

# What Is Link Between FII And Vocational Workshop?

At first glance, it might seem far-fetched to believe that there is a direct relationship between the Shelby plant of Fiber Industries, Inc., and the Rutherford Vocational Workshop in Spindale.

FII-Shelby is a private enterprise operation geared to mass production of polyester fibers by highly trained personnel working with sophisticated machinery and equipment. The workshop, partially supported by the United Way, provides training and employment for physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped residents of Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties.

The plant's central storeroom inventories about 8,500 different items needed to keep it running. It is from there that the plant-workshop relationship springs. The workshop's current force of about 100 people produces a number of the plant's essentials, aprons

for operators, scabbards for operator knives and scissors, cloth bags for janitorial carts, bulletin boards and picture frames.

Purchases from the workshop are included in a total of about \$7.5 million the Shelby Plant spends annually with Cleveland County suppliers. The workshop's share is not particularly large, relatively speaking. But the prospects are good that the workshop's share of those goods dollars will grow. Ken Crawley, purchasing and stores superintendent at FII-Shelby, has found the workshop to be a first-class supplier that earns the support it gets.

"Everybody needs some help and support, especially in a situation like this. But, we're not running a Santa Claus relationship with them," Crawley says. "There's something very special about the workshop, the job it is doing for our three-county area and the people

who are involved. What makes it work are competitive prices, high quality and pride in the work they do."

Buddle J. Hewitt, director of the workshop, agrees.

"It has been a long, hard struggle to get people to accept the fact that handicapped people have a place in society as useful, productive citizens," Hewitt says. "It has been only in the past 50 years that we have moved positively to help them, and we've made more progress in the last five than in the other 45 put together."

"A workshop such as this one, which has strong community support in all three counties, gives the handicapped individual tremendous initiative. We use work as therapy. Our people are earning a good wage, and they are paying their own way. They are supplying useful goods and services, and they aren't totally dependent on so-

ciety for support.

"They know why they're here — to learn, to produce, to be self-sustaining to the fullest possible extent."

The Rutherford Vocational Workshop is one of 54 member organizations in the North Carolina Association of Sheltered Workshops. It's one of 33 such organizations in the state with adult developmental programs. It has one of the strongest records in North Carolina in the training of handicapped people and placing them in competitive jobs in business and industry, averaging 33 for each of the past six years.

Hewitt, current president of the state association, has no illusions about what he's up against.

"There's a connotation to a place like this that a lot of people don't like. They tend to think of it as an extension of Broughton Hospital or something like that. Among the clients (the handicapped per-

sonnel), there's some difficulty in getting some of them to take outside jobs for which they're qualified. For many of them, it's the first place ever for affection, attention and discipline.

"But it's our job as a staff to create awareness of the potential of handicapped people and of the workshop. It's our responsibility to learn how to do various things, then to teach others and to create the enthusiasm and the initiative to take an outside job. We have failures, of course, and some of our people will be here the rest of their lives. But when they fail, we feel as if we have failed, and we start all over."

Currently, the workshop has training and production programs in sewing, woodworking, furniture refinishing, basketmaking, bobbin-stripping, leatherwork and driver education for the handicapped. There is no charge to the handicapped who are placed in

the workshop's programs. Their wages are derived from contracts for their goods and services. There are 72 current contracts and Hewitt is looking for more. He does the looking, because there isn't a sales force.

"We can do all the training in the world and create the most enthusiasm possible, but it's no good without contracts," Hewitt says. "I believe most people really care about the handicapped, but so many of them are just not aware of what can be done. The contracts with Fiber Industries are good examples of what can result from awareness of what our people can do."

Crawley concurs with Hewitt's latter observation. He first learned of the 10-year-old workshop's potential through an associate at the Shelby plant. The first contract, still active, is for aprons and scabbards formerly purchased from a shoe shop in Salisbury. The

cloth bags for janitorial carts has been bought in the past from a company in Tennessee. The list of contracts has grown steadily.

"We're not the workshop's largest customer, by any measure," Crawley says. "We may never be, but the relationship is growing. They do good work."



**WORKSHOP PRODUCT** — Buddie J. Hewitt (left) and Ken Crawley examine an apron produced for the Shelby Plant of Fiber Industries, Inc., by Marsha Earp of the Rutherford Vocational Workshop in Spindale. Hewitt is director of the workshop and Crawley is purchasing and stores superintendent at FII-Shelby.

## Broyhill Fights Big Governmental Budget

By Congressman James T. Broyhill

Last September, the Congress approved a record-breaking spending ceiling of \$413 billion for fiscal year 1977. This is far above what then-President Ford had recommended and far in excess of estimated revenues.

I strongly opposed the budget resolution at that time because of my grave concern over the effect the additional spending and \$50 billion deficit would have on inflation. Now we are witnessing the spectacle of the Congress, at the urging of a new President, scrapping the spending plan adopted last fall and increasing spending by another \$20 billion.

The new budget process, whereby strict spending ceilings are adopted prior to the beginning of a new fiscal year, is on trial. The purpose of the new budget process, which I had a hand in setting up, was to establish some discipline over the irresponsible and excessive spending habits of the Congress. Instead of demonstrating some discipline, the majority is raising the spending levels halfway through the fiscal year. It's obvious they can't make a budget and live by it like most American families have to do.

The resolution increases the deficit for this current fiscal year (1977) by \$20 billion, as a result of a quick-fix tax rebate, a public service and a public works job program, all of which have proven in the past to be ineffective in reducing unemployment. Indeed, the jobs programs proposed by the Congress exceed President Carter's recommendation by \$1.7 billion.

Some believe that a one-shot \$50 tax rebate will significantly improve consumer spending. In all likelihood, our nation's working men and women will use the rebate to pay off existing debts or to pay for increased fuel bills. If a national goal of economic stimulus is to be achieved, I believe it will only occur if the Congress scraps this temporary program and enacts permanent reductions in the tax burden of the American people.

Out of an overall Congressional-stimulus package of \$17.3 billion, the only permanent tax reduc-

tion proposed by the majority and the President's advisors is a small change in the standard deduction, which will only reduce taxes nationally by \$1.2 billion. I believe a substantial permanent tax reduction would aid our economy in three ways: First, it would increase disposable income and consumer buying; Second it would increase the initiative to work by assuring the worker of a large share of the income from his efforts; Third, by directly stimulating investment, the tax cut would produce new, permanent jobs.

The majority's approach is clearly to spend the nation into economic prosperity but, inflation and the accompanying cost-of-living wage increases have pushed Americans into higher and higher tax brackets. As a result, the Federal government receives a larger and larger share of the nation's gross national product. The Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that a one percent increase in the inflation level results in a 1.2 percent increase in government revenues. The big spenders in the Congress have no desire to reduce inflation or taxes, because it would deprive them of their control over an ever-increasing share of the nation's wealth.

Those who advocate the continued philosophy of increased government spending would be wise to heed the words of England's Prime Minister Callaghan, who recently observed, "We (in Britain) used to think that you could spend your way out of recession. I tell you in all candor that that option no longer exists. If ever it did exist, it only worked by injecting bigger doses of inflation into the economy followed by higher levels of unemployment. That is the history of the past 20 years." The leader of Britain's labor party has realized his country's mistake — regretfully, the majority of the Congress seems insistent on taking us down that disastrous road Britain followed.

Tax rebates and additional spending on make-work jobs programs are not the answer to our economic problems. We can get our economy moving again. We can achieve increased employment and hold down inflation. These goals must be achieved through a permanent tax reduction.

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