



IN THE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Vol. 11, No. 2-3 Profiles in Poverty April 1989

Congratulations on your outstanding April issue of *North Carolina Insight*, "Profiles in Poverty." I am still making my way through a copy of the volume we have here at the Foundation. It's an in-depth and thoughtful look at the problems of poverty in our state. Every North Carolinian should read this issue—it refutes many of the myths people believe about the poor.

—Christine Kushner
North Carolina Foundation for
Alternative Health Programs, Inc.
Raleigh

I agree with you that the Commission on Tax Fairness [see "Tax Fairness Study Commission Recommends Restructuring of State Income Tax," p. 146] made good recommendations, but ... the legislature did not pass them all. Repeal of the intangibles tax did not pass, and as a result Salisbury's wealthiest citizen and his grown children moved out of state. The committee recommended raising the income tax and repealing the intangibles tax. I think this should be done soon. N.C. is losing valuable citizens now, and repelling many who might move here. I know of cases through the years that have been a big net loss to the state.

When a citizen leaves to avoid intangibles tax, North Carolina loses his income tax, sales tax, inheritance tax (most are not young), his commu-

nity leadership and probably his charitable contributions to local causes. The state spends lavishly to attract industry (with all its problems of pollution, congestion, traffic, need for new schools, hospitals, roads, etc.) and then has a tax on stocks and bonds to discourage capital-owning people from living here. When will North Carolina wake up? Many have gone and more are considering it.

—Fred Stanback
Salisbury

Vol. 11, No. 4 Alternatives to Prison August 1989

Congratulations on an outstanding summary of the issues facing the corrections system in North Carolina. In addition to my consulting work with the Special Committee on Prison Overcrowding [in the General Assembly], I have been involved directly in jail overcrowding studies in Guilford, Forsyth, Rowan, and Catawba counties.

Your analysis of the scope of the problems facing state and local jurisdictions and your specific recommendations for the next steps to take are all right on target! I commend you for your thorough and accurate understanding of issues which often get treated in either a confusing or highly emotional manner.

—John R. Kernodle Jr.
Executive Director
The Community Justice Resource Project
Greensboro