

hosiery day at the Legislature

hosiery, textile executives to legislators: 'we're changing'



More than 50 lawmakers and hosiery and textile manufacturers gathered for the annual Hosiery Day Breakfast.

Some 70 North Carolina senators and representatives heard the message loud and clear: hosiery and textiles are industries that are viable and providing over 130,000 jobs in the state.

The occasion was the annual "Hosiery and Textiles Day at the Legislature" recently which featured a breakfast and visits with leaders in both chambers of the General Assembly.

The event was coordinated by Paul Fogleman, lobbyist and director of the Hosiery Governmental Affairs Council. Darrell Frye, chairman of the council and executive vice president and CFO of Harriss and Covington Hosiery in High Point led the industry contingency of 16 hosiery manufacturers, yarn and textile representatives and personnel with the Center for Applied Textile Technology in Belmont and the Hosiery Technology Center.

In his comments to scores of legislators at the breakfast session, Frye outlined the challenges facing the industry in the global environment. "We are smaller than we were five years ago, but we are leaner, more effi-



Ed Wilburn, SECOND FROM LEFT, with Wellman Inc's Research and Development

cient and stronger," he insisted.

Frye thanked legislators for their support of the Hosiery Technology Center over the past years and insisted that the new working relationship between the hosiery and the textile centers will bring even greater benefits.

B.J. Frye, president of Conover Plastics Inc. which supplies hangers to vertical manufacturers, noted that the hosiery center protects thousands of jobs among suppliers by helping the hosiery producers to remain competitive.

Ed Wilburn, of Wellman Inc., a yarn producer, also underscored the importance of the textile center as a resource for development of new products. Wellman has provided sophisticated testing equipment for the textile center at Belmont valued at over \$3 million.

Jim Halvorsen of Clayson Knitting Inc. related the value of the hosiery center to

companies that are required to add value to their products--either in structure or delivery services. Halvorsen, a member of the HTC Advisory Board, was among the first to encourage the center to develop a testing program.

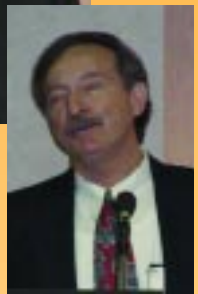
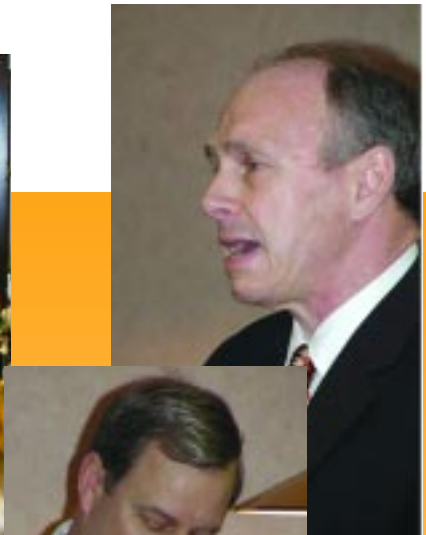
Sen. David Hoyle of Gaston County assured the delegation of hosiery and textile manufacturers that funding for both entities will be included in the recurring appropriations for 2005-2006.

House Speaker Jim Black, a longtime supporter of the Hosiery Technology Center, opened the meeting with: "What can we (the Legislature) do to help you?"

"Get the word out that we are not a dying industry," textile and hosiery executives responded. Black quickly agreed.

Among the hosiery executives promoting the state support for their industry were Brenda Goings of Kentucky Derby Hosiery Inc., the largest employer in Surry County, and Peter Menzies, president of Southern Hosiery Co. Inc. Hickory. Gwen Perkins, acting director of the Center for Applied Textiles Technology, and Dan St. Louis, director of the Hosiery Technology Center, participated in the activities, along with members of the HTC staff.

The visit concluded by attending a meeting of the House Committee on Federal Relations and Trade.



ABOVE CENTER, House Speaker Jim Black gave manufacturers a warm welcome in his office at the Legislature.

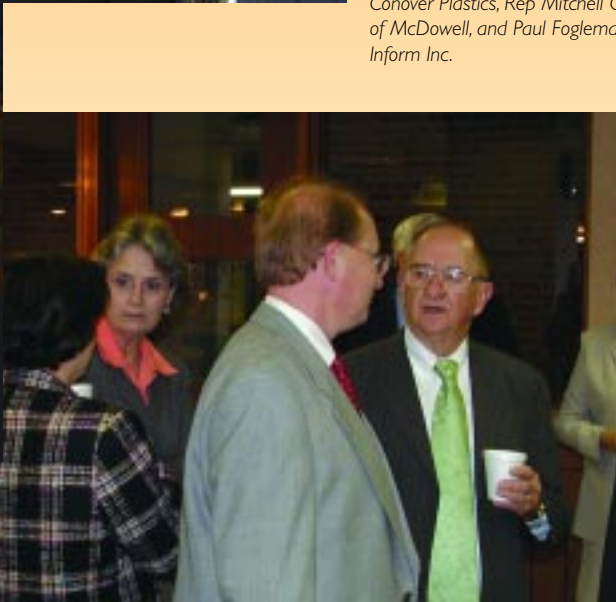
Bill Gray, RIGHT, vice president of marketing for Muratec, and Darrell Frye, CENTER, president of Harriss Covington Hosiery, spoke with Rep. Jerry Dockham of Randolph.



Addressing lawmakers, ABOVE FROM TOP, Harriss-Covington's Darrell Frye, Dan St. Louis with the Hosiery Technology Center, and Ed Wilburn with Wellman Inc.



Senator Jimmy Jacumin, CENTER, of Burke County, discusses his business initiatives.



BELOW FROM LEFT, Brenda Goins with Kentucky Derby Hosiery, B.J. Frye with Conover Plastics, Rep Mitchell Gillespie, of McDowell, and Paul Fogleman with Inform Inc.