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a few nits. thanks.

NORTH CAROLINA**STATE ISSUES****JOBS**

North Carolina's unemployment rate in May was 5.3 percent, the same percentage as April, and down from 6.5 percent from May 2003. North Carolina gained 13,400 jobs in May 2004. Overall, jobs have been returning to the state since January 2004; the State has seen an increase of 49,000 jobs since this time.¹

Of the jobs North Carolina has lost, the textile and furniture manufacturing industries have been the most hurt. In July 2003, the Pillowtex Corporation, a large textile manufacturer in Kannapolis, laid off 4,800 workers in North Carolina, the largest layoff in state history. Congressman Robin Hayes (R-08), who represents the district where Pillowtex is located, and Senator Elizabeth Dole (R, NC) worked closely with the Administration to secure Federal resources for workers who lost their jobs. In September 2003, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao announced a \$20 million National Emergency Grant for North Carolina to help laid-off workers with healthcare coverage and job retraining. Secretary Chao also spearheaded an Interagency Working Group of nine Federal agencies to help make expertise and resources available to the community. In an unprecedented showing of Federal support, these nine Federal agencies had representatives at a temporary JobLink Resource Center at the Pillowtex Plant in Kannapolis on four consecutive Tuesdays to provide information and assistance to individuals and community officials.

Some leaders in the North Carolina furniture and textile manufacturing industries have criticized the Administration for not addressing what they view as unfair overseas competition from China, particularly with regard to enforcing existing trade agreements. In November 2003, the Department of Commerce announced the Administration would impose limits on the importation of Chinese-made bras, dressing gowns, and knit fabric.

In February, North Carolina Senate candidate Congressman Richard Burr (R, NC-05) said he believes the President should fire Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Greg Mankiw for comments he made about outsourcing in a press conference.

On March 26, U.S. textile leaders announced the formation of a new advocacy group, the National Council of Textile Organizations. The group will try to unify the industry by bringing together a diverse group of textile-related industries to lobby Washington on trade and manufacturing issues. Allen Gant, a North Carolina textile executive, is the organization's chairman.

NORTH CAROLINA**TOBACCO BUYOUT**

North Carolina is the largest tobacco-producing state in the Nation. In June, by a vote of 251 to 178, the U.S. House passed Republican-backed legislation that would end the government's Depression-era tobacco program and provide \$9.6 billion in payouts to growers and quota holders. The buyout plan was included in a wide-ranging \$155 billion corporate tax bill. The legislation did not call for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of tobacco. A similar corporate tax bill passed in the U.S. Senate did not include the tobacco buyout. The House version of the buyout may face a tougher time in the Senate because it does not include FDA regulation.

Senator Dole supports the buyout. Senate candidate Congressman Richard Burr, whose district includes R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, stepped down as Vice Chairman on the House Energy and Commerce Committee as a sign to North Carolina tobacco growers that he would not oppose a tobacco buyout. Congressman Burr's decision stemmed from Democrat criticisms that he had delayed buyout legislation as Vice Chair of the Committee. Burr sees the passage of the buyout as a key to his winning the Senate seat in North Carolina.

Senator John Kerry (D, MA) has said he favors a tobacco buyout with FDA regulation, a position that is popular with farmers in tobacco producing states. Your Administration has said it is willing to work with Congress on the tobacco buyout.

U.S. NAVY LANDING FIELD

In September 2003, the Navy announced its intention to build a practice landing field in rural Washington County (northeast North Carolina) for F/A-18 Super Hornet jet fighters based at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Virginia Beach, Virginia. The jets, practicing for aircraft carrier duty, will make 32,000 touch-and-go maneuvers a year at the new landing field. The field would be five miles from the Pocosin refuge, where more than 100,000 waterfowl (mostly large snow geese and tundra swans) spend their winters.

Country singer and FarmAid President Willie Nelson called on you to "intervene and direct the U.S. Navy to work with state and local authorities [in a manner] that is mutually acceptable and beneficial to North Carolinians and all Americans." In addition to being concerned for wildlife, he also indicated in the letter that nearly one hundred farm families and rural residents would be displaced from their homes

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should the landing field be built. Other opponents of the plan say the landing field will endanger wildlife in the area and put pilots at risk for bird strikes.

Senator Dole has praised the Navy's decision, as it will have a positive impact on the local economy and will strengthen the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station.

The Department of the Interior does not agree with the Navy that the landing field should be built. Governor Mike Easley (D) issued a press release asking Department of Commerce Secretary Donald Evans to mediate the dispute. By law, the Secretary of Commerce mediates disputes between the Navy and Interior.

In March, Federal Judge Terrence Boyle, who you will meet with today, halted the plans to build the landing strip while he considers lawsuits that have been brought by conservation groups. On June 30, Judge Boyle heard the Navy's case asking him to reconsider his decision. The Navy wants the Judge to allow it to continue land acquisition for the outlying landing field contending that land purchases would cause no harm to landowners or the environment.

In May, Senate Candidate Richard Burr criticized his Democrat opponent Erskine Bowles for changing his position on the landing field. The Burr campaign cited a March 2002 newspaper article that claimed Bowles supported construction of the field. The Bowles camp claimed Burr took his quote out of context and Bowles has never been in favor of the landing field.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

In March, members of the State Board of Education and officials with the State Department of Public Instruction traveled to Washington, D.C., to express their concerns to the state's congressional delegation about the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). State Superintendent Mike Ward (D) said he wants to use the state's own accountability system rather than the one prescribed by law to meet national standards. He believes the NCLB goals are the right ones but the process has been flawed. He believes the state has a better system, which he wants the flexibility to use. The issue is expected to be addressed during this legislative session.

NORTH CAROLINA**STATE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING**

In November 2003, the State Legislature voted on House and Senate district maps after they were redrawn for the third time. Previous maps had been thrown out by the State Supreme Court. Several Republicans in the Legislature are opposed to the maps because their districts have been combined, potentially resulting in some legislators running against each other in primaries. Several of these legislators are angry with Republican State House Co-Speaker Richard Morgan for agreeing to the plan.

In two opinions last year, the State Supreme Court handed down rules for the Legislature to follow in drawing new districts. Districts must be compact, splitting as few counties as possible, and legislators must abide by the Voting Rights Act when creating districts with substantial numbers of minority voters.

In December 2003, a group of Republican legislators filed a lawsuit challenging the new map. In January, State Superior Court Judge Robert Hobgood upheld a law requiring the State Supreme Court Chief to name three Superior Court judges to consider pending and future redistricting lawsuits. Lawyers for the Republican legislators filed notice of an appeal with the North Carolina Supreme Court. Due to the redistricting battle, the state's May 4 primary was moved to July 20.

The U.S. Department of Justice endorsed North Carolina's proposed new State House and Senate districts in March. Justice Department lawyers said the state can prove the General Assembly's plans for legislative districts will not dilute the power of minority voters.

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15 ELECTORAL VOTES

2004 – OPEN SENATE SEAT

2004 – GOVERNOR EASLEY (D) UP

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STATISTICS

2000 General Election Results
(Presidential):

1996 General Election Results
(Presidential):

	Total Votes	% Won
Dole	1,213,819	49%
Clinton	1,098,297	44%
Perot	167,465	7%

Total Votes % Won

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Bush	1,631,163	56%
Gore	1,257,692	43%
Other	26,135	1%

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**U.S. SENATE:**

- John Edwards (D), 1st term, elected in 1998 with 51%
- Elizabeth Dole (R), 1st term, elected in 2002 with 54%

U.S. HOUSE: 13 Total (7R, 6D)

- Frank Ballance (D-01), 1st term, elected with 64% (retiring in 2004)
- Bob Etheridge (D-02), 4th term, re-elected with 65%
- Walter Jones (R-03), 5th term, re-elected with 91%
- David Price (D-04), 8th full term, 4th consecutive term, re-elected with 61%
- Richard Burr (R-05), 5th term, re-elected with 70%
- Howard Coble (R-06), 10th term, re-elected with 90%
- Mike McIntyre (D-07), 4th term, re-elected with 71%
- Robin Hayes (R-08), 3rd term, re-elected with 54%
- Sue Myrick (R-09), 5th term, re-elected with 72%
- Cass Ballenger (R-10), 10th term, re-elected with 59% (retiring in 2004)
- Charles Taylor (R-11), 7th term, re-elected with 56%
- Melvin Watt (D-12), 6th term, re-elected with 65%
- Brad Miller (D-13), 1st term, elected with 55%

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Michael “Mike” Easley (D), 1st term, elected in 2000 with 52%

Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue (D), 1st term, elected in 2000 with Governor Easley

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall (D), 2nd term, re-elected in 2000 with 54%

Attorney General Roy Cooper, III (D), 1st term, elected in 2000 with 51%

Auditor Ralph Campbell, Jr. (D), 3rd term, re-elected in 2000 with 51%

Treasurer Richard Moore (D), 1st term, elected in 2000 with 55%

Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Ward (D), 2nd term, re-elected in 2000 with 53%

Agriculture Commissioner W. Britt Cobb, Jr. (D)

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Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry (R), 1st term, elected in 2000 with 50%
Insurance Commissioner Jim Long (D), 5th term, re-elected in 2000
with 57%

State House: 120 (61R, 59D)
Co-Speakers: Richard Morgan (R) and Jim Black (D)
Republican Leader: Joe Kiser
Democrat Leader: Joe Hackney

State Senate: 50 (23R, 27D)
President: Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue (D)
Majority Leader: Tony Rand (D)
Minority Leader: James Forrester (R)

STATE PARTY

Chairman: Ferrell Blount
National Committeeman: Jim Cain
National Committeewoman: Linda Shaw

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Estimated Population 2000:

North Carolina: 8,049,313, an increase of 21.4% since 1990
National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

Race/Ethnicity:

North Carolina: 70.2% White, 21.6% African-American, 4.7% Hispanic,
1.4% Asian, 1.2% Native American
National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-
American; 3.6% Asian; 0.9% Native American

Median Age:

North Carolina: 35.3 years (12.0% are 65 years and older)
National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

College Educated:

North Carolina: 22.5%
National: 24.4%

Median Income:

North Carolina: \$39,184
National: \$41,994

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NORTH CAROLINA**Households:**

North Carolina: 68.9% family households; 52.5% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

*(Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau)***YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL**

Event	Date	City
Roundtable and Remarks at Central Piedmont Community College and Bush-Cheney '04 Luncheon	April 5, 2004	Charlotte
Remarks at Centennial of Flight Celebration	December 17, 2003	Kitty Hawk
Bush-Cheney '04 Luncheon and Conversation on the Economy and Job Training	November 7, 2003	Winston-Salem
Address to Marines and Families at Camp Lejeune	April 3, 2003	Jacksonville
Dole for Senate Rally	October 24, 2002	Charlotte
Malpractice Reform event at High Point Hospital and Dole Fundraiser	July 25, 2002	High Point; Greensboro
Airport Welcome and Fort Bragg Visit	March 15, 2002	Fayetteville
Welfare reform event at Chamber of Commerce and Dole Fundraiser	February 27, 2002	Charlotte
Citizen Preparedness Message Event; Meeting with Grassroots Leaders; and Roundtable at the Center for Community Safety	January 30, 2002	Winston-Salem
Tour and Remarks at Concord Middle School and North Carolina Welcome	April 11, 2001	Concord; Greenville

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	City
Burr for Senate Fundraiser	May 17, 2003	Winston-Salem
Burr for Senate Fundraiser and	September 12, 2003	Raleigh Charlotte

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Hayes for Congress Fundraiser		
Dole for Senate Fundraiser	October 29, 2002	Wilmington
Southern Republican Leadership Conference and Dole Fundraiser	June 28, 2002	Charlotte; Raleigh

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² *Anderson Group poll*; conducted 6/14 – 6/15 for nominee Bill Cobey surveyed 500 GOP registered voters with a +/- 4.4% margin of error.

³ *Research 2000 poll*; conducted 6/13 – 6/16 surveyed 600 likely voters with a margin of error +/- 4%