



FROM THE CENTER OUT

In June, the Center released the first product of an 18-month study of changes in the tobacco economy in a thematic issue of N.C. Insight. Called "Tobacco in Transition," this collection of articles came on the heels of a vigorous debate in Congress over the federal tobacco program — a debate scheduled to be renewed during the early fall when the Omnibus Farm Bill of 1981 reaches the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Center has distributed over 3,500 copies of the magazine to farm groups, agricultural extension agents, farmers, politicians, editors, administrators, and scores of other interested citizens. Requests for more copies have also come from North Carolina Congressman Charles Whitley's office, the staff of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, the South Carolina Farm Bureau, the Flue-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation, the Wilson (N.C.) Tobacco Board of Trade, Legal Services of North Carolina, and others.

Meanwhile, editors and reporters across the state, from The News and Observer in the capital city to rural weeklies, have used the issue for columns and news stories. "For provocative reading, turn the leaves of the current issue of North Carolina Insight," writes Lois Byrd in the June 30 issue of the Sanford Herald. "The fact that new ideas are advanced, and some not too popular, is one of the best reasons for reading this issue." Or see the August 6 edition of the Roxboro Courier Times, where University of North Carolina Journalism Professor Walter Spearman headlines his column, "If not tobacco, then What?" "This is the question explored in depth in the current issue of N.C. Insight," writes Spearman.

In September, the Center will release the second product of the tobacco study, a 30-chapter anthology from which much of the magazine issue was excerpted; it is titled *The Tobacco Industry in Transition: Policies for the 1980s*. The first book produced by the Center through a national publishing house (Lexington Books), it promises to receive wide attention as well.

Below are a few of the letters we have received on our tobacco project.

Tobacco in Transition

Thank you for sending me several copies of the most recent issue of *North Carolina Insight*, "Tobacco in Transition." This issue is especially timely, and I am sure that as Congress continues to study tobacco issues and programs it will prove to be a valuable resource tool.

Sincerely,
Ike Andrews
Member of Congress
4th District, North Carolina

I want to commend you on the recent issue of *N.C. Insight* entitled "Tobacco in Transition." Your discussions of the issues were both objective and comprehensive. They will add to an understanding of the current situation facing this industry — some of its problems, the alternatives available and the consequences of those alternatives. Eventually, of course, this is the basis on which decisions and compromises will be

made. Your publication has made a significant contribution.

Sincerely,
T.C. Blalock
Agricultural Extension Service
North Carolina State University

Your issue "Tobacco in Transition" is clearly one of the most valuable assessments available on the subject of tobacco agriculture. Those of us who are interested in tobacco must continue to look for ways to improve the Tobacco Program, to make it more relevant to producers and the others associated with this important industry. "Tobacco in Transition" will provide a vehicle for discussing tobacco that will have . . . [an effect] . . . for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Kinney
Staff Director
Committee on Agriculture
National Governor's Association