

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements referred to above taken as a whole. The supplemental information included in the accompanying schedules is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The information presented in the Other Information section is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied to the audit of the financial statements, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Hough, Russell & Shont, P.A.

September 22, 2000
Charlotte, North Carolina