



The Winston-Salem Thomasville Furniture plant employed hundreds of workers.

N.C. members of Congress appeal to Bush to help state's struggling furniture industry

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

U.S. Reps Mel Watt and Howard Coble want President Bush to know how much the loss of furniture manufacturing jobs has hurt North Carolina in the last few months.

Watt, a Democrat, and Coble, a Republican, co-chair the Congressional Furnishings Caucus, which sent a letter recently to the president outlining a four-point plan that the caucus says will help the American furniture manufacturing industry. Primarily, the letter points out how current policies help foreign countries manipulate and violate and go around U.S. laws.

The letter advocates, among other things, that furniture be clearly marked with the country of origin so that Americans can make a "more intelligent choice" when shopping. The letter also calls for tax reductions for companies that choose to manufac-

ture products in the United States and reform of the Federal Prison Industries program, which would allow governmental agencies to buy some furniture from companies instead of products manufactured in U.S. prisons.

Watt and Coble formed the Congressional Furnishings Caucus earlier this year in an effort to bring together members of Congress who share a common interest in promoting and protecting the interests of the furniture industry. There are 26 members of the caucus. The caucus meets regularly to discuss steps to help the furni-

ture industry. Watt said the plight of N.C. furniture employees has drawn the concern and attention of people on both sides of the political aisle.

"We are extremely pleased that this letter attracted bipartisan support from members of Congress who represent so many different segments of the furnishings industry," he said in a statement. "Hopefully, the president and his administration will see fit to implement our recommendations to help combat the loss of jobs to unfair competition from China and to help promote the interests of the furniture industry."

Thousands of North Carolina furniture manufacturers have shut down or laid off workers this year alone. Among them is the Winston-Salem Thomasville Furniture plant, which closed, leaving hundreds of workers without jobs.



Watt

News Clips

Compiled from staff, wire and submitted reports

Professor to talk about Greensboro massacre

Dr. Sally Bermanzohn, a political science professor at Brooklyn College in New York, will speak about her book, "Through Survivors' Eyes: From the Sixties to the Greensboro Massacre," on Oct. 27 at UNC.

The book is a memoir of a 1979 incident in which Ku Klux Klan members fired on protesters. Bermanzohn's husband was permanently disabled and five of her close friends and co-workers were killed in the violence.

The free public lecture, at 7:30 p.m. in Dey Hall's Toy Lounge, will be part of the Centering the South series presented by UNC's Center for the Study of the American South.

Garrou reappointed to government oversight commission

Sen. Linda Garrou, D-Forsyth, has been reappointed to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

The commission monitors state government and approves land transactions for North Carolina. It evaluates various agencies to ensure that they are operating effectively.

Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, who made the appointments and is co-chairman of the commission, said Garrou's experience would benefit the commission's work.

"The people of North Carolina deserve an accountable and

effective government," Basnight said. "Senator Garrou wants to make government work better."

Basnight continued: "Her efforts will help make sure we are on the right track for North Carolina, and I appreciate her willingness to serve."

Arts Council awards more than \$1 million in grants

The Arts Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County has announced that it has awarded 59 grants, totaling \$1,184,989.13 to arts organizations and individual artists in our community. The awards were distributed through programs that fund general organizational support, arts education experiences, special projects, individual artists, and advertising support.

The Arts Council made a significant change in the way it awards general operating support to its 13 funded member organizations. Effective with this most recent grant cycle, the organizational support grant (formerly the operational assistance grant) was adapted to more competitively evaluate organizations on two broad criteria: artistic excellence and organizational excellence.

The Arts Council awarded \$950,000 to 13 organizations through organizational support grants. Additional funds were awarded through arts-in-education grants, project assistance grants, regional artist project grants and advertising assistance programs.

Organizations receiving organizational support grants include Associated Artists of Winston-Salem, Children's Theatre of Winston-Salem, Kernersville Little Theatre, Little Symphony of Forsyth County, Little Theatre of Winston-Salem, N.C. Black Repertory Company, Piedmont Chamber Singers, Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc., Piedmont Opera Theatre, Sawtooth Center for Visual Art, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Inc., and the Winston-Salem Symphony.

The council awarded 12

Arts-In-Education Grants totaling \$50,000.

The Arts-In-Education Grant unites artists and arts organizations with elementary, middle and high school students, funding programs designed to awaken their intellectual and creative curiosity and is jointly designed, funded and administered by The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

Robinson to speak at A&T

Best-selling author and activist Randall Robinson will be the keynote speaker for N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University's International Education Week.

He will speak at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Memorial Union - Stallings Ballroom. Robinson is author of the "The Debt," a best seller; "The Beckoning"; and "Defending the Spirit." In his books he discusses racial issues and slavery-born racism on past and present generations of African-Americans. He also speaks about what it means to be a black person in America.

This event is part of the university's Lyceum Series.

Meeting about helping young people planned

A meeting will be held tomorrow night at the Reynolds Park Recreation Center to discuss how the community can better serve its youths. The meeting is being held by New Directions for Our Youth Inc., a local group of concerned citizens that is spearheaded by Virginia Newell. The public is invited to attend the meeting. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Newell at 722-3480.



Robinson

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