

Textile industry improves profits

By STACI COX
Staff Writer

A flood of foreign textile imports in the 1980s threatened the survival of the U.S. textile market, but the industry is bouncing back with modernized equipment and manufacturing techniques, according to a federal report.

As a result, profits in the American textile industry have increased about 1.6 percent since 1981, the report stated.

In North Carolina, the country's leading textile state, manufacturers have upgraded facilities while decreasing their work force, said Jane Pritchard, public relations director for the N.C. Textile Manufacturers Association (NCTMA).

"It's not so much that production has increased," Pritchard said, "but that a lot of companies disappeared when the imports came, and there are just fewer companies left to share the profits."

A bill to protect U.S. manufactur-

ers passed in the House of Representatives and will go to the Senate this session, Pritchard said. Although President Reagan has promised to veto such a bill, textile manufacturers hope to muster the support to override a presidential veto, she said.

If passed, the bill would limit import growth to one percent across the board, said Frank Hill, chief of staff for Rep. Alex McMillan, R-N.C. The bill also would authorize the president to take action against countries that disregard the sanctions, he said.

"North Carolina is the leading textile state, and this bill could bring jobs to the state and strengthen the textile industries," Hill said.

While the bill would aid textile manufacturers, it was not drafted as "protectionist," but to make the competition more equal, Hill said.

"Most textile manufacturers, especially in apparel, need this protection just to stay afloat," Pritchard said.

In 1980 the N.C. textile industry

directly employed about 333,800 textile workers, but a surge in foreign imports reduced the work force to 296,400 workers by 1985, Pritchard said. Last year, the number of textile jobs in North Carolina jumped to about 313,900, but the increase is viewed as temporary, she said.

The textile industry produces an enormous variety of materials, from cloth and yarn to military helmets and artificial arteries, Pritchard said.

Textile imports, excluding apparel, comprise 9 percent of the U.S. market, she said.

"That number is low, but clothes make up a major part of the textile market," Pritchard said. "Trying to make a case excluding clothes, where foreign goods make over half the U.S. market, is ridiculous."

This year furniture producers expect a slight increase in sales and a reduction in furniture imports, which could mean a good year for the furniture industry, said Marty Reddean, director of market research

for the American Furniture Market Association (AFMA). The Sears retail store chain pledged to use more domestic goods over the next year, and this trend seems to be spreading to other retailers, Reddean said.

"Unlike most textile industries, the AFMA is calling for free trade, especially with Canada," Reddean said.

Although N.C. retailers try to buy domestic goods, it is often difficult, said Fran Preston, vice president of the N.C. Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA).

"For example, it is impossible to get a decent quality sweater made in America," Preston said. "We work hard to promote purchase of American goods as long as they are of comparable value and quality."

The NCRMA is pushing for new protectionist legislation in 1988, Preston said. Meanwhile, retailers hope U.S. textile manufacturers will expand production, Preston said.

Reagan plans to ask Congress for 4-month contra aid plan

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Reagan told congressional leaders Tuesday he will seek \$36.25 million in mostly non-lethal aid to Nicaraguan rebels, with \$3.6 million of it set aside for arms and ammunition but held in abeyance pending a cease-fire.

Under the plan, Reagan would issue a certification on March 31 as to whether a cease-fire was in effect between the contra rebels and the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua and whether other conditions had been met.

The aid package is designed to keep the contras supplied for four months. At one time, Secretary of State George Shultz said the administration planned to seek \$270 million to cover an 18-month period.

Negotiators defend arms treaty

WASHINGTON — Republican and Democratic senators joined forces Tuesday seeking to discredit attempts by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., to condemn the new Soviet-American arms treaty because it would destroy only missiles and not their nuclear warheads.

The top U.S. arms control negotiators at Geneva, Max Kampelman and Maynard Glitman, said the treaty achieves the goal of eliminating Soviet medium-

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range missiles as a military threat to Western Europe and a political threat to the stability of the NATO alliance.

Destroying the warheads themselves might be dangerous, Kampelman and Glitman said, because secret U.S. nuclear weapons designs might be exposed to Soviet inspection. They also cited the risk of radiation contamination throughout Europe.

Interview 'Rather like combat'

George Bush called his clash with CBS anchor Dan Rather "kind of like combat" but said he had no hard feelings Tuesday.

The vice president faced questions about his tense and explosive live television interview of the night before as he campaigned among high school students in Wyoming.

Bush had taken strong exception to Rather's questioning him about the vice president's knowledge of the Iran-contra affair. But Rather said Tuesday, "I saw my job as asking questions about the central story . . . the central story being how did he get involved in sending missiles to the Ayatollah and what about these inconsistencies in the record."

Former KKK leader runs for governor

By CARRIE DOVE
Staff Writer

The former grand dragon of the N.C. Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Carroll Crawford, filed for candidacy in the Democratic gubernatorial primary Monday, prompting criticism from civil rights advocates.

"The kind of message this candidacy sends is a very negative one, and it makes things worse," said Christina Davis McCoy, community educator for North Carolinians Against Racial and Religious Violence.

Asserting that white supremacists have the same rights as everyone else, Crawford said, "If the NAACP (National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People) gets funding from the state, the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan should get funding, too," he said.

McCoy said that civil rights groups are not directly funded by the state. "His candidacy is promoting an attitude of acceptability of this ideology," she said.

Fringe candidates such as Crawford will have little effect on the elections, said Thad Beyle, UNC professor of political science.

"They are not as strong as they used to be," he said.

Likening the governor's job to the position of grand dragon, Crawford

said his Klan experience would help him as governor.

"The U.S. government is basically similar to the government of the Christian Knights," said Crawford, a self-employed mechanic from Mount Ulla.

The Klan's grand dragon is a position with responsibilities equivalent to a state governorship, Crawford said.

Crawford called himself the candidate of the working people.

"All the politicians are rich lawyers, and we don't have any people in the government that are of the working class," Crawford said.

Crawford paid the \$1,050 filing fee

Monday, and he must submit a campaign report within 10 days detailing campaign contributions and expenditures, said Yvonne Sutherland, spokeswoman for the N.C. Board of Elections.

Crawford wants to bring government down to the local level by instituting more referendums, he said.

"We would like to see our money used for everyone instead of ping-ponging around to this buddy or that buddy," Crawford said.

Crawford said he is financing his own campaign.

"I don't think a man should have to have \$90,000 to run for state office," he said.

Applications available for Carolina Union president

By LYNNE MCCLINTOCK
Staff Writer

The Carolina Union is looking for enthusiastic, dedicated students to serve as Carolina Union president during the 1988-89 academic term.

"We want somebody who has demonstrated the ability to be dedicated to whatever they have chosen to do," Ellen Barnard, Carolina Union co-president, said Monday.

The position is open to any inter-

ested undergraduate student and previous Carolina Union experience is not needed. Applications are available at the Union desk Jan. 20 through Feb. 4. The applications are due Feb. 4.

The Carolina Union president serves as the chair of the Carolina Union Activities Board, attends Carolina Union functions and serves as chairman of the Carolina Union Board of Directors.

The Carolina Union Board of Directors, comprised of 15 student members and four faculty members, oversees Union policy, determines building space allocation and approves selection of Activities Board chairmen.

Applicants will be interviewed by a Board of Directors committee on Feb. 5. The committee will recommend a group of students to be interviewed by the entire Board of

Directors on Feb. 7.

Applicants should be people-oriented, capable of representing the Carolina Union and the University, and able to spend many hours, Barnard said.

"We want someone who will uphold the philosophy of student programming," Barnard said.

The Carolina Union has sponsored Union films, College Bowl, social activities such as shag workshops and the Learn to Flirt workshop, and performing arts events including "The King and I," Chicago City Ballet and Eddie Murphy.

A question-and-answer session for applicants will be held Tuesday, Feb. 2 in Room 210 at the Union.

Agency report suggests stock market changes

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — A congressional agency's report on last October's stock market crash concluded Tuesday that computerized trading equipment and the way transactions are regulated should be overhauled to avoid another such plunge.

The General Accounting Office's study said that the nation's various financial markets increasingly affect one another, meaning trading officials must find ways to prevent plummeting prices in one exchange from spilling into others.

But the GAO, an investigating agency for Congress, said government regulators also must keep up with the times as trading volumes grow and links become stronger among securities and future markets, at home and overseas.

The preliminary study, on which research will continue, is the second

major federal analysis of Wall Street's unprecedented October collapse. In the first 19 days of that month, the Dow Jones industrial average lost about one-third of its total value, or about \$1 trillion. On Oct. 19, Black Monday, the Dow dropped 508 points, a 23 percent plunge.

A report Jan. 8 by a commission appointed by President Reagan and headed by investment banker Nicholas Brady recommended the Federal Reserve or some other federal agency be given broader powers to oversee the markets, trading rules be tightened and limits be placed on price swings.

The GAO agreed the government should do a better job of overseeing the markets. But it stopped short of urging that the Fed get that job, stating only "we believe that the Fed must be involved in some way with these markets."

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