club. We selected the diamond -- symbolizing strength, endurance, and value -- to recognize these companies' generosity. Such loyalty is extremely important to the Center's ongoing operations. We thank you!

Burlington Industries

**Carolina Telephone and Telegraph
Company**

Burroughs Wellcome Company

IBM Corporation

Coming Up

Watch your mailboxes for the January 1993 issue of *Insight*. The latest edition features essays by 17 thoughtful Tar Heels on the topic: "What should the next governor do for North Carolina?" Other articles in the new magazine include a look at filmmaking in North Carolina and the N.C. Film Office, as well as an analysis of a plan to televise sessions of the General Assembly from opening to closing gavel.

Work also is underway on the 9th edition of *Article II*, the Center's guide to the General Assembly. The book, due in March, features profiles on all 170 legislators, including information on each legislator's educational background, occupation, committee assignments, selected bills introduced in the 1991-92 session, votes on 15 significant bills in the 1991-92 session, and effectiveness rankings dating back to 1981. For the first time, the Center is planning to include information on the campaign contributions and expenditures of legislators and their challengers in the general election. With so many new members this year -- about one-third of the entire legislature -- *Article II* should be a particularly useful guide. Watch here for more details.

TV, Radio Shows Feature Center Staff

Center staff appeared on several television and radio programs this fall. Executive director Ran Coble discussed the 1992 elections and the Center's work on the "Political View" show on Raleigh-Durham Cablevision's Channel 23 every Wednesday and Friday during October. Coble also analyzed election returns Nov. 3 for the 90-station N.C. [Radio] News Network. *Insight* editor Mike McLaughlin appeared three times on "North Carolina This Week," a public-affairs talk show produced by WUNC-TV in Chapel Hill.

Conference to Feature the South

The Center is helping plan a conference on the South scheduled for the Spring of 1993. Executive director Ran Coble welcomes Center members' ideas on areas in which the South leads or trails the nation, and whether you think the South is still unique and, if so, how.

A Special Thanks to Center Members

As we celebrate the holidays, the Center staff would like to thank you, our members, for your generous support of the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research. You make it possible for the Center to continue producing high-quality research that helps improve the lives of North Carolinians. We hope you've benefited from our research and publications during the past year. We also hope that you will consider making a special year-end contribution to help get the Center off to a solid start in 1993!

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