

County News

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House approves mandate relief, 360-74

By Larry Jones
associate legislative director

After eight days of contentious debate, the House passed H.R. 5, Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995, by a vote of 360-74 on Feb. 10. The vast majority of Democrats and all Republicans voted in favor of final passage.

Similar to S. 1, the Senate companion bill which passed on Jan. 27, the House measure would require Congress to pay for future mandates that are estimated to cost \$50 billion or more annually, or take a separate recorded vote to impose a cost on state and local governments.

Key members from both chambers are expected to meet soon to resolve the differences between their bills. Once a compromise is reached, it will be presented to both houses for final approval and then President Clinton, who is expected to sign the measure into law. Once signed, the law will take effect on Oct. 1.

Two of the key issues facing Congress are: 1) a provision in the House bill, but not in the Senate bill, which would subject the operation of federal agencies to judicial review; and 2) an amendment adopted in the Senate, but not in the House bill, that modifies the role of federal agencies responsible for declaring mandates ineffective.

Under the House approach, after Congress enacts a new mandate, the federal agency responsible for enforcing the mandate would be required to declare the mandate ineffective if Congress fails to appropriate adequate funds to implement it.

Under the Senate approach, the federal agency would be required to determine if sufficient funds are

available to carry out the mandate, and if not, make recommendations to Congress on the amount needed to sufficiently fund the mandate or legislative language for lowering the mandatory requirements or allowing the mandate to expire. A number of other amendments,

mostly technical, must also be worked out.

Opposition to the bill was led by Representative Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.), who, along with Representatives Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.) and several others, offered numerous

amendments to exempt labor, health, environmental and social service laws. The adoption of these amendments would have severely weakened the bill since the most costly mandates fall in these areas.

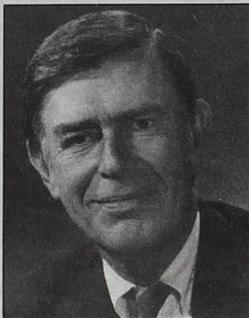
Relentless in their pursuit to keep H.R. 5 strong, the key sponsors of the legislation, Representatives William Clinger (R-Pa.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Tom Davis (R-Va.), made compelling arguments against the exemptions.

They pointed out that there is currently a presumption that Congress can pass an unlimited number of unfunded mandates and impose the cost on state and local governments. Under the new legislation, that will change.

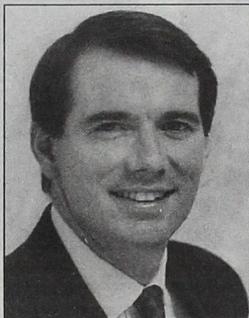
The presumption will be that Congress will pay for future mandates unless the majority of members in both houses can be con-

See **HOUSE APPROVES**, page 8

Key sponsors of House mandate-relief legislation



Representative William Clinger (R-Pa.)



Representative Rob Portman (R-Ohio)



Representative Tom Davis (R-Va.)

President's budget: Ball is now in Congress' court

Saying he wants to create a "leaner, not meaner" government, President Clinton tossed the ball into Congress' court after proposing a \$1.6 trillion 1996 budget which Republicans say doesn't go far enough to reduce the deficit.

Now the new congressional leadership, which has pledged to make much deeper spending cuts, must hammer out major changes to the president's plan that reflect its own fiscal agenda. But it won't be easy.

The major challenge confronting the new Republican-led Congress is how to come up with cuts that will achieve a balanced budget by 2002 and provide tax cuts to the middle class—a \$1.4 trillion propo-

sition—without cutting politically sacrosanct programs like Social Security.

Defense spending, Social Security and interest on the debt are untouchables, leaving less than 50 percent of all federal expenditures on the cutting board. In other words, the \$1.4 trillion in program cuts must be found in the unprotected half of the budget which includes funding for counties, cities and states.

Consolidation is the central theme of the Administration's budget proposal, which recommends consolidation and reorganization of a variety of categorical programs into block

See **FY96 BUDGET**, page 2



Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) will address delegates to NACo's Legislative Conference at the General Session, Monday, March 6.

Note: President Clinton has rescheduled his address at NACo's Legislative Conference for Tuesday, March 7.

Court program for battered women in Mass., hailed as national model

By Susan D. Grubb
staff writer

For more than three weeks now the prosecution team in the O.J. Simpson trial has been trying to portray the defendant as a violent man—a man whose years of physically abusing his wife, Nicole, culminated in her murder, as well as Ronald Goldman's.

As evidence unfolded during the investigation—his "no contest" plea to charges of battery in 1989, the 911 call from a distraught Nicole—phone lines to abuse hotlines became jammed,

See **COUNTY COURT PROGRAM**, page 5

It isn't just the public who finds the truth missing in the media's portrayal of reality. Many county officials also wonder whether there is any truth in the media's accuracy.



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As the use of volunteers increases and becomes more widespread, county governments are turning more and more to on-staff volunteer coordinators to help manage this dynamic resource.



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A House committee approves \$10 billion in no-match crime-fighting block grants for local governments.

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EPA ruling gives relief to incinerator operators.

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HUD "reinvention" comes under congressional scrutiny in first round of hearings.

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\$10 billion crime-fighting block grant gets OK from House

By Donald Murray
associate legislative director

The House Judiciary Committee, by a vote of 21-13, has approved a \$10 billion no-match block grant program for local governments as part of its revisions to the 1994 crime act.

The original bill, first outlined in the "Contract With America" was divided into seven bills in an effort to expedite passage. One of the bills, H.R. 728, the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act of 1995, is expected to come to the House floor as early as next week.

H.R. 728, as currently drafted, would allow counties to use block grant funds for any function, including prevention, courts and corrections, so long as the program was designed to "reduce crime and improve public safety."

The vote, along party lines, reflected a basic philosophical split between Democratic and Republican members on the committee. The Democrats argued that the block grant would result in wasteful spending by local officials and that prevention programs would fair poorly when placed in competition with the demands of law enforcement agencies.

The Republicans argued that local government was in the best position to set priorities and that the

voters would hold them accountable for the prudent use of funds.

The bill authorizes the director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make grants directly to units of local government over a five-year period, with \$2 billion to be distributed each fiscal year through FY 2000.

The local government would be required to appoint a local advisory board and a trust fund would have to be established for the deposit of grant funds.

To fund the new block grant program and to shift an additional \$2.6 billion to prisons (from \$7.9 billion, authorized in the 1994 crime bill, to \$10.5 billion), the Judiciary Committee voted to repeal \$12.5 billion in existing programs — including all of the \$7.5 billion in unused authorization for community policing programs; \$4 billion in prevention programs, including \$1.6 billion for the Local Partnership Act (only the Violence Against Women Program would be retained); and \$1 billion for drug courts.

Block grant formula

The original block grant language, as proposed by Representative Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), appeared lopsided in favor of law enforcement and appeared to penalize counties who spend nearly 70 percent of their criminal justice expenditures on courts and corrections.

In response to NACo's concerns

One-third of the nation's counties receive community policing grants

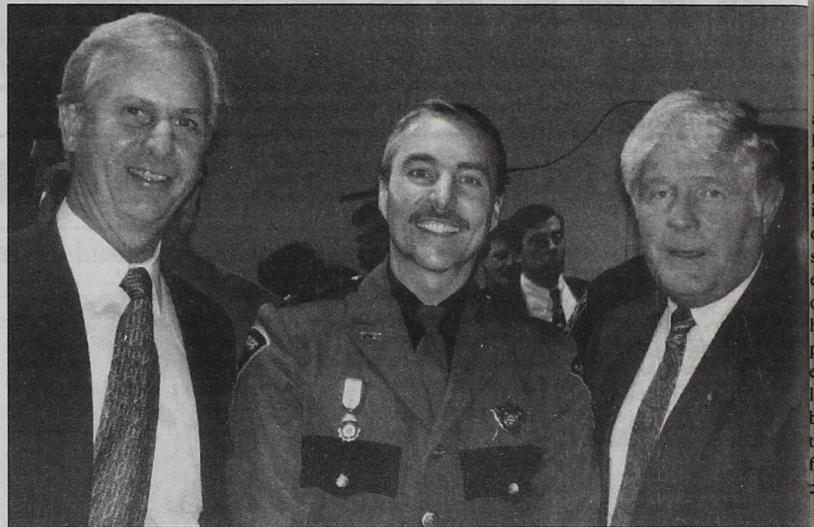


Photo by Donald Murray

In White House ceremonies, Feb. 8, 1,070 county sheriffs' departments and six county police departments were named to receive community policing grants. Jurisdictions from all across America, all numbering 50,000 or fewer population, submitted one-page applications just six weeks ago. At the ceremony, Sheriff Gene A. Kelly (center) Clark County, Ohio, spoke on the importance of community policing in preventing crime. He is pictured between NACo Executive Director Larry Naake (l) and Charles "Bud" Meeks, executive director of the National Sheriff's Association.

about the proposed formula, which would be used to allocate the block grant funds, the Judiciary Commit-

tee modified its original proposal to allow counties to count the city's population and serious crime num-

bers as part of its own totals.

See CRIME BILL, page 1

FY96 BUDGET

from page 1

grants to state and local governments.

Under this plan, 271 programs would be consolidated into 27 "performance partnership" grants intended to provide flexibility and accountability to state and local governments. Most of these are still in outline form.

A major local government issue in all of the performance partnership proposals is ensuring that funds are allocated equitably to counties and cities. This is particularly critical for programs that currently are administered at the local level such as Community Development Block Grants, transit, airports, health, rural water and sewer, and environmental programs.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed plan, which would consolidate 60 programs into three performance-based block grants, retains the current state/local allocation formulas. Transportation proposals, however, allocate all of the funds to states, including transit and airport grants. It is not clear if states would be required to pass through transportation funds to counties and cities.

Another critical issue in the consolidation plan is the development of performance standards or "benchmarks" to be used in evaluating how states, counties and cities achieve certain goals. Defining and clarifying these standards will require significant input from counties, which must be involved on an ongoing basis.

Until detailed legislation is submitted by the president, it will be difficult to predict Congress' reaction to the Administration's partnership proposals. While the new Congress favors program consolidation and more state and local flexibility, there will likely be problems with the Administration's recommended funding levels. With the exception of the transportation proposal, the Administration's budget proposes to fund most partnerships at close to current program levels.

Two major block grant proposals being discussed on Capitol Hill — welfare and Medicaid — are not slated for major change in the president's budget. The Administration's proposed funding for both programs continues to grow based on current projected costs.

Congressional action timetable for the FY96 budget

- February 6**
President Clinton submitted his FY96 budget to Congress.
- April 15**
Deadline for adoption of a conference report on the congressional budget resolution for FY96. If a budget resolution is not approved by this date, the House Appropriations Committee can begin work on spending bills.
- May 15**
Appropriations bills may be considered in the House starting on this date, even if a budget resolution has not been agreed to.
- June 10**
Deadline for the House to pass all 13 appropriations bills.
- July 1**
Supplemental appropriations for FY95 that exceed spending targets and are enacted before this date trigger 15-day post-enactment of sequester.
- August 20**
Deficit forecast update released by Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- October 1**
FY96 begins. This is the deadline for enactment of appropriations bills. If they are not acted by this date, a continuing resolution must be enacted or unfunded government operations would cease.
- 15 days after**
OMB issues final report on whether automatic spending adjustments are necessary because of congressional action during 1995. President issues executive order; any automatic take effect on this date.

Congress, however, is expected to do major surgery on Medicaid whether or not it is turned into a block grant. The goal will be to slow down the growth rate of Medicaid costs to between three and four percent over the next five years. There has been some discussion of exchanging federal fund cuts for greater program flexibility. But how much federal funding states will be willing to have cut in exchange for more flexibility in Medicaid program management is yet to be determined.

The House and Senate budget and appropriations committees began hearings last month on the budget and are developing their own ideas

on spending and taxing targets. The budget committees will be drafting budget resolutions in early March. At that point, it will become clearer how serious the new Congress is about cutting spending and setting realistic targets to balance the budget.

The critical time for important budget decisions starts next month with the drafting and adoption of budget resolutions. The budget resolution will spell out required savings to come from program changes that will be made by the authorizing committees and overall spending totals to be adhered to by the appropriating committees.

It will also indicate when the au-

thorizing committees are to make their required program changes to save savings. Any changes, which may include major changes in taxes, a fare reform, Medicare and Medicaid programs, will be put into a budget reconciliation bill which is likely to be considered May or June.

These early decisions would have major effects on counties' ability to obtain additional funding through grants-in-lieu-of-taxes and other development programs.

(Legislative Director Richard Todd, Director of Public Policy Our Tabor and Staff Writer Jill Grattan contributed to this report.)

County News invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint or different point of view, let us know. Please include a phone number with your letter. Mail or fax to: County News, NACo, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2080, 202/393-2630.

Issues and Ideas

"It takes a whole village to raise a child"

By Randy Franke
NACo president



Randy Franke



children in the United States lives in poverty. Murder, drug abuse and violence are all around them. Each day hundreds of young women under the age of 18 become pregnant. Too many small children are denied the basic good health and educational opportunities that they must have in order to thrive.

I believe that we need to reach our children at an earlier age to confront the effects of poverty, to stop the crime and violence that plagues our country, and to give our children the opportunities they need.

One of the highlights of the week will be a video teleconference on children's issues from Washington, D.C. to sites across the country, focusing on innovative strategies and programs that our nation's counties have developed to address the needs of children. Participating in this teleconference will offer you and key stakeholders in your community the opportunity to discuss crucial issues facing our children and youth and possible solutions that could be pursued.

Soon, information packets offering ideas and suggestions for planning and carrying out NCGW activities will be mailed to county leaders across the country.

County Government Week, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, was started to raise public awareness and understanding of county government.

It is most successful when county officials, like yourself, take an active role in planning and carrying out County Government Week activities.

I hope you will start today and bring together the key people to plan your county's celebration. We all have a duty and responsibility to tell our citizens about the programs and services that are funded by their tax dollars.

Sincerely,

Randy Franke

Randy Franke
NACo president

As welfare reform heats up, NACo pushes county agenda

By Marilina Sanz
associate legislative director

As Congress and the Administration shift attention to welfare reform, NACo leaders have taken an active role in advising both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue on the necessity for flexibility, local control, and maintenance of welfare eligibility for legal immigrants in any reform effort.

At a bipartisan working session on welfare reform convened by President Clinton, Jan. 28, local flexibility emerged as the common theme for local government officials at the meeting.

"The need for flexibility does not end at the state level. It needs to go to the local level, particularly in states such as New Jersey and California, where counties are responsible for operating these programs," said Michael Pappas, Somerset County (N.J.) freeholder, who, along with Los Angeles County (Calif.) Supervisor Yvonne Burke, was representing NACo and county interests.

Although there was consensus at the meeting on the need for more flexibility, there was no clear agreement on how to achieve this goal. The major points of contention in this area were whether entitlement programs should be changed to discretionary block grants, and whether legislation should have national standards, specific requirements or general guidelines.

Among the major concerns expressed by local officials about the block grant proposals was the possibility of shifting costs and the need to have a safety net.

"As a county supervisor in a state where counties are totally responsible for general assistance, I hope that the financial responsibility is not shifted to the area of last resource," Burke said.

Five days later, in testimony on welfare reform before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, Hennepin County (Minn.) Commissioner Randy Johnson expressed NACo's opposition to provisions in the Personal Responsibility Act (H.R. 4) that would eliminate eli-



Photo by Marilina Sanz

Hennepin County (Minn.) Commissioner Randy Johnson, NACo's third vice president, testifies on welfare reform before a House Ways and Means subcommittee.

"The need for flexibility does not end at the state level. It needs to go to the local level."

Michael Pappas
freeholder
Somerset County, N.J.

gibility for legal immigrants in 52 separate federal programs. "Counties are very worried about the potential increase in the number of people using emergency rooms and uncompensated care in county hospitals due to the elimination of basic Medicaid and other public health services to legal immigrants," Johnson said.

He added that NACo is very concerned about the effect that capped block grants for entitlement programs would have on county governments. "Under a capped block grant, there would be no additional federal funding available to meet the increased demand for cash assistance and other social services in case of a recession; and that is

when the help is needed the most," Johnson said.

Later in his testimony, Johnson staked out five principals that should be adhered to if Congress does change the current system into a series of block grants:

- There must be some financial protection for state and local governments in the case of economic downturns.

- Flexibility must not stop at the state level. It must also be extended to local governments.

- Local elected officials must be involved in developing state plans. "A mandate from the state capital in St. Paul is every bit as much of a mandate as one that comes from Washington, D.C.," Johnson said.

- Overly prescriptive requirements should not be included.

- There should be national performance goals rather than strict requirements. These goals should be based on outcomes rather than on meeting audit and eligibility requirements.

Johnson added that NACo policy supports a national minimum benefit standard. "Without such a standard, those in need will be drawn to and ultimately overwhelm jurisdictions where people are trying to do more to help their neighbors in need."

EPA provides relief to municipal incinerators

The EPA announced on Jan. 26 that the "point of discharge" for municipal combustion ash will be the exit of the building following the burning and any treatment processes.

EPA's decision is important because the Supreme Court ruled last year that incinerator ash must be tested before disposal to deter-

mine whether it is hazardous. If the ash is hazardous, it cannot be disposed in a regular landfill or monofill, but must be handled as toxic waste.

By allowing the determination to be made after bottom ash and fly ash is combined, most incinerator ash will test non-hazardous. Where such is not

the case, treatment of the ash to render it non-hazardous can be done inside the plant prior to testing.

As a result, the current practice of combining bottom ash and fly ash (from the stack) inside the plant before testing the ash can remain the ash management method of choice.

Hill begins consideration of HUD reinvention plan

By Haron N. Battle
associate legislative director

In the first round of congressional hearings on the Administration's proposals to dramatically reorganize the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), NACo expressed general support for some aspects of the Administration's plan to consolidate programs, but cautioned that the Hill should proceed slowly in considering proposed changes to public housing and the Section 8 rental assistance program.

Mayor Patricia Ticer of Alexandria, Va. testified on behalf of NACo, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and other interested groups at a Feb. 2 hearing before the Appropriations Subcommittee for VA, HUD and Independent Agencies.

Under HUD's reinvention blueprint, 60 programs would be consolidated into three block grants. The Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG) Program would be consolidated with relatively small economic development programs into a new CDBG Fund.

Ticer told the subcommittee that local government officials are pleased that CDBG is a core element of this block because studies have shown that CDBG works best when linked with overall housing, economic and social development.

Similarly, the Administration proposes that the HOME Investment Partnerships Program provides the basic structure for a new Affordable Housing Fund.

This new block grant would consolidate HOME, housing for the elderly and disabled, and several smaller programs. Ticer said local governments support using HOME as the framework for this consolidation because the program is working. She stressed that the vast majority of the funds should go directly by formula to urban counties and cities.

Ticer took issue, however, with the Administration's proposals for public housing and Section 8 certificates.

The Administration wants to withdraw direct capital funding after two years, and instead, give tenants Section 8 certificates or vouchers that they could use for any housing. Such a program, Ticer said, would "sacrifice a national asset" through inattention and inadequate funding.

The Administration also proposes radical changes in the Section 8 Program as a means of controlling its costs. Project-based Section 8 assistance tied to specific units would be replaced with portable certificates at the time of their expiration. Ticer pointed out that this would threaten thousands of housing units, many of which are insured by the Federal Housing Authority (FHA).

HUD also proposes to cap rents for many of these units at the "fair market rent," which could cause

owners to default and result in a corresponding hit on the FHA insurance fund.

Ticer stressed the need for close scrutiny as Congress considers how to reform and control the cost of the public housing and Section 8 programs.

While the appropriations committees have begun hearings on HUD management and funding, the banking committees which authorize HUD programs and approve departmental changes have not held hearings on reorganizing the department.

NACo supports cost-benefit analysis before establishing regulations

By Diane S. Shea
associate legislative director

Emphasizing that "developing federal environmental policies requires an accurate assessment of conditions and risks," NACo Third Vice President and Hennepin County (Minn.) Commissioner Randy Johnson testified before a joint hearing of two U.S. House of Representatives subcommittees this month in favor of a bill that would require federal regulatory agencies to undertake scientifically verified risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses.

"It is just plain wrong to regulate without at least an attempt to make a scientifically based assessment of the risk that is sought to be abated, its relationship to other risks, and the costs involved," Johnson told members of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Hazardous Materials and the Subcommittee on Health and Environment.

"We should use the best available scientific data, recognizing that even imperfect science is preferable to a news media 'wicked waste-of-the-week' approach."

Johnson said that federal regulators view his county "through a soda straw," looking at specific problems, such as underground storage tanks or asbestos in buildings, or stormwater runoff. "Such tunnel vision doesn't allow them to see how each regulation affects the others," nor does it allow the county to prioritize its environmental spending on the larger threats to public health, such as sealing abandoned wells that can contaminate water aquifers.

Pointing out one of the more absurd examples of environmental regulation that fail to address significant risks, Johnson cited

landfill rules that require a double thickness artificial liner for sites even when the closest groundwater is more than 300 feet below the surface.

He objected to having to spend a great deal of his county's taxpayers' money, along with diverting resources and attention from more serious local health threats, because Washington looks at each environmental issue separately.

Johnson also endorsed the concept that an environmental regulation be justified. "If I [as a local elected official] do not understand the rationale for a particular regulation, how is the ordinary citizen who has less time and opportunity to study the issues supposed to understand it?" He urged passage of legislation to require a proposed regulation to produce benefits to human health or the environment that justify the costs of implementation and compliance.

Sign up now for your Hill visits at Leg.

With the dramatic change in Congress and confirmed speakers such as President Clinton and Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), the 1995 Legislative Conference is expected to produce an attendance record number for NACo. If you are planning to participate in this year's conference, please contact your members of Congress now to

schedule a meeting for Tuesday, March 7 after 11 a.m.

Your presence on Capitol Hill is imperative. County officials need to voice their concerns to their members on important county issues. NACo's Legislative Affairs staff will be available to meet with local officials prior to their appointments to provide up-to-date information on NACo

priority issues.

The department will also have a booth in the conference registration area to supply you with fact sheets by issue area and other important background information.

To arrange a meeting, call the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121 to be connected with your members' offices to set up a meeting.



◆ NACo hosted a meeting of presidents and executive directors from state associations of counties, Jan. 25-27. Attendees were briefed by NACo staff on legislative issues, special projects and enterprise programs. A reception for new members of Congress and those who are former county officials was also held.

◆ In his address before a coalition of economic development organizations in Washington, Jan. 24, NACo President Randy Franke stressed the importance of the federal government's role in stimulating economic growth in distressed communities where the private sector has traditionally been unsuccessful without public investment.

On Jan. 25, Franke was the keynote speaker at the Nauset Conservancy's government relations conference in Arlie, Va. The topic was building partnerships and achieving common objectives at the community level. Hall County (Ga.) Commissioner Breston Branch and NACo Environmental Programs Director Jerry Medtner were workshop speakers.

During his stay in Washington, Franke, along with Associate Legislative Director Jeff Arnold, visited with Senator Mark Hatfield, (R-Ore.), Jan. 27, about flow control and the senator's "local fling" bill, which gives local government more flexibility in using federal assistance dollars.

◆ In Fairfax, Va., last month, Sandy Markwood, senior director for human services, gave a presentation on NACo's Child Training Initiative and the need for counties to be involved in children's services before a group of community leaders.

◆ Associate Legislative Director Bob Fogel attended meetings with the staff of Senators Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and McCain (R-Ariz.), earlier this month, on telecommunications issues. He also met with House Surface Transportation Subcommittee members on their legislative agenda for 1995.

County News

"THE WISDOM TO KNOW AND THE COURAGE TO DEFEND THE PUBLIC INTEREST"

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and the often unspoken topic of domestic violence became part of the national dialogue.

The impact was even felt in the halls of Congress, when for the first time last fall, members approved major legislation addressing domestic violence—the Violence Against Women Act.

The court's role in the bill was modeled after the Norfolk County (Mass.) Model Domestic Violence program, which is based in the Quincy District Court. Indeed many local governments have already turned to the Quincy Court for guidance on redefining the court's role in their own systems. Over the last three years, officials from Quincy County court have trained local police, county court personnel and representatives of community agencies in 13 states.

What makes the program unusual is the strong partnership both inside and outside the court between district attorney, probation department, police, women's shelters, user treatment groups, and drug and alcohol recovery centers. All agencies work in unison to make the system "user-friendly" to victims and tough on abusers.

"Each of the principals are aware of their role and perform it beautifully," said Charles E. Black, presiding judge of the Quincy Court. "Departments are traditionally too lenient the way they routinely respond to victims seeking safety by issuing restraining orders, but not enforcing them," he explains. "The premise of the program is to control the batterer and empower the victim."

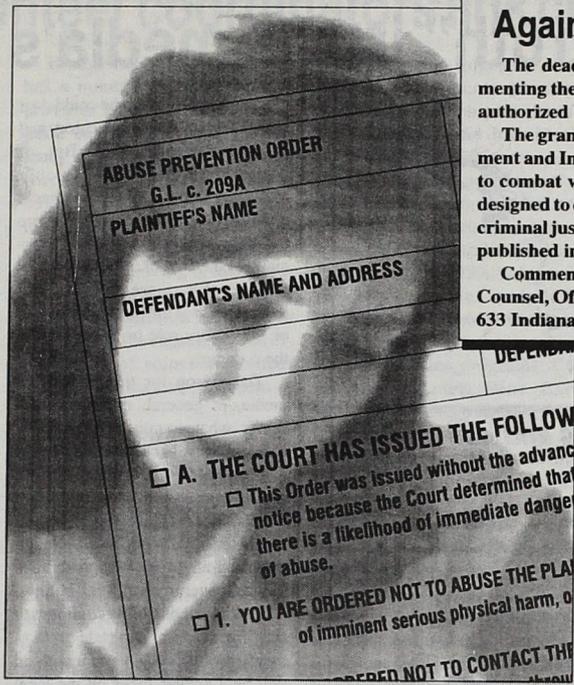
"User-friendly" system

From the time a victim walks through the county courthouse doors, she is greeted by an array of services designed to make it more comfortable for her to maneuver through the system. Services include a separate office staffed by women for processing restraining order applications; briefing sessions on victims' rights and the court process; two daily court sessions exclusively for restraining order hearings to help speed the process; and assistance office to connect victims with shelters, support groups and other community agencies.

Trials are scheduled on a fast track. Prosecutors seek stiff punishments and judges impose strict sanctions, including firearms seizure, mandatory abstinence from alcohol and drugs, random urine testing, and counseling. Abusers are closely monitored by the probation department, which swiftly prosecutes any non-compliance.

It's common in some states that these types of offenders aren't supervised, and many courts assume they will abuse again, explained Klein, chief probation officer. "I don't know which ones [will], but we treat all of them seriously. ... We keep them on a very short leash."

The typical probation period is 90 days, said Klein, and there are



approximately 400 on probation at a time; every week, four to five break probation and are sent to jail. Four out of the 19 probation officers work exclusively on domestic violence cases.

The seriousness with which the Quincy Court handles domestic violence sends a message to the community that "this behavior is not to be tolerated," said Norfolk County Board of Commissioners Chairman William O'Donnell. "Norfolk County is the model to be looked at country-wide."

Changing attitudes

Transforming the attitudes of court personnel toward domestic violence has been key to the effectiveness of the program. "A majority of people in these systems aren't sensitized to violence," explained Gwen DeVasto, community education and training coordinator. "They're usually judgmental and angry at the victim who chooses not to do anything. They think victims are predisposed to back out and not testify and go back to the abuser."

Every agency in the Quincy Court system, where it is stressed that the victims' rights and safety is the chief concern, is educated about the dynamics of domestic violence.

If a victim chooses not to press charges, she is not reprimanded, but reassured that the court is there to help when she is ready. If this happens, prosecutors and probation officers can use alternative evidence in place of her testimony. Judges are also trained to realize that a victim's absence may not necessarily be due to her disinterest, but her fear.

Breaking the cycle of violence

Thirty-six-year-old Linda Parker had endured years of abuse from her boyfriend, Steve. It wasn't until he

beat up her oldest daughter that she realized she had to get out of the relationship.

It was in the women's shelter that night when she first had contact with the Quincy Court when Gwen DeVasto called to inform her of her options. The next morning, she went to the courthouse for a restraining order.

Although he was jailed twice, Steve continued to harass Linda, threatening her life on numerous occasions. The morning after his second release, he came through Linda's bedroom window at 2 a.m. wielding a knife. He managed to escape, but was arrested the next day on his way to meet his probation officer.

"My experience with the Quincy Court was as positive as it was possible to be at the time," Parker said. A victim witness advocate was with her at each court appearance, she

Comments sought for Violence Against Women Act regulations

The deadline for comments on proposed regulations implementing the Law Enforcement and Prosecution Grants Program authorized by the Violence Against Women Act is Feb. 27.

The grants program authorizes to states, local units of government and Indian tribal units \$800 million, over the next six years, to combat violent crimes against women. The grant program is designed to encourage states to support the most forward-looking criminal justice approaches to this problem. The regulations were published in the Dec. 28, 1994 *Federal Register*.

Comments should be addressed to: Office of the General Counsel, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 633 Indiana Ave., N.W., Suite 1245, Washington, DC 20531.

explained, and she had a phone number she could call anytime for advice.

"The coordination between the D.A. and probation and support groups is phenomenal. Everybody knows what everybody else is doing."

The counseling Parker received through the Quincy Court helped her break the cycle of violence. While Steve was in jail for the third time, she sued him in civil court for monetary replacement related to the damage he had done to her home and car. "I did it to make a point that he didn't scare me," she said. "Although I am still terrified."

After his third release, the death threats started again, however, Parker decided to use a different tactic — she dared him to do it. "I said, 'Do it. If you're going to do it, do it. If not, leave me alone.'"

It worked. Steve, she said, is now married and living in another town. Parker, now manager of a video department at a major Northeast grocery chain, is about to become a grandmother.

She regularly participates in the Quincy Court's training program by telling the victim's side of the story. "Anything I can do to help a woman down the line helps me to heal myself."

A proven record

Since the program began in 1987, up to 2,000 restraining orders have been issued each year, compared to

the Quincy Court.

No new funding was needed for the program, rather the existing budget was reallocated for the training of existing personnel; some were transferred as the program developed. Some personnel, such as specially designated domestic violence prosecutors, victim-witness advocates, police, probation officers and court clerks are paid out of each agency's general budget. Volunteers are also used. There are a total of 22 staff in the domestic violence unit.

Replication

The demand from local governments and even other countries for training has been constant. Because of the O.J. Simpson trial, "people are looking for what to do," said Klein.

In many other court systems, abusers are routinely released and the case isn't tried because the victim will not testify, he explained, but cases can be proven without the testimony of the victim. "You have to have a will to do it... We have a duty to uphold the law. The onus is not on the victim." Effective court systems must see things "not from a turf point of view," he pointed out, "but the victim's safety point of view."

(For more information about the program, contact: Gwen DeVasto, Norfolk County District Attorney's Office, 360 Washington St., P.O. Box 309, Dedham, MA 02026, phone: 617/329-5440, ext. 223.)

Violence Between Intimates

(Note: Violence between intimates denotes those murders, rapes, robberies or assaults committed by spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends.)

- From 1987-91, intimates committed an annual average of 621,015 rapes, robberies or assaults, representing 13 percent of all of these violent victimizations.

- In 1992, 81 percent of the violent victimizations committed by spouses and ex-spouses were assaults. The remainder were rapes and robberies, which also may have involved assault.

- According to the FBI, 22,540 murders were committed in 1992. The relationship between

the victim and offender was known in 61 percent of these murders. About 15 percent of the murders involved a victim described as an intimate of the killer.

- On average each year, women experienced more than 572,000 violent victimizations committed by an intimate, compared to approximately 49,000 incidents committed against men.

- An estimated 1,432 females were killed by intimates in 1992, representing 70 percent of the intimate murder victims.

- About one in five females victimized by their spouse or ex-spouse reported that they had been a victim of a series of three or more assaults in the last six months.

- Female victims of violence by intimates report over half of their victimizations to the police.

- The most frequent reason female victims of intimates gave for not reporting to police was that they believed the incident was a private or personal matter.

- Almost six times as many women victimized by intimates (18 percent) as those victimized by strangers (three percent) said that they did not report their violent victimization to police because they feared reprisal from the offender.

(Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice)

As many county officials know

There's not always "truth" in the media's accuracy

By Jill Conley
staff writer

Nearly anyone can tell you what O.J. Simpson had for dinner June 12. And though a lot of Americans may not care, most know what Connie Chung asked Newt Gingrich's mother, and what she said he said about the First Lady.

Is this the kind of public information our forefathers sought to protect when they drafted the First Amendment?

If you don't have anything nice to say ...

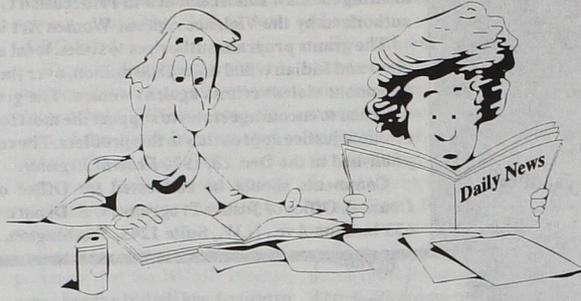
"If there's even the slightest suggestion of scandal, the news media wants the story," says NACo Third Vice President Randy Johnson, Hennepin County (Minn.) commissioner. "Good news is not news and bad news is front page."

Olivia Lazor, chair, Mercer County (Pa.) Board of Commissioners, echoes Johnson's complaint. "When we're called by reporters, they are generally looking for newsworthy, negative quotes," she says. "We don't see any coverage of the positive things county government does. But when its something negative, like a lawsuit by a disgruntled employee, it appears on the front page."

Lazor once questioned the editor of her community's primary newspaper about its coverage of local government. He told her very simply, "Everyone in this arena is suspect."

"That attitude feeds the public perception that politicians are all self-serving and corrupt," says Lazor. "It was always my understanding that the media were supposed to report all of the facts and let the public decide."

But it doesn't work that way if issues aren't reported until they become crises, she says, "because the public doesn't have an opportunity to understand all of the work that



"Good news is not news and bad news is front page."

Randy Johnson
NACo third vice president
Hennepin County (Minn.) commissioner

goes into the process."

"Much of what we do in county government is simply not very sexy," says Mecklenburg County (N.C.) Commissioner H. Parks Helms, which, he believes, is part of the reason so many issues go unreported. But, nearly all of what county government does directly affects the lives of citizens. "You don't hear a lot about solid waste until we have to raise disposal fees," says Helms. "Then, everybody cares."

"We need to be very aware of the media's influence on the public's perception of what we do," he goes on. "And by the same token the media needs to better understand our role in looking after the economic and social well-being of our communities."

Getting it wrong

Not only is the media's thirst for dirt annoying to many, it also lends itself to all kinds of subtle inaccuracies.

Randy Johnson recounts an example of a headline that once ran on the front page of his local paper. It read: "Auditor investigates Commissioner Johnson's expenditures," and

was accompanied by his photo.

According to Johnson, there was no dirt, and the completed audit demonstrated that three months later. But that story ran on the obituary page under the headline, "Auditor's report released."

Is fairness a relative to accuracy? In Mercer County, says Lazor, "You can't argue with someone who buys ink by the barrelful and newspaper by the truckful."

But the print media is not alone in committing crimes against the truth. And Johnson, who believes Americans rely too heavily on television news, has a handful of examples of how that medium can "get it wrong."

In one, a local television station aired a story featuring an interview with Johnson about one of Hennepin County's initiatives. Johnson's problem with the piece wasn't so much that the facts weren't facts. It was that many of the facts weren't presented at all. He called the reporter to complain.

The reporter responded by explaining that he had only six hours to put the 22-second story together and challenged Johnson to take a stab at

himself if he thought he could do it better. Johnson rewrote the story and called the reporter back. But, of course, it had already run.

Johnson says that his local media does seem to be picking up more stories on programs that work, especially in the area of criminal justice. But, he says, those stories rarely mention where the funds come from or the county role in administering the program.

The reason for this is that the media, in general, doesn't understand what counties do, he says. Part of that is because county roles vary so much from state to state and even within a single state.

Helms agrees that neither the media or the public are well-enough informed about the responsibilities of local government. "But," he says, "I think as responsibility continues to shift from federal and state governments toward local government, there will be a greater focus on the local role."

With that comes some responsibility on behalf of local officials to educate the media about their roles. "Too many of us have learned to try to manipulate the media," says Helms, "trying to deal in the same type of buzzwords and soundbites. Unfortunately, the problems we're dealing with in county government are more complex than ever."

The future

As computers become as common as televisions, people are already beginning to turn to on-line services for their news. And Randy Johnson predicts this trend will continue to gain momentum.

"Within a few years," he says, "people will be checking their computers for news as they eat their breakfast." No longer limited to their local media for information, citizens will have instant access to news from around the globe from many, many sources.

In addition, news subjects and consumers will be able to respond to coverage instantly by posting a forum-style note "explaining the rest of the facts," says Johnson, who believes this feature will encourage more careful and substantive reporting. "Direct communications allows people to see very clearly what the media coverage leaves out," he says.

According to Johnson, not only will the information age produce higher standards of accountability in the media, it will ultimately improve the quality of government. "The media and politicians will have exposure to far more opinions because everybody will have access," he says.

In the meantime, it will be left to the public to police the media.

Regardless of how quickly Johnson thinks, however, the media's underestimation of the public's intelligence is beginning to backfire. "I think the growing disdain for Wash-

ington that we hear about including the national media," he says, adds that growing audiences for programs like "Nightline" with Ted Koppel prove that a lot of people are hungry for real news.

Helpful hints for conducting media interviews

Anticipate all questions. Prepare responses. Make the points that support your position, even if no one asks.

Make positive, important points first and speak in an active voice. Turn negative questions around.

Be truthful, even when it hurts. Release bad news yourself — better to come from you than someone else.

Respond in 20-30 second segments that can stand alone. Speak in short, complete, un-complicated sentences. Use simple words.

Never speak "off the record." Expect anything you say to be used, even if a reporter agrees to off the record. Once they know something they may find a way to get it somewhere else on the record.

Don't make smart alec statements. Be extremely careful about making jokes or being sarcastic. It can be very damaging when seen in print or standing by itself on a TV or radio clip.

Find another way of saying it. "No comment." Say that you will get the right person who can answer the question, then you will get back to them, or that it is a legal issue, etc.

Absolutely never lose your temper with a reporter.

Anticipate reporters' needs. Be helpful, respect deadlines and call back when you promise, even if you don't have the answer yet.

Don't assume the interview is over until the crew drives away.

Hints courtesy of the National Association of County Information Officers.

Internal controls and fraud prevention: advice for elected officials in new GFOA booklet

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently published a new booklet to provide elected officials and management with practical information on internal controls and fraud prevention in the public sector.

Entitled "An Elected Official's Guide to Internal Controls and Fraud Prevention," the 60-page booklet provides easy-to-follow, yet technically sound explanations on topics such as the control environment; accounting systems; control policies and procedures; evaluating internal controls; fraud: causes, cost and prevention; common types of fraud; and how management can detect fraud.

The booklet's question-and-answer approach and pocket-sized page format make it an easily accessible reference for use by those unfamiliar with internal controls in the public sector.

The book is ideal for distribution to newly elected officials, council and board members, government employees without a background in internal controls, and citizen and taxpayer groups.

Elected officials have a vital role to play in ensuring that their governments maintain sound internal controls. This booklet was prepared to provide them with the practical assistance they need to fulfill this important responsibility.

An "Elected Official's Guide to Internal Controls and Fraud Prevention" is the fifth booklet in GFOA's popular and continuing "Elected Officials" series of guides on public finance topics. Other series volumes cover debt issuance, auditing, fund balance and general government finance. All "Elected Officials" series volumes are available for order from GFOA. A single copy is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

For more information or to order, contact: GFOA, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60601, phone: 312/977-9700, fax: 312/977-4806.

County volunteer coordinators link citizens to local government

By Peter Lane
research associate

The '90s just may turn out to be the decade of service. From school-based programs to national service and other community service programs, Americans are seeking ways to make a difference in their communities and to recapture the spirit of civic responsibility.

Counties are at the forefront of this movement by establishing and expanding their volunteer programs. "There is little doubt that volunteers bring a wealth of experience and skills to county programs without great cost," said Randall Franke, NACo president and commissioner from Marion County, Ore.

"Those counties that have initiated managed volunteer programs have seen some very impressive results — greater involvement by their citizens in local government activities and gaps in service filled."

To tap into this potential resource, many counties are organizing their volunteer programs in much the same manner that non-profit agencies have been doing for years. County staff may now have the title of "volunteer coordinator," or their job responsibilities include working closely with volunteers.

Some counties, such as Arlington County, Va., Marion County, Calif., and Salt Lake County, Utah, have had a central volunteer office for many years. Others, such as Polk County, Fla. and DeKalb County, Ga. have established theirs more recently.

Establishing a volunteer office has a number of advantages. It provides citizens with a central point of contact, fosters consistency in policies and procedures throughout the county, and helps staff develop volunteer jobs based upon the department's or program's needs. While many counties are moving in this direction, the majority of counties have volunteer coordinators who are responsible for organizing the effective use of volunteer services within a particular department or program.

In many counties, there are staff who don't have the title of "volunteer coordinator," but who spend a significant amount of their time working with volunteers.

For example, Deputy First Class David Betz, Hartford County (Md.) Sheriff's Department, developed and now manages the volunteer telephone reporting unit as part of his duties. Volunteers who work on the telephone reporting unit answer non-emergency calls from citizens and write an initial report for police officers to follow up. "Even though it's the part of my job I enjoy most, I don't always devote as much time to the program as I'd like because of other responsibilities," said Betz. "But we did a lot of planning at the outset and that has really paid off. The program's 24 volunteers allow officers to spend more time in the community."

Regardless of how a county structures its volunteer program, the role of a volunteer coordinator is a critical one. In many counties, the volunteer coordinator provides a strong linkage between the community and the county.

They are knowledgeable about county government operations and build partnerships with community groups and individuals. By doing so, volunteer coordinators bring local government to citizens and maximize volunteers as a resource for the county.

In Blue Earth County, Minn., during 1993, volunteers donated services valued at more than \$255,600 to county corrections, environmental and human services programs. Colleen Landkamer, Blue Earth County commissioner, sees volunteers as a valuable enhancement to county services. "Everybody benefits," said Landkamer, "The people who receive services, the volunteers who gain satisfaction and enjoyment from their work, and the county programs which citizens are more knowledgeable about and willing to support."

Landkamer also sees the role of a volunteer coordinator as an important one. "A volunteer coordinator brings not only enthusiasm, but also the technical expertise to run a program," explained Landkamer.

Paul Horrisberger, volunteer coordinator with Blue Earth County's Human Services and Community Corrections since 1978, believes the job of volunteer coordinator is one that requires a variety of skills.

"My role is to connect with people in the community," said Horrisberger. "I also work with staff to help determine their needs, develop job descriptions, interview prospective volunteers, and organize training. These are all necessary

What Does a Volunteer Coordinator Do?

- Keeps abreast of all community activities and maintains contact with local organizations.
- Works with staff to determine needs and develops volunteer jobs.
- Develops volunteer recruitment campaigns.
- Interviews, screens, places and trains volunteers.
- Organizes recognition activities.
- Communicates county policies and procedures regarding volunteers to volunteers and staff.
- Maintains accurate records of volunteer hours and requirements.
- Coaches staff in volunteer management.
- Promotes volunteerism to public groups and civic organizations.
- Listens to volunteers, staff and community leaders to improve services.

"There is little doubt that volunteers bring a wealth of experience and skills to county programs without great cost."

NACo President Randy Franke
commissioner, Marion County, Ore.

parts of a volunteer program."

Practical issues in volunteerism

While a volunteer coordinator is the link between citizens and their local government operations, there are also some practical considerations. In Contra Costa County, Calif., volunteers donated more than 220,000 hours of service last year, which the county estimates is equal to 106 FTEs (full-time equivalent).

"The great number of volunteers we have working in county government requires attention to some administrative details," said Suzan Lawrence, coordinator for Contra Costa County's Social Services volunteers.

"For example, I work closely with the risk management office to ensure there are no liability problems for the county. I also manage the court-referred volunteer program, making sure they are properly screened, that confidentiality issues are addressed, and that an accurate record of their service is maintained."

Lawrence believes that having a volunteer coordinator serving as the point person for these administrative procedures protects the county and maximizes the

potential of volunteers. She also views the support of her county's board of supervisors as instrumental in making the program a success. "A policy statement adopted by the board that outlines the roles and responsibilities of department staff is critical," said Lawrence.

A county volunteer coordinator may juggle any number of tasks during a day: meeting with a community group, interviewing a new volunteer, coaching staff on volunteer management, discussing policy requirements, planning a targeted recruitment campaign, or organizing a volunteer recognition event. The benefits — for both volunteer coordinator and the county — can be great. "Watching the growth of volunteers as they help others while learning about the county gives me a lot of satisfaction," explained Horrisberger. "They really make a difference for our county."

If you would like more information on the role of a volunteer coordinator, or examples of volunteer coordinator job descriptions, please contact Peter Lane, NACo Volunteerism Project, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001, phone: 202/942-4288.

Counties prepare for National Volunteer Week

During National Volunteer Week, April 23-29, counties across the nation will celebrate the important role that volunteers play in county government. National Volunteer Week is sponsored annually by the Points of Light Foundation to recognize volunteers throughout the nation.

For many counties, volunteers have long been a critical link between citizens and government organizations. Volunteers not only contribute thousands of dollars worth of services, they also enhance the community through their involvement and commitment to serving others.

"Volunteers perform vital services for many counties," said Larry Naake, NACo executive director. "Counties have also reaped increased collaboration with local businesses and non-profit agencies because of their volunteer programs. Of equal

importance is an improved quality of life as county residents gain satisfaction and enjoyment by serving their community."

The number of county volunteer programs has increased dramatically in the last several years — NACo's "1993 Survey on Volunteerism and County Government" showed a 100 percent increase in the number of county volunteer programs over 1990. Citizens donated their time and talents to county juvenile justice, environment and recycling, public safety, and public health programs.

Many counties have well-established volunteer offices that develop volunteer opportunities and recruit and place volunteers in county government agencies. Other counties have staff who coordinate volunteers on a part-time basis or coordinate volunteer activities within

county departments.

Volunteer recognition and appreciation is critical to any program's success. The NACo Volunteerism Project has developed a volunteer recognition kit to assist county officials and volunteer coordinators in planning recognition activities for volunteers working in county government. The kit includes:

- ideas for activities, including examples from counties
- a sample proclamation to be signed by elected officials
- a press release that can be tailored to your county's program, and
- a volunteerism fact sheet.

To order a volunteer recognition kit at no charge, or receive more information about the project, please contact Peter Lane at 202/942-4288. Or write to: NACo Volunteerism Project, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

When it comes to running a board meeting, there are few rules

By Sharon Lawrence
research director

One of the hallmarks of American county government is its diversity. That attribute is no more readily apparent than by a review of the operating procedures that county governing bodies use to direct their activities. Governing bodies not only take significantly different approaches to how they operate, they also vary widely in the procedures or practices they cover in their rules.

One need look no further than at meeting times to see this demonstrated. Howard County, Md. leaders are night owls, starting their meetings at 8 p.m. At the other end of the spectrum, the county board in El Paso County, Colo. meets at night only for "matters of unusually high public interest when circumstances warrant."

The order of business reflects the individuality of county government as well. Governing bodies in Anne Arundel County, Md.; Atlantic County, N.J.; Steuben County, N.Y.; and Iredell County, N.C. open their meetings with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer.

Both the pledge and a prayer, however, are absent from the Howard County order of business. In Mendocino County, Calif., attendants at the county board meeting will hear the pledge of allegiance recited, but no prayer or invocation will be offered. Summit County, Ohio rules provide for the pledge and a "silent meditation."

At the beginning of each of its meetings, the San Diego County (Calif.) Board of Supervisors "pulls" items from the agenda that board members or the public wishes to discuss. Items pulled from the agenda by the public are heard first. The remaining items, apparently lacking opposition or without controversy, are bundled together as a consent calendar. The board takes a single vote on that calendar.

Citizen participation

From the citizen's perspective, a knowledge of the operating rules of the individual county is imperative for effective civic participation. For example, requests to address the Summit County Council must be submitted at least 15 minutes before the start of a meeting, otherwise, the opportunity to speak is lost.

In most jurisdictions, residents need to talk fast.

During the Mendocino County board meeting, a period of "public expression" is allowed. At that time, citizens may discuss items not on the posted agenda and not already considered by the board. Each individual, however, is allowed only three minutes to speak and a total of just 10 minutes per topic is permitted.

Group presentations before the San Diego County board may last 15 minutes, although individuals usually are limited to a three-minute presentation.

Those appearing before the Atlantic County governing body may not speak more than two times, for a period not to exceed

two minutes each, on any one subject, except with special permission.

Washington County, Minn. commissioners are more generous. They allow each public speaker five minutes, although the board chair may "limit and/or terminate any presentation where it would be in the best interests of the county to do so."

Citizens may console themselves with the knowledge that speaking restrictions apply to governing body members as well. Atlantic County freeholders may not speak more than three times, for a maximum five minutes each time, on any question before the board, except with the approval of the chair or a majority of the board.

Although citizens may complain that it's difficult to learn about governing body meetings, residents of Summit County, Ohio may obtain personal notification of all council meetings or com-

mittee meetings on specific subjects by filing a written request with the council clerk.

Requests for notification remain active for 12 months, but they must be accompanied by a sufficient supply of stamped, self-addressed envelopes to cover all meeting notices. (If the supply of envelopes becomes exhausted before the end of the 12-month period, the council clerk is to notify the citizen of that fact.)

Like county residents, county government employees need to stay on their toes regarding board procedures. The staff of Mendocino County, for example, particularly needs to plan ahead, as items for board action must be submitted to the clerk of the board 11 days before the board meeting. (Atlantic County staff, however, need to file their materials with the clerk of the board only by noon, three working days before the board meeting.) Clark County, Nev. staff must submit written

materials to the board in either Letter Gothic (12 point) or Courier (10 point) type.

Of course, county officials haven't applied detailed procedural rules only to residents and staff.

Iredell County commissioners, for example, have imposed themselves a "duty to vote," unless excused by a majority vote of the board. In Summit County, agenda items may be withdrawn from board consideration only by writing. When Steuben County legislators hear three raps of the chair's gavel, they know they are to take their seats. Two raps tell them that they must stand. One rap lets them know it's time to sit down.

(The NACo Research Department encourages county governing boards to send copies of their rules of procedure to the department, National Association of Counties, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.)

Achievement Awards deadline near

Yes, it's that time of year again.

The Research Department is gearing up for the 26th year of the NACo Achievement Award Program. The program is designed to recognize county governments and their employees for new service delivery or more efficient management practices.

This year the awards program is accepting applications in 22 categories, including arts and historic preservation, volunteers, information technology, and public safety.

Two counties certainly did not want to be left out this year. Bucks County, Pa. and Winnebago County, Wis. were the first entries received for this year's awards program.

The Bucks County Emergency

Services Training Center seeks an award for its accredited, competency-based fire/rescue testing and certification system. Designed to enhance the professionalism of fire fighting and to increase the competency of fire and rescue service providers, the program offers training to fire, emergency medical, police and industrial clients from Bucks County and the surrounding Philadelphia metropolitan area.

Winnebago County submitted its "Board of Supervisors Handbook" for an award in the county administration and management category. The handbook is designed to assist county board supervisors with performing their duties and responsibilities. The binder includes gen-

eral county information, a copy of the "Robert's Rules of Order," county board rules, the board's Code of Ethics, and board member information.

Do not miss this year's award program. Fax your request for application to 202/737-0480, or call the Achievement Award Hotline at 202/942-4280. Entries must be postmarked by March 1. Winners will be notified in June. Award-winning programs will be highlighted in the *County News*, featured in "best practices guides" and other publications, and at NACo's Annual Conference held this year in Fulton County, Ga. Certificates will be distributed at the NACo Achievement Award Booth during the conference.

Be recognized for your county's
communications efforts...

NACIO

The National Association of
County Information Officers

invites you to enter the
1995 Awards of Excellence Program

Deadline - FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1995, 5:00 p.m.

If you've produced an outstanding audio-visual production, annual report, brochure, newsletter or other communications-related project, then you should enter the NACIO awards program.

Contact Thomas Smith at 404/522-5022
for award entry forms.

NACIO is a NACo affiliate.

HOUSE APPROVES from page 1

vinced to do otherwise. If compelling arguments can be made, Congress, by a simple majority vote, can waive the requirements of the bill and impose the cost of a mandate on state and local governments.

However, members must take a separate recorded vote. In the future, every member will be accountable to the voters for how he or she votes on mandates that drive up state and local taxes.

Please remember to send a thank you letter to the key sponsors of the bill: Rep. William F. Clinger, 2160 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-3805; Rep. Rob Portman, 238 Cannon House Office Building, 20515-3502; Rep. Tom Davis, 415 Cannon House Office Building, 20515-4611; and Rep. Gary Condit, 1123 Longworth House Office Building, 20515-0518.

Also, please don't forget to send your own members who voted for the bill a letter of thanks.

House members voting against H.R. 5

All Democrats, include: Abercrombie (Hawaii), Beilenson (Calif.), Bonior (Mich.), Brown (Calif.), Brown (Fla.), Clay (Mo.), Clayton (N.C.), Collins (Ill.), Collins (Mich.), Conyers (Mich.), Coyne (Pa.), Dellums (Calif.), Dingell (Mich.), Engel (N.Y.), Evans (Ill.), Farr (Calif.), Fattah (Pa.), Filner (Calif.), Foglietta (Pa.), Gejdenson (Conn.), Gibbons (Fla.), Gutierrez (Ill.), Hastings (Fla.), Hilliard (Ala.), Hinchey (N.Y.).

Also, Jefferson (La.), Johnston (Fla.), Kennedy (R.I.), LaFalce (N.Y.), Levin (Mich.), Lewis (Ga.), Maloney (N.Y.), Martinez (Calif.), Matsui (Calif.), McDermott (Wash.), McKinney (Ga.), Meek (Fla.), Mfume (Md.), Miller (Calif.),

Mineta (Calif.), Mink (Hawaii), Mollahan (W.Va.), Nadler (N.Y.), Oberstar (Minn.), Owens (N.Y.), Pastor (Ariz.), Payne (N.J.), Pelosi (Calif.), Rangel (N.Y.), Roybal-Allard (Calif.).

In addition, Rush (Ill.), Sabo (Minn.), Sanders (Vt.), Schroeder (Colo.), Scott (Va.), Serrano (N.Y.), Skaggs (Colo.), Slaughter (N.Y.), Stark (Calif.), Stokes (Ohio), Thompson (Miss.), Torres (Calif.), Towns (N.Y.), Tucker (Calif.), Velazquez (N.Y.), Vento (Minn.), Vislosky (Ind.), Waters (Calif.), Watt (N.C.), Waxman (Calif.), Williams (Mont.), Woolsey (Calif.), Yates (Ill.).

Not voting: Becerra (Calif.).

Labor Dept. official reassures local training representatives

By Richard Sayre
research associate

"Mayors and county officials should share decision-making on an equal footing with governors."

Doug Ross
assistant secretary of labor

is not acceptable; two, programs that are defended in place won't survive."

Many members of the new Congress want to reduce investment in employment and training by as much as \$7 billion over five years, he said. That sum represents a quarter to a third of all resources currently spent on training programs, Ross added. "Their inclination is to take the programs, put them in a block grant, and give the money to governors," he said of Congress.

Ross said that President Clinton will propose an increase in spending on training in his FY96 budget request when it is released Feb. 6. But the Administration will not submit its own consolidation legislation, he said. "The fact is that if we send up legislation with President Clinton's imprimatur, it'll be dead on arrival in the new Congress," Ross conceded.

JTPA programs for disadvantaged youth may be targeted by Congress for elimination, Ross noted. "We're very concerned that Title II-C money [for year-round youth programs] is in considerable jeopardy," he explained.

The Administration is proposing that existing youth dollars be used "in a school-to-work framework," Ross explained. At-risk youth should receive their basic education in an occupational setting, he indicated.

The Department of Labor wants to continue to send JTPA II-B and II-C money down to the service delivery area level. Carl Perkins money would continue to flow to vocational education agencies. Service delivery areas and the vocational agencies would then meet with lo-

cal elected officials and local school boards in a broad school-to-work framework to decide how to invest

their joint funds in second-chance programs for youth, Ross explained.

"If we give the money to the locals first, that gives them standing to negotiate with schools on how to use the money," he said. "We can't protect the II-B and II-C investments by themselves," he said. And while the JTPA youth money alone is not enough to make a substantial impact on troubled youth, it should be when it's joined with

local school funds, he said.

"It takes two to dance," he said, alluding to past difficulties education and training representatives have had linking funds and forces. "Unless we work together we could be out of the game."

(This article first appeared in "NACo Update on Job Training," Feb. 1, 1995, published by the NACo JTP Service Program, Richard Sayre, editor.)

Commissioners on-air in Georgia

Commissioners attending the Association County Commissioners of Georgia's (ACCG) annual meeting in April will get another take at recording public service announcements (PSAs) for their local radio stations, courtesy of a project launched last fall by ACCG's Information Officers Group (IOG). IOG is a recently formed group of county staff members who handle communications duties.

At the association's Fall Policy Conference last year, 30 commissioners took advantage of the IOG project and recorded PSAs. They were able to select from among five PSAs developed by ACCG's information officers group. Topics included government, crime, voting, immunization and recycling. (See sidebar for sample PSA.)

IOG hired a professional announcer/engineer, rented broadcast-quality equipment, and provided commissioners with a finished 30-second tape, all at a cost of under \$1,200. Commissioners rehearsed at IOG's conference booth, while actual recording took place in a room fairly well isolated from hotel traffic.

The tapes have gotten a good reception at local radio stations, according to Thomas Smith, ACCG public information manager, who was instrumental in organizing IOG. The project, Thomas said, "is a good way to get

ACCG

COUNTY GOVERNMENT PSA
CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS

30 SECONDS
5 SECONDS

(ANNCR)

(COUNTY COMMISR.)

(ANNCR)

(MUSIC OUT)

(MUSIC LEAD IN)

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR BABY FROM SERIOUS CHILDHOOD DISEASES SIMPLY BY MAKING SURE THAT HE OR SHE GETS ALL REQUIRED VACCINES BEFORE AGE TWO? CHILDREN CAN BE VACCINATED FOR FREE OR AT LOW COST AT PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS, BUT ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE CHILDREN IN GEORGIA ISN'T GETTING THE SHOTS THEY NEED.

WE NEED TO IMMUNIZE COUNTY'S LITTLE PEOPLE. THIS IS COMMISSIONER ASKING FOR YOUR HELP. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS A CHILD UNDER AGE TWO, CONTACT YOUR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL 1-800-232-2522 FOR INFORMATION.

TOGETHER, WE CAN GIVE OUR CHILDREN A SHOT AT THE FUTURE.

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commissioners out in front with the community."

For more information, call Thomas Smith at ACCG, 404/522-5022.

CRIME BILL from page 2

The original formula used the rate of violent crime as the most significant factor in determining allocations. Thus, if a high-crime area were confined to the central city, the city would receive all of the funds.

This would occur despite the fact that most counties spend the bulk of their justice resources within municipal boundaries for functions such as probation, courts, indigent defense, prosecution and jail incarceration.

As a result, the formula, as originally construed, did not accurately measure responsibility for dealing with the crime problem.

It was also noted that under the block grant, if a unit of local government receives less than \$10,000

per year, the money is transferred to the governor. It would be then up to the governor to distribute the funds "in a manner which improves public safety."

Corrections

NACo was also successful in revising the prison provisions of the proposed legislation.

The \$10.5 billion Violent Criminal Incarceration Act of 1995 (H.R. 667) eliminates the requirement under Title II of existing law that states submit "comprehensive" correctional plans to Attorney General Reno for approval and as originally drafted contained no reference to the county role.

The current law requires states to appropriately work with counties

in developing the state plan and to share funds with counties in implementing the plan.

Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), a former Santa Clara County supervisor, sponsored an amendment for NACo to H.R. 667, requiring states to cooperate with local governments and to share funds with them "to manage state and local correctional populations." Although H.R. 667 is heavily focused on prison construction, the amendment was significant in that it provided authorization for states and counties to design comprehensive collaborative strategies.

Another important amendment NACo supported was offered by Representative Bob Barr (R-Ga.). It requires states to share funds with

counties housing state prisoners. Counties can receive funds for "construction, development, expansion, modification, cooperation or improvement of correctional facilities."

The backup of state inmates in county jails continues to be a major problem throughout the country, with reports estimating more than 50,000 state inmates currently backed up on any given day.

Despite the positive changes that have been made in H.R. 667, the more expansive corrections language in the current act, and particularly the requirement for a "comprehensive" plan is preferable to the more narrow "bricks and mortar" focus of H.R. 667, says Dennis Greenhouse, chair, NACo Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee.

Reimbursing county costs for illegal immigrants

Finally, in a significant victory for counties, the committee approved an amendment (20-14) to H.R. 668, the Criminal Alien Deportation Improvement Act of 1995, that requires the federal government, beginning in FY97 (Oct. 1, 1996), to reimburse state and local government for costs associated with the incarceration of immigrants.

Presently, full reimbursement does not become mandatory until Oct. 1, 2004. In a separate action, the committee also approved an amendment by Representative Carlos Moorhead (R-Calif.), which clarifies that counties are eligible for FY95 monies (\$130 million) appropriated for the reimbursement of criminal alien incarceration costs.

News from the nation's counties

North

NEW YORK

• **WEST CHESTER COUNTY** Legislator Thomas J. Abinanti is calling for New York state to reimburse local governments for the taxes they lose when homes are taken off the tax rolls because they are acquired for use as community residences under state law.

"The cost of caring for those who need special attention in group homes is a state responsibility," said Abinanti. "It is unfair to ask local governments to subsidize this state function."

Abinanti said that the influx of group homes and other non-taxable uses has removed a significant portion of their taxable property from the tax rolls just at a time when they are facing potentially large tax increases just to meet the ever increasing costs of day-to-day operations.

PENNSYLVANIA

• Peter Kostmayer, regional director of EPA, recently an-

nounced that EPA has pledged to "forge a new relationship with ALLEGHENY COUNTY" by "picking up the entire cost of assessments" for up to 12 "brownfields" sites.

Brownfields are former industrial sites, such as steel mills, where special environmental considerations govern redevelopment.

Kostmayer said EPA is willing to pay approximately \$25,000 to \$50,000 per site, and will work with the commissioners in finding prospective buyers for the properties.

Under an agreement, EPA would shield investors and developers from liability for any possible site contamination found in the future.

He also said the EPA will establish a relationship between levels of cleanup necessary and use of the site, instead of continuing to use one standard level of environmental cleanup.

County Commissioner Tom Foerster, chairman, said the action will encourage both developers and lending agencies, which have hesitated to risk businesses in

"brownfield sites" due to the potential liability involved.

South

FLORIDA

• The **PALM BEACH COUNTY** Tax Collector's Office has released its new Florida Arts license plate. It has a turquoise, coral and blue background with "Florida" above and "State of the Arts" below the license numbers.

Twenty dollars of the proceeds from the sale of the special license plate goes to the Florida Fine Arts Trust Fund.

The monies collected from plate sales in Palm Beach County are distributed to the county cultural council to support their program.

The Florida Arts plates may be purchased at any of the Tax Collector's offices and mobile units in Palm Beach County. The cost is the normal registration fee plus a \$22 annual fee and one-time payment of \$10 for the plate replacement.

The plate may be personalized

for an additional \$12.

MARYLAND

• Full-service, dial-up Internet accounts can now be obtained from the **BALTIMORE COUNTY** Public Library for a small annual fee.

Services include E-mail, Telnet, File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and access via Lynx to World Wide Web, with five megabytes of disk storage space.

Accounts are available for \$50 annually to Baltimore County residents and \$80 to non-Baltimore County residents. Applicants can register at all 15 libraries or by mail.

The new, full-service Internet Account includes: E-mail for sending and receiving messages around the globe; Telnet for connecting with other computers at Internet sites; FTP for copying files from one computer to another; and text-based access to World Wide Web, a powerful browsing and searching system that creates links between related sources.

Future plans include the addition of the newsgroup exchange service, Usenet, and the ability to use Mosaic, Cello or other Web browsers for a graphical interface.

Midwest

MINNESOTA

County officials are concerned that passage of the governor's budget plan could drive a wedge between local governments.

The plan proposes to distribute state aid to Minnesota's 87 counties through block grants that would be divided up by "virtual boards" made up of county, city and school officials. Each jurisdiction would have to justify to the others why their programs and services merit funding.

Governor Carlson believes a block grant system would offer more local control over state-allocated funds, encourage intergovernmental cooperation, and result in increased county-wide service.

Local officials fear that such a plan could pit communities against one another.

West

WASHINGTON

• **PIERCE COUNTY'S** annual count of homeless persons usually is conducted at Tacoma-area emergency shelters. But this year scores of volunteers will be visiting rural areas when the count is conducted.

Coordinated by the Pierce County Department of Community Services, the counting will be conducted, for the most part, by Tacoma-Pierce County Coalition for the Homeless volunteers.

"It is suspected that past counts haven't been a true reflection of our county's homeless population," said Irene Fruzzetti, project coordinator for Pierce County's Department of Community Services. "An accurate 1995 count will do much to ensure that services will continue to exist for the people who need them."

Volunteers will be at food banks asking where people spent the previous night. They'll also try to find people camping out and sleeping in cars or under bridges and other structures. They'll attempt to determine who would otherwise be homeless among the jail and hospital populations. They also hope to count people "doubling up" with friends and relatives.

The governors' "Invincible Five"

By Neal R. Peirce
Washington Post Writers Group

(Neal Peirce is a syndicated columnist who writes about local government issues. His columns do not reflect the opinions of County News or the National Association of Counties.)

As the National Governors' Association met in Washington last month, five Midwesterners were the stars among stars in the ranks of the 30 Republican governors.

These are the seemingly invincible Five who walked unscathed through the upheaval and incumbent-bashing of 1994, winning reelection by margins rarely seen in competitive two-party states: Michigan's John Engler (62 percent), Illinois' Jim Edgar (64 percent), Wisconsin's Tommy Thompson (67 percent), Minnesota's Arnie Carlson (63 percent), and Ohio's George Voinovich, who triumphed by a phenomenal 72 percent.

Happy circumstance explains some of the victories. The Great Lakes states, following a decade of tough industrial losses, have been rebounding strongly from the recession. Unemployment is down, job creation up. Thankful for the good times, voters are clearly reluctant to rock the boat.

The successful Midwestern governors were smart enough to run administrations free of major scandal. And they were ideally positioned for the hot button issues of '94: All had resisted new taxes and

rejected programs that would balloon their budgets. All ran as "tough" on crime.

On a right-to-left spectrum, the group has its more outspoken conservatives in Engler and Thompson, both of whom are known nationally as advocates of tough welfare reform. Edgar and Carlson seem poised in the middle. The group includes one party progressive — Voinovich, former mayor of Cleveland and one-time president of the National League of Cities.

What none of these governors can be likened to is the "Contract with America," the fiery Newt Gingrich-style slash-and-burn politics now so prominent in today's Washington. None of them ran against government. They talked about slimming down the public sector, but they didn't — explicitly or by innuendo — make government employees the problem and then run against them.

Instead they used the language of reinvention — claiming they'd used smart and resourceful management to revamp bureaucracies — to rethink programs, to squeeze more value out of tax dollars spent, and get results.

Voinovich, for example, is a leader among the 50 governors in such strategies as TQM ("total quality management") — the idea of delegating more authority to front-line executives and workers, increasing training opportunities for employees and then holding them accountable for results.

In the campaign and since, Voinovich has been reiterating the theme that state government has to "work harder and smarter and do more with less."

Why does such a theme "fit" in state capitols but not in Congress? Politicians self-select by the kinds of offices they choose to run for, suggests Robert Behn, head of the Governors Center at Duke University: "If you run for Congress, you can push an ideological agenda, but you don't need to make anything work. For governors, it's different. Making things work is the business they're in."

Michigan's Engler illustrates the point. Early in this term, with a prospective deficit skirting \$1 billion, he had to — and did — scramble for deep cuts. But Engler also started looking quickly for alternatives such as the contracting out of state services.

In 1993-94, Engler and the legislature addressed a roaring tax and finance crisis. First they abolished the property tax to pay for schools, to homeowners' immense relief. Then they made up the lost funding with a two-cent hike in the state sales tax, providing a \$4,200-per pupil floor under all schools in the state. The voters, by referendum, agreed.

Engler enraged many liberals by ending general assistance welfare for adults. But he got a federal waiver for AFDC reform, offering such inducements as child care, transportation and some continuing welfare payments to recipients

who are able and willing to move into jobs. The reform seems to be saving money — \$100 million, Engler claims.

This year Engler is asking the legislature for a variety of tax cuts and pushing such imaginative plans as using Michigan Strategic Fund moneys to buy up burned houses and other eyesores in a try to turn devastated urban areas into economic assets.

Voinovich helped rescue Ohio from its recession-bred budget shortfall by such steps as budget cuts, forcing the public universities to manage themselves more efficiently. He cut back on general welfare, pleased business by starting long-overdue reform of Ohio's workers' compensation system and moved to increase aid to children, including a quintupling of Head Start outlays.

This year, with a fresh federal waiver, Voinovich hopes to go ahead with an "OhioCare" health reform plan which will put hundreds of thousands of poor and low-income people into managed care systems, freeing many to leave welfare without losing medical benefits.

Clearly, these specific kinds of reforms, directly responsive to people's concern about bloated and unresponsive government, are strong vote-getters for the candidates who push them forward.

But they don't get much press or television attention — especially

See PEIRCE, next page

We invite readers to submit items for "News from the nation's counties." Mail to us: do County News, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001, or FAX to: 202/393-2630.

Job market

COUNTY LIBRARIAN — SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIF.: Seeking executive-level library professional to direct County Library Department. Community-based, multi-branch system serves 900,000. Extensive community outreach; specialized programs for adults, children, visually disabled, adult literacy; multi-lingual services; state-of-the-art automated acquisition, cataloging and circulation system (circulation integrated with City of San Diego extending services to over 2 million residents.) File by Friday, February 24, 1995. Salary range is negotiable \$70,000-\$100,000 with expected entry near \$86,000. MLS required. Executive benefits include automobile and relocation allowance. For application and detailed recruitment brochure please contact: County of San Diego, Department of Human Resources, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 207, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 236-2191 or 531-5139.

COUNTY MANAGER — VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLA.: Population: 397,000, forecast to grow to 463,000 by the year 2000. Located on the east coast of Florida (the 4th largest state in country). Daytona Beach is the largest of 15 incorporated and three unincorporated communities. DeLand is the county seat. High quality of life, with an active, involved citizenry. Full-service Council/Manager Charter County government, including airport,

civic center, beach and other significant municipal-type services. Salary negotiable DOQ, within a range to \$115,000, plus automobile and excellent fringe benefit program. One person holding position since 1971 and has retired. \$298M budget. 2446 full-time employees. Excellent staff. Reports to seven member County Council elected five by-district serving two-year terms and two at-large, serving four-year terms. The Chairperson is elected by the Council. Requires master's degree in public or business administration or related field. Requires strong, seasoned professional management experience and skills, principally as local government manager or assistant preferred. At least 10 years of demonstrated experience in managing a large and complex organization, balancing economic development, growth management and environmental needs and dealing with change. Strong leadership, professional judgement, decision-making and problem-solving skills. Excellent communicator, with solid financial and budgetary skills. Knowledge of latest management techniques, use of technology and effective facilitation and negotiating skills. Resumes should be sent by March 13, 1995 to James L. Mercer, President, The Mercer Group, Inc., 990 Hammond Drive, Suite 510, Atlanta, GA 30328. IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA'S OPEN RECORDS LAWS, RESUMES AND ALL AP-

PLICATION MATERIALS SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. Equal Opportunity Employer.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY RECORDS — DAKOTA COUNTY, MINN.: Hiring Range: \$34,700-\$50,900/year. Dakota County has an excellent opportunity available for a Deputy Director of Property Records to oversee all aspects of document recording including deeds, mortgages and other legal documents. Duties include personnel management, policy development, and budget preparation. This position is also responsible for preparing for the State Auditor's review and conducting research for property record issues. To qualify, applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in a related field PLUS five years of progressively responsible experience in the area of property records management, including 2 years of supervisory experience; considerable experience may be substituted for the education requirement. The successful candidate will possess thorough knowledge of the process of recording and filing documents, legal land description, land measurements and Abstract and Torrens systems. Applications must be received by the Dakota County Employee Relations Department, 1590 West Highway 55, Hastings, MN 55033 by March 8, 1995. Applications may be obtained by calling (612) 438-4280 or TDD (612)

438-4618 for hearing impaired. E.O.E. Smoke-Free Environment.

DIRECTOR OF DATA PROCESSING — KENT COUNTY (GRAND RAPIDS), MICH.: The County of Kent is seeking an experienced administrator to direct the information processing systems and manage the Information Systems Department of the County. The responsibilities of this challenging position include system design, programming of procedures, computer operations, development of computer policies, and coordination of a County-wide electronic communications network. Qualifications include: a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in computer science, mathematics, business administration, accounting, or related area; at least five years of successful progressively more responsible data processing work experience in an administrative capacity or project management; experience or demonstrated knowledge in the migration of applications from mainframe technology to personal computers; experience in the development of LAN'S, WAN'S, electronic mail, and imaging in a complex environment. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience and includes an excellent fringe benefit package. For application contact Kent County Personnel, 300 Monroe N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503, (616) 336-3524 or 3414. Applications will be accepted until position is filled, prompt replies are suggested. EOE.

JAIL ADMINISTRATOR — LAUDERDALE COUNTY, ALA.:

Cathy Ashmore, International Enterprise Academy, Center on Education and Training for Employment, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, phone: 800/848-4815 or 614/292-4353.

PUBLICATIONS

■ **The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)** has released a new report, titled "Young Children in Poverty: A Statistical Update." This publication illuminates a national crisis and focuses on several interrelated factors that affect the lives of children under six living in poverty. The cost is \$5.

To order, contact: NCCP, 154 Haven Ave., New York, NY 10032, phone: 212/927-8793, fax: 212/927-9162.

■ **The Housing and Development Law Institute's (HDLI)** "1994-95 Index to HUD-Assisted Housing and Community Development Regulations" is now available.

The index is a unique aid, which assists the user in finding parts and sections of Title 24 CFR. The cost is \$25 per copy.

For ordering information, contact: HDLI, 2000 P St., N.W., Suite 405, Washington, DC 20036, phone: 202/833-2400.

■ **The EPA** has released a new report, titled "Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1994 Update."

It contains statistics on landfilling and combustion disposal, recovery rates from recycling and composting, and discusses the role source reduction plays in municipal solid waste management.

For your copy or information, call the RCRA Hotline: 1/800/424-9326.

Salary \$35,000 - \$45,000 (Entry salary negotiable). The Lauderdale County Commission is seeking to fill a jail administrator position for a combined city/county jail of 150 beds under construction. Administrator will be responsible for overall operations as well as budgeting, training and managing personnel, policy development, and public relations. Administrator will also oversee a work release facility. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in one of the social sciences, three years direct experience in working with inmates and two years admin./mgmt. experience. NIC courses, graduate work or additional experience will be given preference. Send resume by February 28, 1995 to Lauderdale County Commission, P.O. Box 1059, Florence, AL 35631, FAX 205-760-5703. EOE/ADA.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS — DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLO.:

Fastest growing county in Colorado; seeking full-time responsible, integrous individual with election experience willing to tackle a challenging and growing elector population in a progressive and creative high-tech office environment; supervising a staff of four and reporting to the County Clerk and Recorder; familiar with rudiments of elections and the election process. Will be responsible for the preparation and conduct of all county-wide elections, to include training of election judges, maintenance of election records, programming of the election ballot counting system, supervising up to five temporary staff during election periods, and coordination with all election participants. Applicants must show thorough knowledge of PC's, to include network and mainframe experience. Familiarity with DOS operating system, WordPerfect, Quattro, and GIS applications a plus. Responsible for 266K budget. Knowledge of statistical data analysis, report writing, communication and supervisory skills. Salary \$3,125/M DOQ, plus benefits package. Reply with resume to Douglas County Personnel, 101 Third Street Castle Rock, CO 80104. Application deadline is 4:00 p.m. February 24, 1995. Douglas County is an EO/ADA Compliance Employer. Fax responses to (303) 688-1293.

Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

Rates: \$5 per line.
(You can figure the approximate cost of an ad by counting the number of characters, including spaces and punctuation marks, in your copy. One line consists of approximately 38 characters. Divide 38 into the number of characters in your ad. The resulting figure will give you the approximate number of lines. Multiply that figure by 5 to figure your approximate cost.)
Display Classified: \$30 per column inch.
Billing: Invoices will be sent after publication.
Mail advertising copy to: Job Market, *County News*, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
FAX advertising copy to: Job Market, *County News*, 202/393-2630.
Be sure to include billing information along with copy.
For more information, call *County News*, National Association of Counties, 202/942-4256.

Notices . . . notices . . . notices

CONFERENCES

■ **The Neighborhood Reinvestment Training Institute** will offer 45 sessions on ways public-private partners can work together to meet common community investment objectives during its Community Lending Institute, March 5-8 in Washington, D.C.

The sessions will focus on homeownership lending, small business lending, reinvestment issues and strategies, and development of lending resources and tools. The registration fee is \$50.

For more information, contact: Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, 1325 G St., N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005, phone: 202/376-2400, fax: 202/376-2600.

■ **The National Certification Commission** will host two seminars

on "Certification Program Development," March 9, and "Legal Aspects of Certification," March 10, in Bethesda, Md.

Speakers will cover certification objectives, benefits, program components and development guidelines. The cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members.

For more information, contact: National Certification Commission, P.O. Box 15282, Chevy Chase, MD 20825, phone: 301/588-1212.

■ **To better prepare water providers and public officials to understand and share responsibilities for drinking water issues, the American Water Works Association (AWWA)** will host a satellite teleconference on March 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Mountain Time).

Aired at approximately 100 downlink sites in the United States and Canada, the teleconference will feature experts from both municipal governments and the water supply industry.

For more information, contact: Heide Burback, AWWA Training Program Coordinator, 6666 West Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235, phone: 800/559-2885.

■ **The 10th National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Spring Conference** will be held April 2-5 in Austin, Texas.

Workshop topics will include: "Regulatory Integration," "Compliance Assistance," "Local Government," and "Facility Planning."

For more information, contact: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, 218 D St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003.

■ **The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** will cosponsor the 17th Annual National Hurricane Conference, April 11-14 in Atlantic City, N.J.

The topics to be covered include: 1) Overview of the 1994 Hurricane Season, 2) Inland Flooding: Impact of Tropical Storm Alberto, 3) Unique Evacuation Problems of the Upper Atlantic Coast, and 4) New Congressional Legislation on Flood Insurance. The registration fee is \$225.

For more information, contact: NHC, 864 East Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, phone: 904/561-1163.

■ **The National Council for Urban Economic Development** will host its annual conference, April 23-26 in Dallas, Texas.

Some of the issues to be discussed are: "Strategies for Attracting Private Investment to Downtown," "Tactics for Military Base Reuse," and "Corporate Recruiting: The Latest Trends."

For more information, contact: Chris Mead, conference director, National Council for Urban Economic Development, 1730 K St., N.W., Suite 915, Washington, DC 20006.

■ **"Pathways to Your Future"** is the theme for the 13th Annual International Entrepreneurship Education Forum, May 21-25 in Albuquerque, N.M.

The forum is designed to bring together educators and entrepreneurial minds to discuss ways to infuse entrepreneurship education into vocational programs at all levels. Registration is \$225.

For more information, contact: Dr.

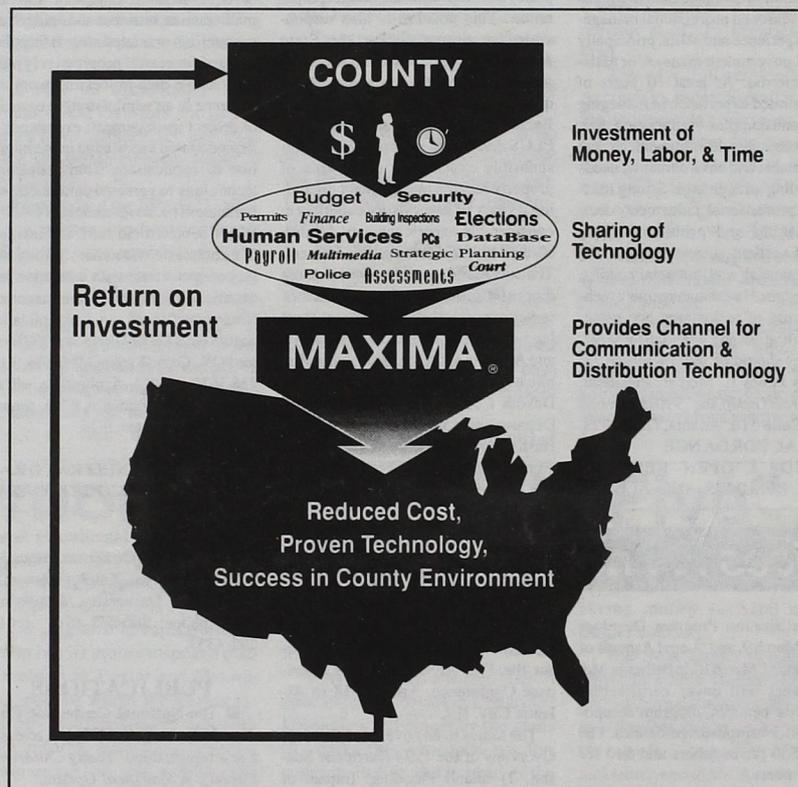
PEIRCE

from previous page

outside their own states. Instead, we are fed hot, media-inflamed political combat stories out of Washington.

The Midwestern governors show, by contrast, that there are ways government can fix problems and deliver services — even while slimming down. The longevity of a Republican Congress may depend on how soon it, too, learns that lesson.

Are you looking for a Computer Company with a proven record of Community Involvement?



Meet MAXIMA!

MAXIMA, a "General Contractor" for information technology, is a leading systems integrator and computer services company providing alternatives for local governments nationwide. MAXIMA tailors unique solutions to match the distinct needs of each county.

MAXIMA believes communities can benefit economically from the proper utilization of technology.

MAXIMA is a NACoNET partner endorsed by the National Association of Counties.

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