



FROM THE CENTER OUT

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research...A voice for better government
June-August 1996

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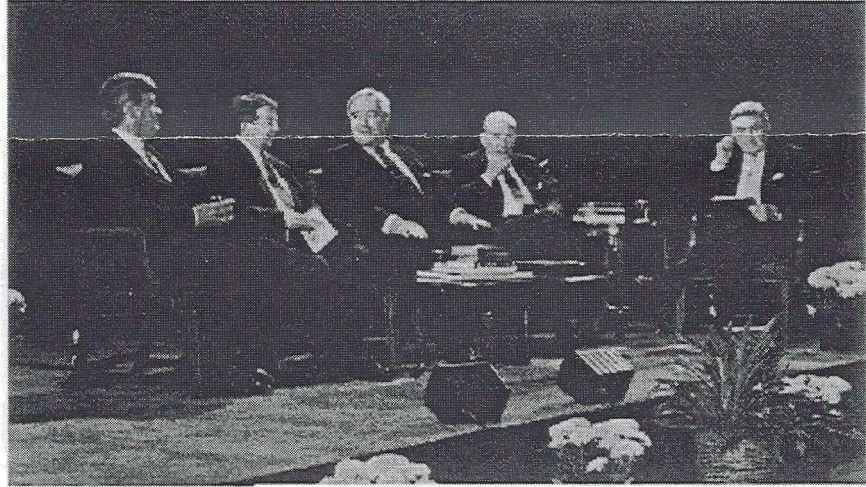
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Four Governors and Bill Friday Help Center Kick Off Sustaining Fund Campaign



On Thursday evening, May 23, more than 340 Center members and friends gathered at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh for "An Evening With Four Governors and Bill Friday." Former UNC President William C. Friday led a conversation with four of North Carolina's former governors at the event, which kicked off the Center's \$2 million Sustaining Fund Campaign.

Dennis Rash and Betty Chafin Rash of Charlotte co-chaired the event, which raised more than \$5,000 for the Sustaining Fund. Sustaining Fund Campaign Chairman Charlie Zeigler, Chairman, President, and CEO of Public Service Company of North Carolina, served as Master of Ceremonies. The evening began with a reception and entertainment by the Ligon Middle School "Silver Strings Orchestra." The reception was followed by the program, which included the announcement that we had pledges and commitments totaling \$1.3 million, or two-thirds of our \$2 million goal as of May 23. Zeigler and Center Executive Director Ran Coble also recognized our leadership givers, gave an overview of the Center's work and the purposes of the campaign, and recognized the event sponsors. During the next hour, the audience was treated to a lively discussion among President Friday and Governors Terry Sanford, Bob Scott, Jim Holshouser, and Jim Martin. The discussion topics included the environment, tax policy, health care, education, and the tension between the urban and rural areas of our state.

If you were unable to attend this historic event, it was televised on WUNC public television on July 3, and copies of the tape will be available soon. Details will be provided in the next newsletter. A portion of the proceeds go to benefit the Center. The conversation between Mr. Friday and the Governors also will be televised on local Time Warner Cable affiliates throughout the state later this summer. Watch your mail for an update on the progress of the Sustaining Fund Campaign and an opportunity to contribute to the Center's future.

"An Evening With Four Governors and Bill Friday" would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors who contributed more than \$12,000 in cash and in-kind support. Our sponsors are as follows:

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Center receives grants from GE, Weaver

The Center gratefully acknowledges a grant of \$25,000 from The GE Fund to help produce a new edition of *North Carolina Focus*, our textbook on state government politics, and policy. The Cannon Foundation of Concord, N.C. has provided a grant of \$35,000 for this project as well. *Focus* is used in high school social studies classes and college courses on state and local government. The Center also thanks The Weaver Foundation of Greensboro, N.C. for a grant of \$6,000 for a study of Trends in Public and Private Funding for the Arts in North Carolina.



The Center's Mission

"The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the goals of a better-informed public and more effective, accountable, and responsive government."

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Thanks to our Continuing
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Coming Attractions: Arts Funding Highlighted in New Study

Funding for the arts will be highlighted in the next issue of *North Carolina Insight*. The year-long study of **Trends in Funding for the Arts in North Carolina**, examines public and private support for the arts since 1980, focusing particularly on the past five years. The study also looks at recent

developments and future prospects in Congress and the state legislature. In a nutshell, the Center found that federal funding for the arts has dropped by more than half since 1990, but those cuts have been more than offset by increasing support from the state, local governments, and private contributors. Many observers feel, however, that federal budget cuts may take a toll by reducing the amount of money generated through matching-grant programs. The Center's study was supported by grants from the private Governor's Business Council on the Arts & Humanities, The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, and The Weaver Foundation.

The next issue of *Insight* also will feature an essay on citizen responsibility and an article examining the relationship between state government and the nonprofit sector in North Carolina

MAJOR RESEARCH

Preview of North Carolina Focus

N.C. Focus is the Center's unique anthology on state government, politics, and public policy. The text of the new edition of *N.C. Focus* will follow the organization of the state's Constitution, opening with a section on the rights of citizens, followed by chapters on the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government. The book also will contain a copy of the North Carolina Constitution, and organizational charts for each branch of government. Chapters in several policy areas of special interest to Center members also will be included -- such as chapters on health care policy, education, the environment, and economic development. This book is designed for use in high school social studies classes and college courses on state and local government.

Center Short Report: Pros and Cons on Three Constitutional Amendments on the Ballot in November 1996

In September 1996, the Center plans to release a publication featuring pro/con essays on the three constitutional amendments that will be on the November 1996 ballot for voter approval or disapproval:

- veto power for the governor;
- rights of victims of crime; and
- alternative criminal punishments.

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The new format for this newsletter will save paper and printing costs. Therefore, more of your contributions can be spent on research! Let us know if you like the change.

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