



FROM THE CENTER OUT

In April, the Center released a report called "The Advisory Budget Commission: not as simple as ABC." Mercer Doty, former director of the Center and of the Legislative Fiscal Research Division, wrote the report, which was distributed free of charge. It has received wide attention from the press, legislators, and citizens who monitor government operations. "Despite the (Advisory Budget) Commission's lack of glamor," wrote Ferrel Guillory in an editorial for the *Raleigh News and Observer*, "the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research, Inc. has provided an important fresh examination of this unit ... The report is a valuable primer on North Carolina budget-making." Rep. Howard Coble from Guilford County wrote the Center "to commend you on the fine work that was done in preparing the 'Advisory Budget Commission: not as simple as ABC.' The apparent professionalism that is evident when one reads the report is very impressive."

The winter, 1980 issue of *N.C. Insight*, "North Carolina's Energy Future?," has also been widely utilized. Carolina Power and Light Company reviewed the issue as the lead story in the March 31 issue of their "Energy News Review: a compendium of significant energy industry news." Robert Koger, Chairman of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, wrote the Center "to commend you for the excellent publication, 'North Carolina's Energy Future?' I think the articles are very well written and, in almost all cases fairly state the situation in North Carolina." University of North Carolina Journalism Professor Walter Spearman reviewed the issue as an editorial in *The Smithfield Herald* and the *Alamance-Orange Enterprise*. The *Solar Law Journal* in Golden, Colorado, used the volume in preparing an energy paper. Ole Gade, a professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, ordered 50 copies for a seminar, and the North Carolina Coalition for Renewable Energy Resources distributed 350 copies in a dozen North Carolina towns as part of the ten-year anniversary of Earth Day. David Cameron, whose solar greenhouse was featured in the issue, wrote to

correct us for giving "the impression ... that it is 'my' greenhouse." Cameron wants to credit Carolyn Nelson and particularly Gene Messick for helping with the project. "We were very pleased to see OUR greenhouse cited as an example of what can be done, and hope it will help encourage others to turn to passive solar designs," wrote Cameron. "This is, after all, the greater goal."

In late April, the Center released *Article IV: A Guide to the N.C. Judiciary*, which included an evaluation of judicial performance, and *Article II: A Guide to the N.C. Legislature*, which rated the effectiveness of state legislators. Both reports received wide press attention and prompted comments from judges and legislators. Each report was both praised and condemned. Joseph Branch, Chief Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court said, "It's embarrassing to me because some of the people who were rated good were outstanding to me." Associate Justice J. Phil Carlton told the Associated Press that he felt the Center's survey evaluating the overall performance and objectivity of state judges was a "popularity contest among lawyers" and "that objectivity rating, frankly, that smells."

The release of *Article II* which followed *Article IV* by one week prompted a sympathetic statement from one Superior Court Judge: "God, I thought I was upset," the judge told *The News and Observer*, "but those legislators, they'll have it worse. How would you like to be rated a few days before the primary." Legislators' initial reactions have varied. "I wish I'd been higher," said Wake County Representative Wilma Woodard, "I don't think it will hurt my campaign because I don't know what they mean." Representative Mary Pegg from Forsyth County said, "I'd rather be respected by the people back home than gauged by a group of people on whether I played their game or not." Finally, Woodrow Sugg, a spokesman for Representative Carl Stewart (Gaston County), said "We feel it is an accurate record of his ability as speaker of the House."