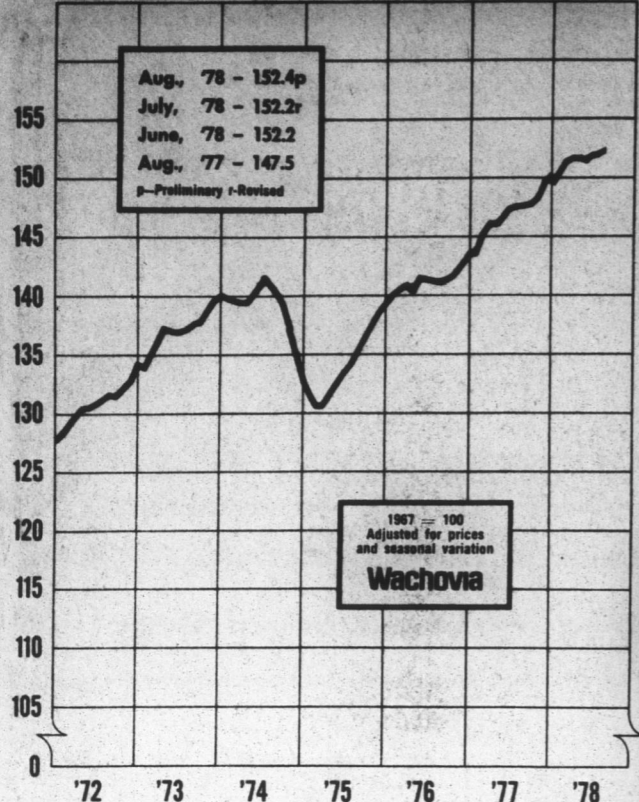


North Carolina Business Index



Business Activity Up

The level of business activity in North Carolina rose modestly during August, according to the Wachovia Business Index. The index registered 152.4 for the month, a percentage gain of 0.1 per cent above the revised July level. The business activity level was 3.3 per cent above the level of August, 1977.

Non-farm employment was down marginally from July reflecting slight employment declines in both the manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors. Durable goods employment was down marginally from July reflecting slight employment declines in both the manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors. Durable goods employment rose 0.5 per cent in August, while non-durable goods industries dipped 0.6 per cent. A gain in the average workweek offset the loss in manufacturing employment to keep manufacturing manhours stable for the month. Average hourly earnings in manufacturing industries were up 1.1 per cent.

In non-manufacturing sectors, employment in trade, services and construction showed gains, while government employment decreased slightly

during August. The gain in construction employment stood out at 7.1 per cent above the year ago level.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.2 per cent in August compared to 4.1 per cent in July. The national rate for August was 5.9 per cent, compared to 6.2 per cent in July. The unadjusted unemployment rate for North Carolina was 3.7 per cent in August.

Car and truck sales both rose in August. Year to date 182,741 cars have while truck sales have totaled 62,185 for the first eight months of 1978.

Mrs. Smithson Is Chairperson

Mrs. Margaret Smithson of Tyner has been named Mental Health Bellringer chairperson for the October, 1978, campaign, announced Ludie H. White, president of the Mental Health Association in North Carolina.

"The Mental Health Association is the largest citizens' voluntary advocacy organization in the United States fighting mental illness and promoting mental health," said Mrs. White.

Since the organization is non-profit and non-governmental, its entire support must come from contributions such as those to be collected in October.

The original and continuing purposes of the Association are to:

- improve attitudes toward mental illness and the mentally ill through public education;
- improve services for the mentally ill; and
- work for the prevention of mental and emotional illness and the promotion of mental health.

Through the social action and public education programs the Association helps to assure that appropriate funds are available to support public mental health services in North Carolina, and that laws are passed to protect the rights of the mentally ill person to humane and dignified treatment.

Report From Washington By Congressman Jones

By Congressman Walter B. Jones
After serving four terms in the North Carolina State Legislature and seven terms in the United States House of Representatives, I have come to one conclusion, that if the last two weeks of any legislative session could be confined to non-controversial, and in some cases insignificant, legislation, this could avoid the pitfalls of important legislation being pushed through at a time when the membership is in a state of urgency to reach the

proposed adjournment date. As many of you have heard, it has been announced that the 95th Congress will adjourn sine die, if possible, on October 14, leaving, after the week-end of September 30, only two weeks to conclude some most important legislation including the energy bill, tax reform, and two or more important appropriations bills. In addition, during the remaining two weeks there will be 3 1/2 days on which there will be no votes recorded due to religious holidays, as well as the

observance of Columbus Day on October 9. Referring to so-called panic legislation, the House last week by a rather large margin approved a bill to give the Attorney General's office the right to screen federal judge nominees, of which an additional 117 will be appointed sometime in the near future. Most members of the North Carolina delegation voted against this bill but the Constitution clearly gives the President of the United States the right to nominate federal judges, and the United States Senate

the duty to confirm or reject. We concluded that if the President desired a screening committee, then it would be his prerogative, and his only, to create same. On Monday, September 25, the House considered and acted on 26 different bills. Under the suspension calendar this is the process where the legislation is not supposed to be controversial. Yet one of these so-called innocuous bills carried an authorization of over \$2 billion. I am delighted to say that the House rejected this bill with

the very valid reason that one with such a mammoth appropriation should have been thoroughly debated and, if necessary, amended in certain parts. Under the suspension rule, no amendments can be offered. Since a few years ago two or three Members were accused of certain immoral acts, to wit, Congressman Hayes, Mills, etc., there has been a concerted effort to pass all sorts of reform acts regarding the House rules. Here again last week the House approved a bill known as Ethics in

Government. This not only covers the legislative branch, but requires financial disclosures by members of the executive and judicial branches. Certainly no one condones or approves immoral or irregular financial transactions by any public official, but we have enacted so many reforms in the last two and a half years that it has almost taken a full-time employee to comply with all the reports required.

"Time is the greatest innovator." Francis Bacon

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