State Of Union Message

Nixon Pushes County Priorities

In his State of the Union address, President Nixon spoke out strongly for several major programs advocated by county officials - welfare reform, health insurance, increased transit aid, and increased economic development aid to ward off a recession.

His address contained a new tone of conciliatory toward Congress and a strong desire to work cooperatively on his legislative proposals. From the county government viewpoint, this change of attitude could be the most important part of his address.

He pointed out that the new manpower bill "represents a leading example of what can be achieved when the Executive and the Congress team up to enact solid legislation."

The same tone is evident on consolidating seven community development programs into a single flexible program. "I urge the Congress to move ahead as quickly as possible with the Better Communities Act, and I pledge every effort to work out differences between my bill and others under consideration so that our local governments can benefit from the program as soon as possible."

The President's list of proposals on domestic programs is long. Many are carry-over from last year. The President indicated in his State of the Union message that total aid to state and local governments will increase from $44 billion to $52 billion during the next fiscal year. A complete analysis of the Administration's initiatives has to await the President's budget which is scheduled to go to Congress February 4.

Citing the urgency for executive authority to deal with the energy crisis, President Nixon's January 23 message to Congress outlined a lengthy list of pending and proposed legislation for Congressional consideration.

President Nixon urged Congress to act quickly on the Energy Emergency Act (S. 2569) to give him a "basic bill dealing with mandatory conservation, fuel conversion, rationing, and changes to the Clean Air Act."

This bill as it now stands would provide for $560 million in expanded employment coverage for workers who lose their jobs due to the energy crisis. The President, however, said he would ask for new unemployment insurance measures to combat energy-related unemployment.

As we go to press, Congress hit a snag on the Energy Emergency Act due primarily to strong disagreement on the excess profits provision. It is not clear if the measure has to be rewritten and separate legislation submitted on energy profits.

In his message, the President also asked for Congressional action on the windfall profits tax proposed December 19 and early passage of legislation to establish a Federal Energy Administration (H.R. 11793, S. 2776). He said he would ask for legislation requiring major energy producers to provide the government with a complete

NACo Gets Energy Representative

The Federal Energy Office recently completed arrangements with NACo to have Harry Johnson of Los Angeles County, Calif., assigned full-time to their Washington, D.C., headquarters. The transfer was arranged under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) which authorizes temporary assignments between levels of government.

Johnson will be located in the Federal Energy Office (FEO) and will be working closely with NACo on a wide range of

If you have questions on Federal Energy Office regulations, difficulty in determining which federal office to contact, or complaints regarding FEO decisions - write or call

Harry Johnson
Federal Energy Office
c/o NACO
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 293-2797

NACo President Gil Barrett (l) welcomes Harry Johnson (r) of Los Angeles County, Calif., to Washington, D.C. Through an IPA mobility arrangement with the National Association of Counties, Johnson has been detailed to the Federal Energy Office where he will be responsible for intergovernmental relations with county governments. (See related story.)

(Continued on page 6)

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(Continued on page 2)
Analysis Of Land Use Bills

by Larry E. Naake
Westmoreland Representative

As was reported last week, the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee reported out a national land use bill (H.R. 12994) on January 22 by a vote of 28-11.

The sponsor of the bill, Representative Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), does not expect the bill to reach the House until at least after the third

Senate Bill (S. 268)

To cooperate with and render assistance to state and local governments in developing and implementing land use programs for environmentally critical areas and for development of more local impact.

Administration

Office of Land Use Policy Administration, Department of the Interior. Same in each bill.

Grants

Planning grants to states total $800 million over an 8-year period, with a federal share of 90 percent being the first 5 years and 67/33 percent during the last 3 years. States are required to "pass-through" funds to local governments, in the extent they utilize general purpose local government implementation purposes.

Planning Process

Same in each bill. Requires states to develop, within three years, a statewide planning process for funding, personnel, information and agency structure. Provides that the designated state agency will be advised by an intergovernmental advisory council composed of representatives of general purpose local governments in the development of this process.

Scope of State Programs

Requires states, within three years, to develop land use programs in five categories of environmentally critical areas or uses of more than local concern: areas of critical environmental concern (i.e., beaches, flood plains, wetlands, historic areas); key facilities (i.e., major airports, highways, interchanges, frontage access highways, recreational lands and facilities, energy sites); development and land use of regional benefit; large-scale development (i.e., major subdivisions or industrial parks); and land sales or development projects.

Implementation of State Program

The procedure for, and nature of, state involvement in land use decisions is left largely to state determination. Two alternatives of implementation are offered: local implementation pursuant to state guidelines and or direct state planning. A preference for local implementation through state land use planning and regulation is not prejudiced. (Hawaii and Vermont now do so.) A combination of local and state implementation may be used.

County and Local Government Role

Similar in both bills. (The bill is.)

1. In planning process: see "Implementation of State Program" above.

Legislative Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Assistant Secretary of Commerce of Economic Development, William Blunt directs a program to help create jobs and boost incomes in rural areas and communities. Before becoming Assistant Economic Development William W. Blunt, Jr., of the Department of Commerce, this workshop will focus on federal funding for the Rural Development Act and the Economic Development Act.

President Nixon is expected to announce a major new development effort for rural areas in his proposed fiscal 1976 budget.

Erwin, a grain and cattle farmer from Indiana, was appointed by the President in January to the new position of Assistant Secretary for Rural Development. He previously served as a member of the President's Task Force on State Senator from 1965 to 1968. As

Mark Your Calendars!

NACo's Legislative Conference

Featuring:

A meeting with Vice President Gerald R. Ford.
Major Addresses by Administration and Congressional Leaders.
In-depth presentations, analysis, and discussion of major legislative proposals, including Community Development Bloc Grants, Social Services, Health Care, Tax Reform, Highway, Trans, Manpower Training, Law Enforcement Assistance, and others.
Meetings with Congressmen.
Strategy sessions on the passage and implementation of "County-Oriented" Federal programs.
There will also be a meeting of County Information Officers Friday, March 1; a County Health Officers Caucus on Feb. 26; Steering Committee meetings Feb. 26; a meeting of County Civil Attorneys on Feb. 20-26; Health Task Force meeting on Feb. 26; and a special seminar on elections held jointly by the American University Institute of Election Administration and the National Association of County Recorders and Clerks on Feb. 28-March 2.

Registration Form

NACO'S LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
February 26-28, 1974
Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Name:
Title:
County/Organization:
Address:
City: State: Zip:

Please reserve a room for me for ________ nights.

Single room: __________ Double room: __________

Arriving date: __________ Time: __________

Room rates: Single $22, 26, 28, 30, 34
Double $28, 32, 36, 40
(Suites available)

Return to: Reservations Department, Shoreham Hotel
Connecticut Avenue at Calvert St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
Phone: (202) 334-0700

The meeting will open with a Congressional reception on Tuesday evening, Feb. 26, and end with a general session on Thursday afternoon
Comitee On Comitees

NACO STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN MEET: NACO's Steering Committee discusses the program for 1974 at a meeting last week in Washington. The group, chaired by NACO President Gil Barrett and made up of the 12 Steering Committee Chairmen, worked on the legislative program for the coming year and clarified steering committee jurisdictions and responsibilities to forestall misunderstandings. Listening to the discussion (above 1 to r) were Daniel Mikels, Transportation Steering Committee Chairman; Ralph Tabor, Director of Federal Affairs; NACO President Barrett, and Bernard Hilleshbrand, Executive Director.

Topic At February Meeting

Salaries Of County Attorneys

by William L. Hoge, III
County Attorney's Office
Jefferson County, Ky.

The ability of county attorneys to effect changes in the structure of their offices is often severely limited by politics, finances, statutes, constitutions, and simple bureaucracy.

In Kentucky, for example, the maximum salary available to a county attorney is set by the state constitution. While this figure was sufficient when the constitution was enacted in 1890, it had become insufficient by 1973. The founding fathers of the Commonwealth of Kentucky never envisioned the broad and complex range of duties which would later befall.

In light of this, and in order to evaluate the current needs of the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, members of the staff in June launched a study of the entire operation of the office. This internal study was broadened three months later to include an in-depth analysis and comparison of 25 urban county attorneys' offices throughout the country. The findings of the report were truly historic in focus since no national study of this type had ever been undertaken.

The average county surveyed contained $34,000 people. Nueces County, Texas, was the smallest with a population of 195,000 and Allegheny County, Pa., the largest with 1,207,000.

Results of Survey

All counties studied reported sharp increases in the caseload of both their civil and criminal divisions. The reasons for the increased caseload in the civil courts are well known, but in the criminal courts, the survey uncovered a combination of contributing factors not readily apparent. These include the movement of the courts to abolish the doctrine of sovereign immunity and the complexities and added responsibilities of those counties possessing home rule powers.

Based on the survey sample, the average budget for a county attorney's office was $822,650. However, the relationship of this item to the overall county budget was miniscule; in 20 of the 25 counties surveyed, the average county attorney's budget constituted only .032 percent.

In terms of staff, the survey found 11 offices which permitted private practice and were therefore considered part time; 14 did not permit private practice and were classified as full time.

The average salary for a part-time county attorney ranges from $11,700 to $18,941. The range for staff lawyers in full-time offices is from $10,919 to $25,307.

The study also found that only 13 of the 25 sample counties employed investigators.

A full report on the survey will be made by Jefferson County Attorney J. Bruce Miller at the mid-winter meeting of the National Association of County Civil Attorneys. The meeting, to be held in the Empire Room of the Showsham Hotel in Washington, D.C., will begin at 2 p.m. on February 26 and end on the afternoon of Feb. 28. Those wishing to attend the meeting can use the pre-registration form for the Legislative Conference (see page 2).

Johnson

(Continued from page 1)

Johnson's duties include representing NACO in the review of proposed regulations affecting counties, development of FEO policies and recommendations on solutions of cases involving counties, providing FEO policy officials with the views and comments of elected county officials, assisting NACO's Environment and Energy Steering Committee, and helping FEO to communicate their views and decisions to elected county officials.

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New Directions

Alcoholism Treatment Center

Fairfax County, Va., Planning Commission approved the application of the Council on Alcoholism for Fairfax County, Va., intermediate care facility for the rehabilitation of recovered alcoholics. Actual operations of the service now await issuance of a use permit and purchase of a facility by the county.

Suffolk County, N.Y., having gotten all ready to go with CPM II in December 1973, would like to be the first prime sponsor in the nation to be funded under Manpower Reconversion Sharing. Five towns within the county — Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip, and Smithtown — each eligible for prime sponsorship, all intend to go in with the county for one comprehensive manpower program run by the County Department of Labor.

Whitcom County, Wash., through the efforts of its citizens advisory council, the support of county commissioners, and $961,000 set aside for senior programs, will bring to completion, in 1974, the establishment of seven senior citizens centers in the county.

Volunteer Participation Sought

Maricopa County, Ariz., community involvement is the aim of the volunteer adult probation program in the Maricopa County Probation Department. Occupations of the 70 volunteers currently serving in the program range from mechanic, to housewife, to state legislator, to landscaper. They have found general office work, counseling, urinalysis of drug offenders, and writing court reports.

Patterson County, Ga., has a new satellite outpatient clinic at the county's Rockdale Public Health Center. This satellite clinic is part of Grady Memorial Hospital and can serve people from a four-county tract. The new clinic can help patients in 30-45 minutes, saving them a long trip and time at the Memorial Hospital.

Productivity Analysis

Fairfax County, Va., same a long way in 1973 toward getting a real handle on productivity in all county agencies. The Office of Research and Statistics, created in March, produces monthly analyses of data on workloads and effectiveness for each county function. Closely related to the budgetary process, the productivity program already shows signs of being a powerful management tool.

San Diego County, Calif., has installed emergency radios in 89 of their ambulances. The radios are part of the county's Emergency Medical Care Radio Network and provide a direct link from the ambulances to 21 hospitals throughout the county. These radios were purchased with $75,000 that was part of a grant from HEW.

Nassau County, N.Y., Executive R.G. Case has obtained a hearing from the County Board of Supervisors for a local law to create a Nassau County Department of Mental Health. The law would authorize the department to be administrated by a cabinet-level commissioner who would be taking over the administration of mental health affairs from the presently-appointed Mental Health Board.

Contra Costa County, Calif., is completing its second year in a national HEW demonstration project on the integrated delivery of human services. Contra Costa was also one of the six counties participating in NACO's recently completed Allied Services Project. We know that counties (e.g., Marois County [Ind.]) is going to conduct a study of its human resources programs) are making great strides in the field of services integration, We have learned many counties' innovations in building up methods of communication and cooperation between human services agencies, of intake systems and referral methods. What is your county doing with its human resources delivery system? Please contact Mrs. Brugler at the above number for information on innovative human services programs — especially services for the aging and integrated delivery systems.

Ambulance Fee Eliminated

Gaston (Gaston County) N.C. has abolished the $20 fee for emergency county ambulance trips. The reason was that some areas of the county only had the county's Emergency Services ambulance in operation because they were not close enough to any of the five volunteer ambulance-rescue squads which do not charge patients. The county will still charge for non-emergency transportation.

New Headquarters

The National Policewomen Information Center has begun operations at the headquarters of the International Association of Chiefs of Police through a one-year grant from the Police Foundation. The Center will provide assistance to police departments seeking to more effectively utilize women in law enforcement. For further information on how your county can use the services of the Center, write the National Policewomen Information Center, 11 Flint Field Road, Goshen, Md. 20760.

Services to the Aging

Nassau County (N.Y.) is bringing the largely rural Operation Mainstream program to its suburban area. Funded at $750,000 for calendar 1974, the program is aimed at the disadvantaged, primarily those over 55. Jobs will be for a minimum work week of 30 hours with pay at $2.50 per hour. The people will be employed in county and town departments, in village offices, in school districts and in hospitals. At least 35 percent of the workers will be in part-time programs. The program will bring 187 older handicapped into the mainstream of community life.

Cuyahoga County (Ohio) is about to embark on its Older American Act, Title VII funded program to provide nutritional services to the aging. Title VII of the amended Older American Act of 1965 established a national program to provide 250,000 citizens age 60 and over with daily, low cost, nutritionally sound and satisfying meals. Another example of the program is the Baltimore County Commission on Aging, which noted that some 230 county residents will receive a hot meal five days a week as a result of a grant of $140,000 made available by the Maryland Commission on the Aging from federal funds allocated through the Title VII program.

(Calif.)
The President's State Of The Union Message

President Richard M. Nixon's State of the Union address was interrupted by applause more than 30 times. There were two standing ovations. These may be hopeful signs that the government of the United States may be moving forward again after a year's stalemate.

Pluses

On the plus side, the President made many references to programs of major interest to the counties, perhaps the foremost of which is welfare reform. The President is going to come before the Congress again with some new variations of his original plan of an income floor for America's needy. There is an indication that he is thinking in terms of a $5,300 support base for a family of four.

The President also is going to submit a comprehensive health insurance program with the emphasis on preventive medicine. The President's plan will provide protection against catastrophic illnesses and will be based upon private health insurance coverage with consolidation of Medicaid and Medicare. It has similarities to proposals now being considered by Congress. As one aspect of a total program to help alleviate the energy crisis, the President is also proposing more mass transit assistance. He conceded that transit operating aid is needed.

The President also took pride in the effectiveness of general revenue sharing. He pointed out that this legislation reversed a 40-year trend of power moving from the states, cities and counties to Washington, D.C.

More importantly, he also pledged continued support for the reform concepts included in his special revenue sharing proposals. He particularly stressed his community development proposal. The President has supported the idea of counties participating on a formula basis with cities in the allocation of these block grant funds. So far, Congress has excluded counties. We are hopeful that the President, that Congress will pass this legislation with counties sharing funds equitably with the cities.

Perhaps the most outstanding plus of his address was with the exception of cooperation on land, the President outlined a conciliatory attitude toward Congress. If this survives and if Congress responds in a like manner, the chance of success of many initiatives in which counties have such a large stake is greatly increased.

Uncertainties

There are of course many uncertainties. The President was very reassuring about American economy. We hate to be pessimistic, but it does seem there is a pattern that emerges whenever a President, of either party, reassures us on the economy. The rosy predictions usually do not materialize.

This leads to the second major uncertainty, the impact of American life on the energy crisis. The President pledged a 5-year, $10-billion federal effort to make the United States self-sufficient in energy use by 1980. He pointed out that during that same time interval private enterprise will be investing as much as $200 billion and, in the next 10 years, $500 billion to develop new energy resources and new technology to solve the energy crisis.

We are gun shy on this subject. To date, there seems to be only one response to the energy crisis—hike the prices out of all proportion and reason. We also have some apprehensions about the capacity of Congress to respond. It is significant that the Congress still has not been able to agree on an energy bill.

Finally, in an appraisal of the State of the Union address as it impacts on counties, there is the overwhelming uncertainty of the future of the Administration of President Nixon. Certainly, there was nothing in the speech to indicate that he any intention of resigning. He will resist all efforts to be impeached. The facts are, however, that the polls indicate that less than one-third of the population have confidence in him and that impeachment hearings are going to be conducted.

We may very well have month-after-month of impeachment hearings and the constant uncertainty which has had such a ruinous impact on the operation of the federal government during the past year. This issue could effectively shorten the time Congress has to work on legislation this year.

On balance, considering the pluses and the uncertainties, we approach the Congressional year of 1974 on a mildly hopeful note.

We sense from our daily contacts with elected county officials that the people back home are very concerned about the problems of inflation, the energy shortage and the economy. They want both the President and Congress to start moving. In the final analysis, whether or not the goals and aspirations outlined in the State of the Union message are achieved will be determined by the attitude of the American public. Their strongly expressed desire to have the business of the federal government proceed in an orderly and expeditious manner is the key ingredient.

Land Use Bills

(Continued from page 2)

Senate Version

1. In the planning program implementation: endorses the concept that local land use decisions should be made by local government.

2. States must coordinate all state and local agency programs and services affecting land use.

States must provide opportunities for the participation by the public and the appropriate officials or representatives of local governments in the statewide planning process and in the formulation of guidelines, rules, and regulations for the administration of the statewide planning process.

Environmental Consistency

Ensures that state land use programs be coordinated with state and federal antipollution laws in the areas of air, water, solid waste, and noise.

Sanctions

No sanctions are contained in S. 268. There were sanctions in the original Jackson bill of 1972. Senator Jackson proposed such an amendment on the Senate floor, but it was defeated. Sanctions would have provided that if a state program is not developed after five years, federal grant-in-aid (for airport development, highways, and land and water conservation funds) would be withheld at rate of seven percent, 14 percent, and 21 percent over three years.

Relationship to Federal Lands

Requires federal-state-local coordination and cooperation in planning and management of federal and adjacent non-federal lands. Also requires consideration of pressures placed on a state by public use of federal lands when allocating funds.

Each public land management agency shall maintain an inventory of all public lands and resources including areas of critical environmental concern and shall develop land use plans for such lands giving priority to critical environmental areas in accordance with rules providing for public involvement.

Indian Lands

Requires Indian land use planning for critical areas and uses and authorizes regulation subject to Department of the Interior approval.

Authorizes a study of Indian tribal authority to regulate reservation land.
Feds Plan Budget Hearings
By Regional Councils

Administration spokesmen will conduct a briefing on the fiscal 1975 federal budget in conjunction with each of the Federal Regional Councils (FRC) on February 7-8 in the FRC headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Invitations are being sent to state and local officials by the Federal Regional Councils. Within a few weeks after these regional briefings, each Federal Regional Council will conduct a more detailed budget briefing in each state, probably in the state capital.

County officials who would like more information should contact the chairman of their Federal Regional Council. The names and phone numbers of the Federal Regional Council chairmen are listed below:

Region I (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island) - Boston - William F. Powers, (167) 523-4671

Region II (New York, New Jersey, New York) - S. William Green, (212) 264-8068

Region III (Delaware, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania) - Philadelphia - Ghom L. Black, Jr., (215) 597-6492

Region IV (Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Atlanta) - Jack E. Ravan, (404) 526-6727

Region V (Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Chicago - Norman Erbe, (312) 353-4000

Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma) - Dallas - Arthur W. Busch, (214) 749-1962

Region VII (Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas) - Kansas City - Elmer E. Smith, (816) 374-3961

Region VIII (Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota) - Denver - Robert C. Rosenberg, (303) 837-2714

Region IX (California, Nevada, Arizona) - San Francisco - Fernando DeBarza, (415) 556-6716

Region X (Idaho, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Seattle - Bernard Kelly, (206) 424-0420

The Ballot Box

by Richard G. Smolka

The United States Supreme Court has struck down a New York statute which prohibited persons held in jail awaiting trial in their home counties from casting an absentee ballot.

In O'Brien v. Skinner, decided January 16, the court pointed out that New York permits persons to register by mail if they are unable to be present at the polling place because of their occupation, duties or business require them to be out of the counties of their residence on registration days.

Absentee voting is permitted for several reasons including absence from the county of residence on election day because of duties, occupation, business or vacation.

The court observed that "those held in jail awaiting trial in a county other than their residence are also permitted to register by mail and to vote absentee ballot. Yet, persons confined for the same reasons in the county of their residence are denied the ballot."

The effect left the court's "no choice" but to hold that "the New York statute denies such persons equal protection of the law as guaranteed by the fourteenth amendment.

Justice Harry Blackmun, joined by Justice William Rehnquist dissented. Blackmun argued that the court is "unwilling to recognize the constitutional pronunciation of an area that for me, should be a domain reserved for the state's own housekeeping." The effects of law were perceived by the dissent to be "imitating," but "not of great, let alone constitutional, import.

NACE "Matter and Measure"
National Association of County Engineers

New NACE Members, New Directory

NACE membership is increasing. Since July 1973 we have gained approximately 40 new members, bringing the total membership to about 1185. With a newsletter from NACE President Clarence Smith, NACE members should have received a copy of the new 1974 NACE Membership Directory. This directory contains the revised Constitution and By-Laws adopted by the ballot vote mailed with Smithy's August 1973 newsletter. If you are a NACE member and you have not received the new directory, contact Bill Hartington, NACE Secretary-Treasurer, 308 Jacoby Drive, N.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405.

FY 1975 Federal-Aid Highway Fund Apportionment

Federal-aid highway funds have been apportioned for FY 1975 as authorized by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973. Funds from this apportionment are now available for programming (effective December 24, 1973). The funds are subject to obligation control procedures in force at the time of obligation.

The apportionment is primary highway system in rural areas, $64,480,293; secondary highway system in rural areas, $388,844,980; extensions of primary and secondary highway systems in urban areas, $392,004,311; urban system, $768,681,960; priority primary routes, $194,962,649; national system of interstates and defense highways, $2,965,113,333; metropolitan planning, $36,446,770.

FHWA Gas Tax

Using state tax reports, the Federal Highway Administration has released, for the first time, a monthly and cumulatively tabulated of gas gallons of motor gasoline consumed in each state for most months of 1973. Future releases will report monthly figures for the three most recent months for which substantial data is available. Check the NACE website for this information.

Total cumulative calendar year figures for October 1973 for 42 states show a 4.8 percent increase over 1972. The larger increase in gasoline sold to date was for January 1973 with a 9.0 percent increase for all states and the District of Columbia, while November shows a 0.1 percent decrease from November 1972, based on 15 states.

Cumulative data for 10 months through October 1973 for 42 states shows a 40 increase over the comparable 1972 period, with two states showing decreases.

States with the greatest percent increases for the 10-month period were Florida, 11.8; and Arkansas, 11.5. The states with decreases were Alaska, 12.6 percent, and Pennsylvania, 2.5 percent.

Airport Grants

County governments are receiving federal funding for airport development under the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Planning Grant Program and Airport Development Aid Program.

Under the Planning Grant Program, FAA has approved $41,953 for the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners for master plan preparation at Palm Beach International Airport and $17,990 for the Palm Beach County Park Airport. Copiague County Airport in Crispy Springs, Mississippi will receive $10,930 for master plan preparation.

N.E.W. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE: Alameda County, Calif., is the most recent county to open a Washington office. Located on the same floor as the NACo offices, the county's representative is Kenneth White. Joining Alameda County, he was the Deputy Director of Finance and Director of the California Association of Counties. He served for the State of California. Prior to that he served in the Navy for 27 years with the rank of Captain. The office's phone number is 785-0411.
ATTENDING THE CALIFORNIA federal affairs meeting were (1 to r): James K. Mahoney, San Joaquin County, President Region IX NACo/CIC; Richard E. Watson, Executive Director, CSAC; CSAC President Arch Mahan, Mono County, Calif.; and Jack Merelman, CSAC Washington Representative.

CSAC, CIC Hold Federal Aid Briefing

The County Supervisors Association of California (CSAC) held its first Federal Aid Committee (FAC) meeting at The Forum was arranged by the Washington Representatives for California counties (Joseph M. Pollard, Los Angeles County; Roger F. Vonhoger, San Diego County; Robert Josten, San Francisco, Howard Watkins, Santa Clara County; Kenneth Wade, Alameda County; Jack Merelman, CSAC; James K. Mahoney, San Joaquin County, President, NACo/CIC Region IX; Richard E. Watson, Executive Director of CSAC, and the CSAC staff.

At the Jan. 24 FAC briefing, the coordination discussed the changing role of the intergovernmental coordinator. Jack Merelman highlighted four new "activators" for coordination. He predicted that intergovernmental coordination in the future will:

- Work to overcome the "education barrier" and actively assist county representatives in Washington in developing a new awareness in Congress and the federal agencies of the dynamic role and service patterns of county governments;
- "Prime" elected county board members of effective advocacy in Washington and keep them aware of the issues on a regular basis;
- Assist the state association and NACo in "power flow" inventory, identifying county powers previously lost to state and federal levels and then working with elected policy makers in seeking restoration of those powers.

Energy Message

Reviewing Clean Air Act provisions which may require too stringent, and energy costly, standards for air quality. Pending legislation includes:

- Determination of natural gas (S. 2048, H.R. 7507).
- Centralized leasing of federal lands for the production of oil, gas, coal and other minerals (S. 435, H.R. 11500).
- Federal licensing of the construction of power generation facilities (S. 1751, H.R. 10701, H.R. 5989).
- Extension of investment credit for exploration drilling of new oil and gas fields (presented to Ways and Means Committee April, 1975, but no action taken).
- Creation of a Federal Energy Research and Development Administration (S. 2744, H.R. 11510).
- Creation of a Federal Department of Energy and Natural Resources (S. 2155, H.R. 9090).

(Continued from page 1) accounting of their inventories, production, and reserves.

The main weight of the President's message fell on what he termed Project Independence, a program he first announced last November. The stated goal of this program is to achieve energy self-sufficiency in the United States by 1980. Contrary to the recently voiced doubts of Congressmen and oil industry executives, the President said it is a realizable goal. President Nixon listed a number of measures (some of which have not been introduced) requiring action.

The proposed legislation includes:

- Elimination of the oil depletion allowance for foreign production.
- Elimination of dollar-for-dollar credits against U.S. income taxes paid to foreign governments.
- Acceleration of the licensing and construction of nuclear power facilities.
- The placing of energy-efficiency labels on major appliances and automobiles.
- Advance planning and approval of sites for construction of energy facilities.

County Government Job Opportunities

A Assistant Chief, Division of Operations, Montgomery County, Md. Salary Range: $18,107 - $24,267. The Assistant Chief is the operations manager responsible for the day-to-day operation of the department, including the planning, organizing, and directing of a complex public service program having a large and diversified case load. Requires master's degree in administration or related field or a baccalaureate degree from an accredited professional school as well as three years of administrative experience in a large federal or state agency. Requires knowledge in public accounting principles and practices.

Assistant Chief, Equipment Section, Division of Operations, Montgomery County, Md. Salary Range: $13,509 - $18,107. This individual will perform technical and administrative work in the direction of the technical planning and operations of the Section, as well as the coordination and repair of a variety of automotive and related equipment of the county. Requires a combination of a degree in mechanical or civil engineering or related fields with at least four years of experience in the field of automotive equipment field, one year of which must have been in an administrative or supervisory capacity.

Send resumes, indicating which position you are interested in, to Transportation Recruiting, Montgomery County Government Personnel Office, Room 310 South Perry Street, Rockville, Md. 20850.

County Manager, Talbot County, Md. Salary: $26,000. A new charter county seeks an experienced manager responsible for financial office, preparation and administration of budget, personnel, purchasing and employees services. Send resumes to County Manager, Talbot County, P.O. Box 1061, Beaufort, S.C. 29902.
State Of The Union
(Continued from page 1)
To simplify program administration, one proposal under consideration is a
negative income tax handled by the
Internal Revenue Service. A family whose
income passes the minimum would receive
checks directly from the Treasury. Other
possibilities not tied to the tax system
include a new national administration for
the states and a Social Security Administra-
tion or continuing the use of state
agencies. Under the proposal, the minimum
would not be clear if counties would continue
to be involved as is now the case in 20 states.
The Administration does not expect
legislation to be enacted in 1974. Many
conservative Congressmen are adamantly
opposed to any welfare reform involving
consolidation of programs and a
 guaranteed income. Also, the
committees handling the legislation have
too many other issues scheduled
which also are important to the
Administration.

Health Insurance
The Administration plans to submit its
$40 billion national health insurance
proposal to Congress in a special message
on February 5. NACo has learned that
the new plan is broader than the one
introduced in the last Congress.
The new proposal, or National Health
Plan, has a cost-sharing provision between
employers and employees and a
government plan for the unemployed
and others. The plan would have employers
offer health insurance policies to
their employees that meet minimum national
standards. Employers would pay 75
percent of the annual premium and
employees would pay the rest.
The federal government would
guarantee coverage for poor families and
low income people without children,
people who retire before 65, the elderly
and to any not eligible for insurance
because of high risk regardless of income.
The Administration estimates that $5
billion will be needed in new money to
finance its proposal during the first year.
However, the rest (approximately
$35 billion) will come from
employer-employee contributions and
from money now earmarked for medicare
and medicaid, which would be folded
into the national health insurance
program.
The Administration plan has a
catastrophic illness component providing
that families would not have to pay more
than a certain percentage of their income
(or a maximum of $1,500 annually) for
any total amount of illness. After that
amount has been paid, the national
health insurance program would pay for
the remaining costs of that illness.
The plan calls for states to have a
fairly strong regulation role. It also
envisions states to share in the financing
of the plan for the unemployed and
needy. This will affect counties in many
states who now share in medicaid costs.
State and county costs could be increased
by as much as $1 billion.
The expanded coverage and higher
employer sharing on health insurance will
have a budgetary impact on all counties.
At the present time, HSW planners
envision a 12-month start-up period from
time of enactment. It even could take 34
months depending on the final legislation.
If enacted this year, counties would not
have to budget increased costs for their
employees' coverage until 1975 or later.

Transit Aid
The Administration is proposing legislation to provide predictable funding
for urban transportation over the next six
years. In effect, the proposal would build
on the existing urban highway and transit
programs which only are authorized
through the end of fiscal 1976. The
legislation would provide an additional $9
billion to $10 billion over the six-year
period for urban transportation.
To provide more flexibility, part
of the transit funds would be allocated
to the states on a population-formula basis
to be used for regional transit projects
or operating assistance. The other transit
funds would continue to be under the
control of DOT and used for capital
projects. The formula funds would start
at $700 million in fiscal 1976 and increase
to $2 billion a year by 1978. States
and local governments would decide whether the funds should be used
for operating assistance or other transit
needs.

In the President's message, he stated,
"Under this bill resources would also
be available for the first time to augment the
operating funds for public transportation
systems in both urban and rural areas. By
permitting federal resources to be used
for operating purposes, this proposal
should make it unnecessary to establish a
new categorical grant program for transit
operating subsidies, as is not contemplated
in bills before the Congress."

Economic Development
The President called for a new attack
on one of the most troublesome problems
faced by both rural and urban areas: "the
existence of persistent and often severe
unemployment or low incomes in areas
whose character has been altered by
changes in our economy and technology."

In a marked departure from his earlier
efforts to abolish grant and loan programs
under the Public Works and Economic
Development Act of 1965 (EDA), the
President said he would soon recommend
to the Congress a new "Economic
Adjustment Assistance" program.

The program would replace the
present Economic Development
Administration and Title V Regional
Commissions to "help state and local
governments, through the creation of
employment opportunities, overcome
problems caused by structural changes in
their economies resulting in persistent
unemployment."

NACo's 39th Annual Convention
July 14-17, 1974
Dade County, Florida

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Make reservations directly with:
Miami Beach Tourist and Convention Bureau
555 17th Street
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

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American Counties Today

Dear County Official:

NACo President Gil Barrett has taken an initiative which appears will be very helpful to the Association. As a result of some concern last year's conference was held in convention jurisdiction, he adopted the suggestion made by Dallas County Commissioner Roy Orr that NACo has a Committee on Conferences. President Barrett appointed this committee composed of the chairpersons of each of NACo's standing committees. They held their first planning session in Washington on Monday of last week. Each committee head discussed the priorities of the committee for the coming year. There was a long discussion about the subject matters or jurisdictions of each of the committees. The group has agreed to meet as a Committee on Committees before our Miami meeting and determine among themselves what subject matters each committee will consider.

It is obvious, for example, that a subject like energy is so far reaching that it can very appropriately be considered in its various aspects by several NACo committees. The problem is not so much one of jurisdiction as it is the orderly working of NACo's business. Every member of NACo must know what committee is considering which aspects of any given subject. That gives the members the chance to appear before the proper committee, to go to the public hearings, and to participate in the deliberations.

This is what President Barrett is trying to accomplish, and we think he will. NACo's Committee on Committees will not set the counterpart committees in the Congress which often have the impact of thwarting the will of the entire Congress and preventing matters from reaching the floor of the Congress.

NACo's Committee on Committees has exactly the reverse objective. It wants to ensure that every matter gets an adequate hearing through the regular channels and that it is given an opportunity to go before the conference for a vote (on a weighted basis) by all the association's members.

We were all enormously impressed at this first meeting, not only by the caliber of the Committee chairpersons but the wonderful feeling of cooperation among them.

We salute Commissioner Orr and President Gil Barrett for what promises to be a very helpful addition to making the National Association of Counties even more democratic and responsive.

State Association — NACo Relations

The latest state associations to hold legislative conferences were the Arizona Association of Counties and the County Supervisors Association of California. In both instances their meetings were enormously successful. For the first time, they allowed a county official to study the impact both of Congressional acts and state legislative acts.

We have a whole lot more to say about this because it appears to us to be a major new development in the overall frontal movement of county government in the United States.

We are going to hold similar legislative conferences soon in Michigan and Louisiana.

We hope eventually that legislative conferences can be held by all 47 of our state associations of counties.

Flash

If you have not already made your reservations for our annual Legislative Conference, February 26-28, please do so immediately. We have over 350 people signed up and the rooms are going fast. Fill in the registration coupon on page 2 and mail it to the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

One of the highlights of our Legislative Conference is the congressional reception on February 26. We have already had acceptances from 19 Senators, 135 Congressmen and 85 administration and agency people.

And, as we reported in last week's County News, Vice President Gerald Ford will meet with us during Thursday, February 28 luncheon. So, you all come.

Deep Trouble

We're still in deep trouble with respect to general revenue sharing because of a proposal included in the Budget Reform Act (S. 1541 and H.R. 7130) which would require general revenue sharing to face an annual congressional appropriation.

This would really be disastrous. The major idea behind general revenue sharing is to have predictable amounts of money coming into the county, city and state treasuries on a guaranteed, long-range basis. If this $30 billion program were subject to annual appropriations, we would have massive uncertainty and confusion in every one of the 38,000 jurisdictions that participate in general revenue sharing.

It is extremely important that all our members call their Congressmen and express their concern about this provision in the Budget Reform legislation.

County Small Cars

Fairfax County, (Va.) Director of County General Services, J. Hamilton Lambert, has announced that henceforth the county will purchase more economical compact cars. At the present time the county gets approximately ten miles to the gallon with their bigger cars and is anticipating that up to 10 percent of the 471,000 gallons of gasoline consumed by the county fleet last year can be saved with smaller cars.

While police and fire cars are to remain of the larger size, the county also expects to save purchase-price money with compact cars averaging $2500 a car and subcompacts expected to cost between $2160 and $2300.

Danger of Railroad Abandonment

Under the terms of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act (P.L. 95-526 of 1978), a study is being made of the feasibility of abandoning railroad tracks in whole regions of the United States. The first report is due early next week, and the recommendations for abandonment, if carried out, could devastate many counties. NACO will have a comprehensive report on the subject in the near future and will be following developments very closely.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard F. Hillenbrand
Executive Director

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