

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Work-week curtailments, lay-offs hit N.C. industries

by Bruce Henderson  
Staff Writer

A slow business season, high inventories and growing consumer resistance to high prices have resulted in mass lay-offs and work-week curtailments in many North Carolina industries. Textile mills, the state's largest employers, have been particularly troubled.

About 26,800 workers received unemployment compensation benefits in September, more than double the 11,906 unemployed in September 1973. This 1.6 per cent of the work force is still below the national average, which is pushing six per cent.

Highest jobless rates in the state were reported in the textile, construction and furniture industries.

North Carolina's number one industry,

textiles, is in its severest slump. The state's 6,300 unemployed textile workers in 1974 through August led the Southeast. The situation worsened last month when another 4,500 lost jobs.

Burlington Mills, the country's largest textile producer, recently closed several of its North Carolina plants for one week. Burlington officials announced Tuesday the permanent closing of its hosiery plant in Wadesboro. Contacted last week, a Burlington spokesman was reluctant to discuss future lay-offs or closures.

"There is some curtailment taking place, but nothing of major proportions here," the Greensboro spokesman said. "As a means of maintaining inventories at proper levels in line with market demands, for example, several Burlington House fabric plants in Alamance County are closed this week." The Alamance closing involved 1,500 of

the county's 4,500 Burlington workers.

In Wadesboro, officials announced that the Burlington Hosiery Company plant there will begin gradual lay-offs in about two weeks. The plant will be closed altogether by February. About 300 workers will be jobless.

Another Burlington plant in Gastonia will also be closed, it was announced Tuesday. The Burlington Love cotton yarn factory there will displace about 200 workers.

Plants closing temporarily include Skyland Textiles, Inc., which closed plants all over the nation for one week, two weeks ago.

Spindale Mills in Spindale has placed part of its operation on a four-day, 32-hour work week recently. No overtime is available for workers.

Cannon Mills has cut back to a five-day work week, effective last month.

Fieldcrest Mills in Eden recently shut down several of its plants for one-week periods.

Textile, Inc. has reduced operations by about 25 per cent, shifting from a six to a five-day week in its Gaston County plants.

Slow market sales and seasonal slumps were blamed for curtailments by several textile manufacturers contacted by the *Daily Tar Heel*. As a result of the poor sales, inventories have been growing constantly. Not until recently have the bloated inventories been decreased by lowered production—four-day work weeks, shortened hours and temporary layoffs.

"Sales have been a little bit off," said personnel director Clarence Hart of Skyland Textile, Morganton. "This is hopefully a one-shot deal; we chose to shut down for one week rather than go on a four-day work week."

Each of the officials contacted by the *DTH* indicated that emphasis in the immediate future will be on cutting back bulging inventories. The textile firms are attempting to place their operations on an even keel by balancing existing inventories with current sales trends.

Some 2,700 construction workers were unemployed this September, up from last year's 700. Slack markets and a shortage of upholstery fabric have forced minor cutbacks in many furniture plants.

The combined area of Orange, Wake and Durham counties reported 3,900 persons, or 1.8 per cent of the total work force, unemployed in September 1973. This September the figure rose to 5,200 or 2.3 per cent, somewhat above the state average.

What about the worker, who must bear the brunt of the lay-offs and cutbacks in working hours and pay?

Average weekly earnings for textile workers in the state dropped from \$124.66 in August to \$122.82 in September, down nearly \$2 in one month.

Unemployment insurance benefits are available if the worker satisfies several requirements, said Phil Skinner of the Chapel Hill Employment Security Commission. The applicant must be actively seeking a job, he must have worked for a specified period before losing his job, and his former employer must have been covered by unemployment insurance.

The number of benefits depend on the applicant's work record and his earnings while employed. Benefits per week usually are about one-half of pay while employed.

That means the average textile worker, if fired or laid off, will receive roughly \$61.41, half of his September average of \$122.82.

## Prosecutor named to study tax claims against Edmisten

by Dollie L. Smith  
United Press International

RALEIGH—A special prosecutor has been named to study a report by Republican state revenue officials that could lead to the prosecution of Democratic attorney general nominee Rufus Edmisten for tax law violations.

Wake County Superior Court Judge James Bailey Wednesday appointed Raleigh attorney Howard Manning Sr. as the special prosecutor after District Attorney Burley Mitchell withdrew from the case because of a possible conflict of interest.

Mitchell said the report, turned over to him by revenue commissioner J. Howard Coble, a Republican, "is composed of information which, if true, might possibly justify criminal prosecution" of Edmisten.

Disclosure of the report's existence brought quick charges of harassment from the Edmisten campaign staff. Democratic party headquarters put out a statement from chairman James Sugg saying "There can be no legal basis for indictment of Rufus Edmisten on tax charges. The whole affair smacks more of persecution than prosecution."

The revenue report, the contents of which Mitchell said by law were confidential, grew out of a controversy surrounding Edmisten's admission he paid Virginia, not North Carolina, income taxes while serving as an aide to U.S. Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., and living in a Washington suburb. During his 10-year tenure as a Senate aide, he claimed Watauga County as his legal residence and paid property taxes there and in Dare County.

Republican Attorney General James H. Carson Jr., running against Edmisten, has said Edmisten violated North Carolina tax laws by not filing income taxes here during the period. Carson made his charge after a Carson campaign worker asked Edmisten about his tax situation during a student gathering at Chapel Hill in September.

Because he had vied with Edmisten for the Democratic nomination for attorney general and since has served as a campaign advisor to Edmisten, Mitchell said some might view his handling of the case as conflict of interest.

Mitchell said he believed he could make a decision as to whether to prosecute "in good faith, without bias and based solely on the laws of this state." But he said any decision he might make could be viewed as politically motivated.

With elections less than a week away, Mitchell said he was not sure whether the case could be resolved before then.

Charlie Smith, Edmisten's campaign manager, charged that the timing of the

revenue report "indicates that it is an obvious partisan political move to further harass Rufus Edmisten."

Smith released a statement in the absence of Edmisten who was in a whirlwind tour of eastern counties Wednesday. The statement was quickly refuted by Coble, who said the entire case had been handled in a non-partisan manner.

"In the entire history of the Department of Revenue you will find only a few isolated cases where criminal charges have been brought," Smith said.

Coble said that in the three months ending Aug. 31, the department had referred 15 cases to prosecutors for possible action. Eight, he said, were actually prosecuted.



Ron Ziegler addresses press

## Doctors say Nixon somewhat improved

by Terrance W. McGarry  
United Press International

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Former President Richard M. Nixon was described by his doctors Wednesday as improved but still in critical condition, suffering pain, restlessness and nausea.

Ronald Ziegler, former White House press secretary, said Nixon almost died Tuesday afternoon but was pulled out of shock by fast action from his doctors.

The 61-year-old chief executive has a strong will to live and the strength and courage to pull through, Ziegler said.

Nixon was under watch around the clock at Long Beach Memorial Hospital with emergency resuscitation equipment at his bedside.

A midmorning medical bulletin said Nixon appeared to be in more stable

condition Wednesday after a sudden deterioration of his circulatory system and internal bleeding following the operation on his groin to prevent movement of blood clots.

"It appears that his internal bleeding has stopped," the bulletin said.

"His vital signs are stable," Ziegler, one of the few aides to remain with Nixon after his resignation Aug. 9, talked with newsmen briefly at the hospital at noon.

The doctors said Nixon was in pain and experiencing pain and occasional nausea.

Lungren said he had talked with President Ford's White House physician, Dr. William Lukash, Tuesday night and Wednesday morning and that Lukash "expressed President Ford's deep concern over Mr. Nixon's condition."

"He asked me to convey to the former

president and Mrs. Nixon that his prayers are for his full and complete recovery," Lungren said.

Mrs. Pat Nixon and daughters Julie Eisenhower and Tricia Cox were at Long Beach Memorial Hospital Wednesday. Mrs. Betty Ford, who recently underwent surgery for breast cancer, called Mrs. Nixon Wednesday to express her best wishes in a time of severe strain, the White House disclosed.

Norm Nager, a hospital spokesman, briefed newsmen Tuesday night after the sudden disclosure that Nixon had sunk into critical condition from shock and hemorrhaging and failure of the circulatory system.

"The doctors are fighting to save that man's life tonight," Nager said at that time. In answer to a question Wednesday, Nager said the doctors still "are obviously very greatly concerned." He said Lungren spent the night with the former President.

Nixon has been given transfusions totalling three pints of blood, it was disclosed, and may be given more.

The medical bulletin signed by Lungren and Hickman issued at 9:30 a.m. PST said: "The former president of the United States is still on the critical list. His condition, however, is more stable this morning and he shows some improvement."

"Former President Nixon did have some interrupted sleep during the night. He is receiving medication for pain, restlessness and occasional nausea and also is being administered intravenous and antibiotic therapy. Hopefully, we can resume anticoagulation therapy when we feel safe that bleeding from surgery is no longer a danger."

"Mr. Nixon continues to be under intensive care. Specially trained critical care nurses are with him around the clock. All emergency resuscitation equipment for any contingency is at his bedside."

The doctors said a nasogastric tube has been inserted to prevent distention of his abdomen.

"It was ordered because Mr. Nixon has some paralytic ileus, that is a partial paralysis of normal movement of the gastrointestinal tract. This frequently occurs after retroperitoneal bleeding has occurred."

## All-campus forum on SG begins

by Art Eisenstadt  
Staff Writer

"Tonight's session is being held with the intent to open up Student Government as if it were a sandwich and see how the different pieces fit together."

With that remark, Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies President Keith Kapp opened the all-campus Forum on Student Government Tuesday night.

Student Body President Marcus Williams summed up the general attitude of the governmental leaders when he said, "Student Government has a long way to go, but we are fast moving in the right direction."

Tuesday night's speakers included Williams, Student Attorney General Nita Mitchell, Undergraduate Court Chairman Charles A. Atkins, Campus Governing Council (CGC) Speaker Johnny Kaleel and George Blackburn, a student in the Institute of Government and Philanthropic Society member.

Kapp opened the forum, which was attended by about 25 students, by explaining it was a result of a resolution issued before the Di-Phi Senate last September.

At that time, Di-Phi voted to recognize SG for the first time in 11 years. After Kapp's short introductory remarks, Blackburn presented a brief history of student-controlled government at UNC, and the SG personnel described their respective branches of government.

Blackburn said that, since the founding of the University in 1795, student self-government has served three main purposes—to fulfill a curricular supportive role, induce a system of self-discipline and promote development of student leadership.

Until 1889, all students were required to join either the Dialectic or Philanthropic Societies so they, in effect, constituted student government, Blackburn said.

From 1889 until World War II, the campus had a separate and distinct student government whose main responsibilities were enforcing the Honor and Campus Codes and overseeing the dues of the various campus organizations.

The first Student Legislature was created in 1932 and was essentially a forum for ideas, Blackburn said.

In 1946, the UNC Board of Trustees replaced the dues system with a block Student Activities Fee to be paid by every student, and Student Legislature was given the responsibility to allocate these funds.

The Student Legislature system collapsed during the late 1960's. As reasons for this, Blackburn cited the doubling of the University's size (from 9,000 students to 19,000) and the election of supposedly radical student activists to the legislature.

Blackburn said that while these activists did not disrupt the proceeding themselves, they, together with what he felt was decreasing *Daily Tar Heel* coverage of SG, led to a breakdown of confidence in the system.

Blackburn said there have been significant reforms in two branches of student SG within recent years, with the substitution of CGC for the old Student Legislature in 1972 and the

imposition of the Instrument for Judicial Reform this year.

He urged a close examination of CGC before next January, when students will vote in a referendum to decide whether to retain CGC or bring back the larger Student Legislature.

Williams emphasized SG's tangible achievements in his address about the executive branch.

He listed three functions of the executive branch:

- To oversee the general operation of SG. "This is the least physical and fortunately, the least time-consuming function," Williams said.
- To provide services for the student body. Williams called this function "the most respected part of Student Government."
- To represent the student body in dealing with the University administration and community.

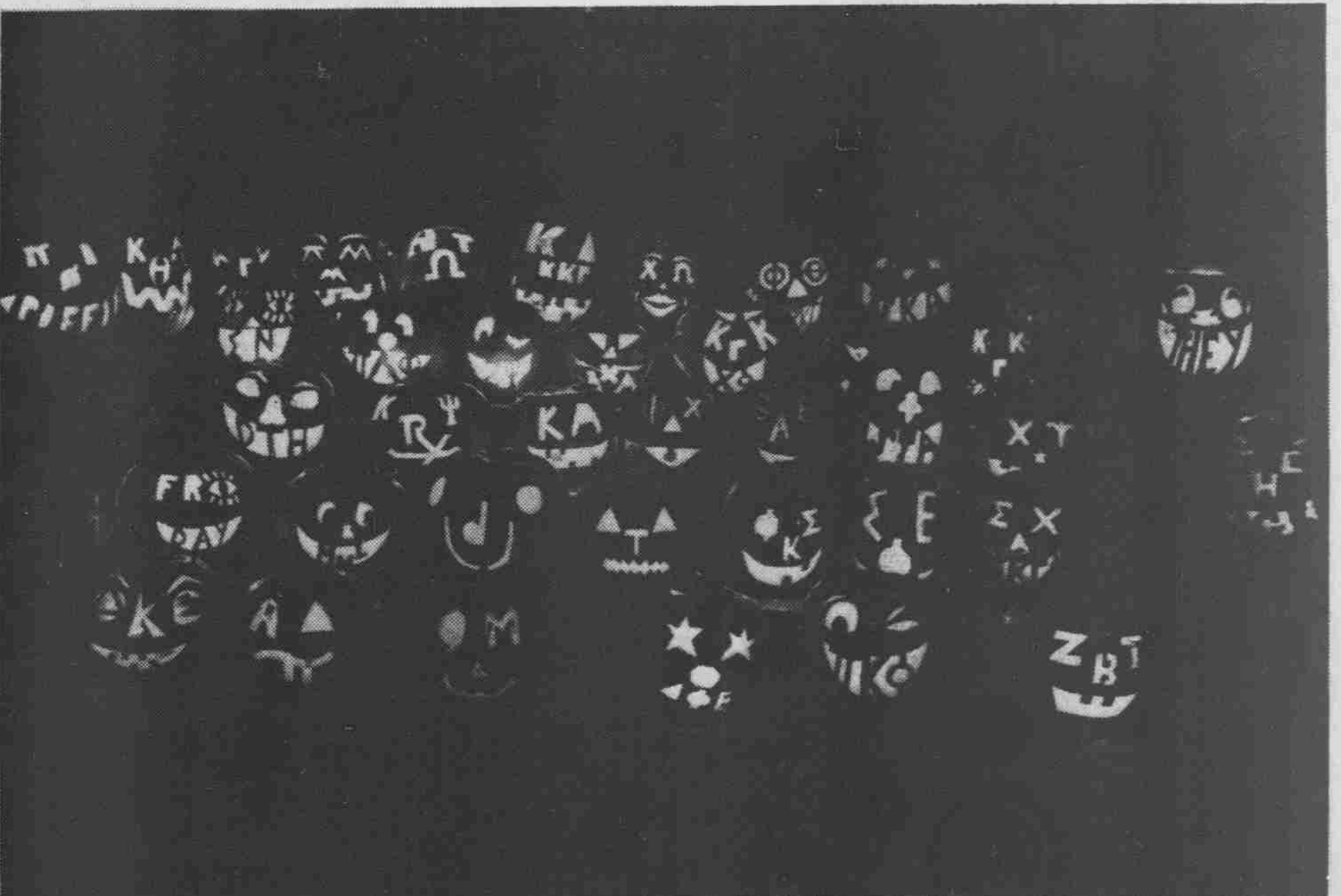
"I think we are gaining in respect for the Student Government," Williams said. "At present, one of the primary obstacles we must overcome is the ever-present—even overemphasized—student unawareness."

Mitchell and Atkins discussed the judicial branch. Both heavily emphasized support for the new Instrument of Judicial Reform.

Mitchell said her office has the multiple responsibilities of prosecuting student violations of the Honor Code while at the same time informing the student body about the code, providing defense counsel for persons accused of violations and serving as an advisory body on judicial matters for the president's office.

Atkins emphasized the Judicial Reform system in his speech. He said the document represents "what I consider to be a significant improvement in the judicial process," and urged students to familiarize themselves with it.

CGC Speaker Kaleel described the structure of CGC and functions of its committees. "The largest block of time and the majority of all the work done by CGC is spent in the allocation of Student Activities Fees," Kaleel said.



Staff photo by Bill Wynn

Campus sororities and fraternities display their Halloween pumpkins Wednesday on the Kappa Kappa Gamma house front steps

## PIRG told it cannot solicit student votes door-to-door

by Vernon Loeb  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), which is seeking approval by the UNC Board of Governors to become a recognized campus organization, was recently told by the housing department they could not solicit votes door-to-door on campus.

A student vote Nov. 6 will determine whether the PIRG issue will go before the UNC Board of Governors.

"We've told them no because they are not a campus group," University housing director Dr. James Condie said Tuesday. "A

board of governors policy prohibits door-to-door solicitation by non-recognized organizations."

The Housing Department did allow PIRG to set up partisan solicitation stations Monday and Tuesday nights in dorm lobbies, Kay House, a PIRG student representative said Tuesday.

Beginning Wednesday, House said, "Some Campus Governing Council (CGC) members, who have the right to contact their constituents, are sponsoring strictly educational campaigns to make sure students know what PIRG is."

"CGC members and PIRG representatives are carrying on these

campaigns with particular effort on the part of PIRG representatives to be nonpartisan," House said, adding that all but two CGC districts have PIRG educational campaigns.

PIRG will need a majority of the votes cast in next week's election to go to the Board of Governors.

If PIRG does become approved by the board, their recognition will mean a \$3 increase in student fees.

A statewide nonprofit organization, PIRG would absorb and possibly strengthen Student Consumer Action Union programs. PIRG has established chapters at Duke, Wake Forest, St. Andrew's and Davidson.