

For Hospital, Medical Bills

# North Carolina's Medicaid

## Program Paid \$391.5 Million

RALEIGH - North Carolina's Medicaid program paid hospital and other medical bills amounting to \$391.5 million during fiscal year 1979-80, and if it had not been for the efforts of the Third Party Recovery Section in the Division of Medical Assistance of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, the payments would have been

over \$400 million. During the same year, the section, with the co-operation of county social services departments, health care providers, attorneys, and insurance companies, recovered \$8.7 million in Medicaid payments from insurance companies and other sources.

"This was a significant increase over the \$5.6 million collected the previous year which was the first full fiscal year the section was in operation. The budgeted cost to operate the section was only \$150,000 during 1979-80. This means for every dollar it cost the state to operate this section, it returned \$57 to the state," said Donald Best, head of the Third Party Recovery Section.

Medicaid, a program to provide health care for eligible poor people, is a federal program administered by states. In North Carolina, the majority of the funds that finance Medicaid are federal with the state and counties paying the remainder of the cost. County social services departments determine eligibility for the program based on federal and state requirements.

"Due to the continued escalation of Medicaid costs across the nation, the federal government issued a regulation that Medicaid would no longer pay for medical care that was the responsibility of other individuals, institutions, corporations, or public or private agencies. Medicaid became the 'Payor of last resort' after this regulation was adopted," Best said.

To accomplish this in North Carolina, the General Assembly passed a law in 1977 that became General Statute 108-61.4, according to Best. "This statute, as amended, gives the state an assignment of benefits for all Medicaid recipients, and it gives the state the right of subrogation. This means that the

state can now collect from responsible parties that money which is paid health care providers for care of Medicaid recipients that should have been paid by someone else."

He indicated that the majority of the Medicaid funds recovered were from insurance companies. "Some eligible Medicaid recipients also have small health insurance policies that provide limited benefits. In other cases where Medicaid recipients are involved in accidents, such as an automobile mishap, if the other party involved is liable, we seek settlements from their insurance companies."

He cited an example of a 35 year old single man who was involved in an automobile accident and received injuries that left him totally disabled. "The accident happened in 1977 and the man is still confined to a nursing home with Medicaid paying the bills. The other party involved was determined at fault. After the insurance settlement, we recovered \$35,000 from his insurance company."

He cited an example of a 35 year old single man who was involved in an automobile accident and received injuries that left him totally disabled. "The accident happened in 1977 and the man is still confined to a nursing home with Medicaid paying the bills. The other party involved was determined at fault. After the insurance settlement, we recovered \$35,000 from his insurance company."

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These college housemates find that team work often pays off - especially when it comes to something as important as preparing food. From left to right are Kevin Davis, a sophomore Computer Operation major at Central Piedmont Community College; James Graves,

freshman Business Management major at Johnson C. Smith University; Dereck Raheem McKinnie, freshman Accounting major at Johnson C. Smith; and Dwight Bostic, junior Political Science major at Johnson C. Smith University. (Photo by Teresa Burns)

### W. Charlotte Alumni Aren't Sitting Idly?

West Charlotte Alumni aren't just sitting idly around. They are joining forces and planning some breathtaking events.

West Charlotte's classes of 41-45 will hold their regular meeting 5 p.m. Saturday, February 7, at the Trojan's Club House, 1828 LaSalle St. Public relations chairman, Robert Simmons would like to remind everyone to bring their photos.

The West Charlotte

Alumni Association, Classes of 1946 and 1947, is planning a trip to New Orleans, La. Members are planning this reunion from Monday, June 22, through Sunday, June 28.

Transportation will be by bus to the city of New Orleans. All seats on the buses will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cars may be left at Johnson C. Smith University where the security guard

will take care of them.

This is a package deal - \$275 per person in rooms of double occupancy (two to four persons). For those desiring single rooms the price will be \$355.

Deadline for payment is April 15. A penalty of \$10 will be charged for late registration and it is possible that bus seats will not be available. No refunds will be given after May 1. Ice, chasers, games and cups will be provided by the organization.

### Earnings Statements Due

GREENSBORO - Taxpayers who would like to file their Federal tax return early but are not furnished a W-2 earnings statement by their employer can take steps to speed up the receipt of the W-2, the Internal Revenue Service says.

Generally, a taxpayer can expect the W-2 by February 2, 1981 from every employer he or she had in 1980, the IRS stated. After February 2, if the

W-2 has not been furnished, taxpayers should contact their employer and request the form. If the form has not been received by February 15, the taxpayer should call the IRS office on the toll-free telephone number for assistance in obtaining the W-2.

Taxpayers who receive incorrect statements should contact the employer as soon as possible and request a corrected statement.



William J. Kennedy III  
...NCMLIC president

### Kennedy Joins

### Quaker Oats

### Board

CHICAGO - Casper W. Weinberger, President Ronald Reagan's nominee for Secretary of Defense, resigned effective today from the Board of Directors of The Quaker Oats Company.

Elected to succeed Mr. Weinberger is William J. Kennedy III, President, CEO, and Chairman of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Kennedy, 58, heads one of the leading predominantly black-managed financial institutions in the United States. A graduate of Virginia State College, he received two MBA degrees - one from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of The University of Pennsylvania and the other from New York University.

Mr. Kennedy joined North Carolina Mutual in 1950, became Controller in 1959, Senior Vice President in 1970, and was appointed President in 1972.

Mr. Kennedy is a director of several corporations, including Mobil Corp., Pfizer, Inc., and the Urban National Corporation. He has also been active in numerous professional and charitable organizations.

Mr. Weinberger, 63, was formerly Vice President and General Counsel of the Bechtel Corp., San Francisco.

### Curry's Insurance Advisory Clinic



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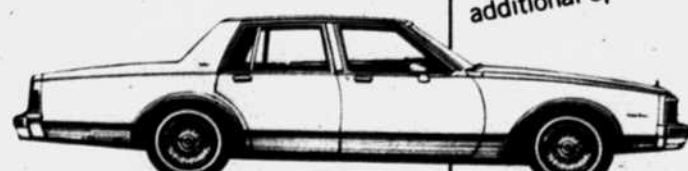


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Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices including Wire Wheel Covers, Halogen Headlamps, Sport Mirrors, Pin Striping, and Deluxe Luggage Compartment Trim.)  
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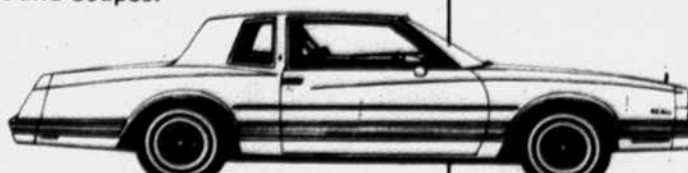


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\*\$10 million total value based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices of options available for giveaway.

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