NACo Urges Vote On Land Use Bill

NACo and other public interest groups are intensifying their efforts to persuade the House Rules Committee to send National Land Use Policy legislation (H.R. 12104) to the House floor. County officials, joined by city and state officials, have been urging their Congressmen to talk with their colleagues on the Rules Committee. The Committee voted Feb. 26 to table the land use bill, rather than forwarding it to the House floor.

The land use bill, similar to one overwhelmingly passed the Senate last June, would have provided $800 million during the next eight years to states for developing comprehensive plans to regulate the use of land, particularly for projects such as power plants and airports which have a severe environmental impact.

As reported in last week’s County News, NACo’s campaign for the Rules Committee reconsideration began almost immediately following the committee vote. Ralph McClure, Chairman of the Salt Lake County (Utah) Board of Commissioners and Chairman of NACo’s Land Use Steering Committee, called an emergency meeting of that committee Feb. 27 at NACo’s legislative conference.

The NACo Board of Directors reaffirmed a strong position taken by the Land Use Steering Committee urging the Rules Committee to reconsider the land use measure.

During the legislative conference, a task force of county officials was formed, headed by McClure, to keep the members of the Rules Committee in line to reconsider their vote. In addition, NACo legislative representatives met with White House lawmakers to provide the latest information.

The House Rules Committee voted last week to postpone action on a transit operating subsidies bill recently agreed to by a Senate-House conference committee. The action effectively kills the legislation.

The Senate-House conference bill (S. 386, also referred to as the Williams-Minnen Bill) would have provided $800 million during fiscal year 1974 and 1975 to assist counties and municipalities with bus and rail operating expenses. The bill contained several provisions requiring local governments to continue at least the same level of local aid to transit operations. The federal funds could only be used to supplement local and state tax dollars (estimated last year to be almost $500 million).

Under the bill, funds would be distributed on a three-part formula of

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<th>County Honors Ford</th>
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<td>ON BEHALF OF Ottawa County, Mich., Commissioner Eunice Bareham presented Vice-President Gerald Ford with a hand-made plaque expressing the county’s praise and congratulations to Ford for many years of outstanding public service. Ms. Bareham presented the plaque after Ford’s speech to delegates at the NACo annual legislative conference Feb. 26.</td>
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Energy Veto Sustained Congress Begins Again

A Senate effort to override President Nixon’s veto of the Emergency Energy Act failed last week by eight votes. The President vetoed the energy bill March 6, stating that the provision rolling back crude oil prices would “result in reduced energy supplies, longer lines at the gas pump, minimal if any reduction in gasoline prices, and worst of all, serious damage to jobs in America.”

When the Senate voted the same day on a motion to override the veto, the count was 58 to 40 — short of the required two-thirds needed to override.

The emergency bill, which contained broad authority for the President to ration gasoline, to set aside some environmental controls in order to conserve oil and permit switching to dirtier but more plentiful coal, to allocate oil supplies and to set up a new $500 million annual unemployment insurance program for persons laid off in the fuel shortage, now goes back to the House and Senate Interior Committees to await further action. Senator Jackson’s office told County News that the Senator would be meeting in the next few days with energy director William Simco and House Interior Committee leadership to try to work out some compromises and get another comprehensive energy bill as soon as possible.

The same day the Senate voted to sustain the veto, the House took up another energy bill to create the Federal Energy Administration by law. The House added a price rollback provision similar to the one in the vetoed bill, on a 215-176 vote. Even though the President supports the bill to create the Federal Energy Administration by law, it is expected he will veto this bill also because of the rollback provision.

NACo has been urging Congress and the Administration to get together to immediately enact comprehensive energy legislation.

NACo urges vote on land use bill

As County News goes to press, the U.S. Senate is voting on minimum wage legislation which affects county governments.

NACo’s Labor-Management Steering Committee and Board of Directors agreed at the annual legislative conference last month that counties support minimum wage legislation.

But the Senate bill includes a provision which would require public employers to pay overtime wages for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week. Because this provision would place a tremendous financial hardship on counties which employ public safety employees, especially firemen, NACo strongly opposes the overtime provision.

A resolution approved by the NACo Board of Directors points out that many county tax rates are limited by state laws to maximum ceilings, and if the overtime provisions are enacted, counties may have little choice, under tax rate limits, than to seriously cut back fire protection for citizens. The resolution opposes overtime wage provisions they relate to public safety employees.

A minimum wage bill similar to the Senate bill is currently in the House Committee on Education and Labor. But the committee has been awaiting word of the Senate action before conducting hearings on the bill.

The House bill contains the exemptions for public safety employees which NACo strongly favors.
COUNTIES ARE RESPONDING ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT (CETA) OF 1973. OF THE 275 COUNTIES DESIGNATED AS PRIME SPONSORS, ALL BUT ONE HAVE ALREADY STATED THEIR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN MANPOWER PROGRAMS.

CETA POLICY DEVELOPS

As expected, information, regulations and procedural guides are coming out on many manpower issues as the U.S. Department of Labor implements the new manpower reform bill - CETA. NACo has recently received information about summer youth funding, program regulations, local meetings and consortium standards.

Summer Youth

In statements at NACo's legislative conference, Acting Associate Manpower Administrator Pierce A. Quinlan announced that the 1974 summer youth program would be funded through CETA prime sponsors at a projected $300 million level. Local allocations may be published by April. The Title III program will require that poor youths have priority for enrollment, but will place few other restrictions on sponsors.

Quinlan later amended one statement he had made earlier: Fourteen- to sixteen-year-olds will be eligible as enrollees during 1974. From 1975 onward CETA specifies that enrollees must be sixteen or older. Manpower plans should account for this change in the FY 1975 plans.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION

CETA Title II, Public Service Employment, regulations were published May 15 in the Federal Register. They spell out temporary operating instructions for prime sponsors and their approved program agents. However, the expected eligible areas and funding allocations were not announced.

Local dollar figures may be available later in March, when Congress passes additional appropriations for public service employment and summer youth under the FY 1974 budget. Under passage DOL will use the most recent unemployment data available to determine area eligibility and funding. Areas of over 10,000 population with more than a 6.5 percent unemployment rate will be eligible to receive funds through prime sponsors and their program agents.

Counties desiring to transfer FEP employees to CETA funded activities face several obstacles. First, Title II limits enrollees salaries to $10,000 annually. Counties may thus have to assume the cost of excess wages or cut back the salaries of transferred employees.

The law also requires that program enrollees reside in areas with more than 6.5 percent unemployment. Current employees must at least have lived in those areas at the time of enrollment under the FEP program. This provision will disqualify some current FEP employees from Title II funding.

Finally, the date on which new funds will be appropriated is not yet clear. Sponsors could receive funds by March or April or early May, according to the current Congressional timetable.

REGULATIONS REVIEW

The Department of Labor has circulated preliminary drafts of CETA regulations to NACo and other public interest groups. Several county representatives from our Manpower Steering Committee have reviewed the rapidly changing versions of the regulations.

A new draft will be published in the Federal Register for comment about March 15. All counties involved in manpower will want to analyze this publication carefully, and send comments to the DOL, with copy to NACo. Final regulations will come out during April.

CONSORTIUM GUIDANCE

Counties are anxiously asking questions about consortia arrangements. By March 31, DOL will review all such agreements between local governments.

COUNTIES PLAN NEW MANPOWER PROGRAMS

In a DOL guidance paper sent to Associate Regional Directors for Manpower, several criteria were established.

The purpose of the consortia option in the new legislation is to encourage consolidated manpower program administering in market areas. (These are usually considered to be areas within which a person may change jobs within the time period in which a research is conducted or in which there are recognized commuting patterns.) The option is not designed for jurisdictions in which manpower program patterns who join together simply to obtain the estimated 10 percent funding bonus available to consortia.

Cities and counties which do not consolidate administrative controls but only propose to do an undefined “coordination” or “joint-planning” activity should not expect recognition. Several minimum requirements will be necessary to form a valid consortium:

- Substantial coverage of a labor market
- A unified planning staff
- A single program evaluation component
- A single fiscal agent
- A methodology to chief elected official for all operations
- Allocation of fair share of funding to the populations of participating jurisdictions

In the case of a state consortium, every eligible prime sponsor in the state must join the grouping in order to qualify the consortium for a funding bonus.

Non-prime sponsor cities may not consort with other prime sponsors (the state or a distant city) if the result would be to disfranchise the normal surrounding county prime sponsor.

In short, the consortia must demonstrate fairness, accountability, and administrative cost savings. Corporate agreements which dilute the authority of elected officials or do not consolidate staffing will not pass the test.

COUNTY NEWS - March 11, 1974 - Page 2

Voters will be registering for federal elections by mail, voting in presidential primaries on a uniform date, and voting at uniform hours all over the country, if some legislation now pending before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives is passed.

Three and other election issues were discussed at the “Revolution in Campaign and Election Law” seminar sponsored by American University's Institute of Election Administration and the NACo affiliate, National Association of County Recorders and Clerks.

Local election officials from 25 states and 2 delegates from Ottawa, Canada, discussed election law and administration during the three-day seminar which featured panels on national voter registration by mail (Sen. Gale McGee's bill, S. 352, which passed the Senate in May of 1973 and is presently in the House Rules Committee), fiscal and technical resources for election officials, voter fraud, dates of elections and hours of voting, absentee voting legislation, campaign finance regulations, and Supreme Court decisions on elections.

Post Card Registration

“You won't have to be eyeballed in order to register to vote” if the McGee post card registration bill passes the House, said Red Crowlie, staff director of the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee and a firm supporter of post card registration. Crowlie says the bill seeks to eliminate the “mechanical barriers to voting” and although the bill "means some changes in election administration, these changes are worth the time in order to remove the shameful business of people not registered and not turning up to vote.

Seminar delegates responded to Crowlie’s remarks by pointing out the problem of voter fraud, of unknown costs and of increased federal intervention in local administrative affairs. Congressman William Frenzel of Minnesota, also on the panel, described his own grant-in-aid legislation for election officials and reiterated his criticisms of the McGee bill which are already in minority report on the House bill.

In another session, Minnesota Secretary of State Alan Berg pointed out that variations in procedures among states and local jurisdictions, variations in calendars, and opportunities for fraud make the McGee bill impractical. At its

Labor Management Committee Meets

NACO'S NEWEST steering committee, Labor-Management Relations - held their first meeting at NACO's legislative conference Feb. 26. (Members are pictured above in a work session.) Three subcommittees were formed: collective bargaining, equal employment opportunity and affirmative action and employee benefits such as pension plans, minimum wage and occupational health and safety. The subcommittees and steering committee will meet again at the Western Region District Conference in Seattle to develop a formal policy statement.

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Migrant Money

Of the $52 million available for migrant programs under CETA Title III, approximately $10 million will be distributed, but nothing is available to run programs for migrants. A dollar for dollar match will be required.
New Directions

WASHINGTON Timesheet

County Eligible for EDA Assistance

The Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has named counties now eligible for EDA grants.

Pima County, Ariz.; Mecklenburg and Rockingham counties, N.C.; Mercer County, N.J.; and McKean County, Pa., are eligible for public works grants since they are designated by EDA as high unemployment areas. Rockingham County is eligible for grants of up to 70 percent of the cost of public facilities. The other four counties are eligible for grants of 50 percent of public works construction costs.

Storey County, Niv. and Calaveras County, Calif., are eligible for EDA grants of up to 60 percent of the cost of public works projects since EDA designates as redevelopment areas.

The six-parish South Central Economic Development District in Louisiana includes Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne parishes which became eligible for EDA financial assistance upon EDA designation as an economic development district.

County Rations Gasoline

Hawaii County (Hawaii), became the first county in the nation (effective February 18, 1979) to ration gasoline other than the odd-even allocation system used in many counties. The decision to go to full rationing was mediated by voluntary protests from motorists who were tired of waiting in service station lines.

Officials have a computer to keep track of who is getting how much gasoline. Station attendants record each motorist's name, license number, amount of gasoline bought and date of purchase. This information is fed into a computer each evening. The plan will not create more gasoline, but will guarantee each motorist a fixed number of gallons per vehicle on any day of the week, Monday through Friday, at any station.

City, County Merge Departments

A basic plan for integration of the Tuscaloosa Water and Sewer Departments with the Pima County (Ariz.) Planning and Development Department has been laid down.

Pima County Manager Ken Scharrman and Acting Tuscon City Manager William Ely signed a report listing ten areas for cooperation between city and county. These areas include minor work, design and construction specifications, planning, cost recovery, sewer reate agreements, metropolitan area treatment capacity, collection system monitoring, wastewater analysis, and wastewater reclamation regulations.

One part of the plan calls for establishment of a metropolitan wastewater control agency. Officials say that such an agency would meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for federal funds and would provide a uniform system for local funding. Failure to qualify for EPA money could cut off an expected $75 million for regional projects needed in Pima County by 1980.

Citizens Question About Growth

The Montgomery County (Va.) Planning Commission has questioned county residents about their views on future growth and development in the county with emphasis on housing, transportation, environmental and land use issues. A questionnaire was mailed to 4,100 randomly selected county residents and received 434 percent response rate.

Questionnaire results indicate:

- Agreement for increased public action to improve the environment was especially widespread with more than 90 percent supporting greater municipal control of storm water runoff and nearly 75 percent supporting greater effort to provide parks and preserve open space in townships and boroughs.
- More than 80 percent of local governments found implementation of the state's 1976 comprehensive plan more difficult than expected; nearly 70 percent felt growth was out of control and out of proportion to the county's ability to provide adequate services.
- In all areas of the county, more than 90 percent felt the state should provide financial assistance to communities to enable them to prepare comprehensive plans.
- More than 80 percent of respondents favored better planning and better monitoring of local development projects.
- About 85 percent favored greater controls on water and other natural resources.
- About 85 percent felt the county should provide more open space in terms of recreation areas and related services.
- About 85 percent felt the county should provide more control over the expansion of existing uses.
- About 85 percent favored planning to meet community needs for additional public facilities which would result in improved facilities, reduced costs and a better environment.
- More than 75 percent felt the county should provide better controls over commercial development.
- More than 75 percent felt the county should provide better controls over residential development.
- More than 75 percent felt the county should provide more controls over industrial development.
- About 70 percent felt the county should provide more controls over land development.
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2175 New York Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

202-785-9777

Entered as second class mailing at Washington, D.C., and additional offices.

Mail subscription is $15.00 per year. Send orders with payment to above address.

A Grass-roots Effort — County Action Coalitions

In coming weeks, you'll be reading a lot in County News about NACo's new county action coalitions. The coalitions will be formed to take effective action on several of NACo's legislative priorities.

The County Action Coalitions were recommended by NACO's Committee on the Future to our Board of Directors at the national legislative conference. The coalition idea was unanimously approved by the board. We think they mark an exciting new view toward county input into the legislative process, and we're confident that they will become an effective way of increasing county rapport with Congress and the Administration.

Initially, we will use the coalition approach in four areas: rural development funding; funding for manpower programs; operating subsidies for mass transit; and passage of community development legislation which includes a formula share of funds for urban counties.

We will ask counties who have intense interest in these subject areas to make several commitments in support of NACO's policy positions on these issues. We will like, for example, to have a commitment that commissioners and other policy makers would come to Washington periodically to actively support NACO's proposals in these fields.

We also are going to ask these counties to provide staff assistance to help us with the research and backup fact-gathering that is needed in prolonged battles on important legislation.

The board also envisages enlisting other organizations in support of our objectives. In mass transit funding, for example, legal allies would be the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

Our idea is to bring a continuing grass-roots effort into Washington to secure passage of and careful implementation of programs of vital interest to our counties.

Rural County Survival

The rural development provisions of the proposed FY 1975 federal budget can only be described as a big disappointment. For the second year in a row, the Administration is largely ignoring authorizations for grants in the Rural Development Act of 1972; only $30 million is requested in the budget, less than one-tenth of the grant authorization. Instead, the Administration is relying on loan programs to finance community facilities and business development.

County officials are well aware that in rural areas the tax base is too often inadequate to finance the facilities and services needed to boost economic development. Federally guaranteed long-term loans just are not the complete answer for financially strapped rural communities. The loans must be repaid, and often there is simply not enough money to repay them. What rural counties need, and what Congress intended, are federal grants to meet rural community needs.

At last month's legislative conference, our Community Development Steering Committee reaffirmed NACO's position that Congress must give a high priority to funding the public and private development needs of our rural areas. NACO's position calls for full funding for rural water and waste disposal planning and facilities grants ($330 million), rural development planning grants ($10 million), business and industrial facilities grants, ($50 million), and rural development research ($45 million).

NACO is placing a high priority on rural development funding for FY 1975. Now is the time for rural county officials to join together in a rural development action coalition (See above editorial). This coalition will zero in on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to seeking full funding of the act by Congress.

Land, A Most Valuable Resource

NACO strongly urges the House of Representatives Rules Committee to allow the proposed National Land Use Policy legislation to be brought to the House floor for open debate.

The committee voted recently to table the bill, effectively killing the legislation. But NACO's Board of Directors has unanimously approved a resolution urging the Rules Committee to reverse its decision; and NACO members have been working to achieve that goal.

The National Land Use Bill, H.R. 10294, does not impose a national land use plan, as opponents have argued. It would encourage state and local governments to establish or improve effective planning processes on their own, and would provide financial and technical assistance to state and local governments for land use planning.

The bill insures that one of our most important resources — land — will be prudently used and that all relevant values will be considered before large irreversible commitments are made for land use.

At this writing, there is some uncertainty about the present commitment of the Administration to the land use bill, which had previously been identified as a top Administration priority. We urge the Administration to continue to actively support this legislation.

It is very important for county officials to contact member of the House Rules Committee and their own Congressmen to support reversal of the committee's action to table the legislation, and to urge a positive vote on the House floor on the committee reported bill.

Members of the Rules committee to contact are:

Voting to table H.R. 10294: Committee chairman, Ray Madden (D-Ind.); James Delaney (D-N.Y.), B.F. Sisk (D-Calif.), John Young (D-Texas), Morgan Murphy (D-III.), Clem McSpadden (D-Okl.), Dave Martin (R-Nebr.), James Quillen (R-Tenn.), and Delbert Latta (R-Ohio).

Voting in support of floor debate: Richard Bolling (D-Mo.), Claude Pepper (D-Fla.), Willis Long (D-La.), and John Anderson (R-Ill.).

Those absent and did not vote: Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) and Del Clawson (R-Calif.)

Growth Management Conference

Techniques for managing growth in cities and counties will be the theme for a National Conference on Managing Growth, sponsored by NACO and the International City Management Association and hosted by Fairfax County, Va., May 22-24 in Reston, Va. Fairfax County officials have instituted a county-wide approach to growth management, entitled PLUS (Planned Land Use System). Pictured above as they review PLUS materials are (left) NACO-Director of Special Services Margaret Seeley, Fairfax County Executive Robert Wilson, Director of Comprehensive Planning James Reid and Deputy County Executive Douglas Harman. Conference details will appear in the next issue of County News.
EPA Director Meets County Officials To Explore Ways to Work Together

by Alicean Frischlcher Legislative Representative

Representatives of the NACo Environment and Energy Steering Committee met with Russell Train, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Feb. 28 to discuss ways EPA can work more effectively with elected county officials.

Steering Committee chairperson Lyndwood Roberts pointed out that both county governments and EPA are concerned with protecting the environment, and said he hopes for a closer working relationship between federal and local officials to insure this protection.

During the NACo legislative conference before the EPA meeting, the Environment and Energy Steering Committee passed resolutions calling for EPA consultation with local officials before imposition of transportation control plans or other extraordinary measures required for air pollution control. The committee also called for full funding for local water pollution control, including funding for area-wide water treatment management planning as provided by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. (President Nixon has impaneled half of the $16 million Congress has appropriated for sewage treatment plant construction.)

There has also been a problem with the flow of available funds to local governments. Train assured the county officials that EPA is committed to providing the available funds to localities as soon as possible, and there is no "complicity" by EPA to slow down the flow of construction grant funds. He also said that he has been meeting with regional EPA officials around the country and has urged them to consult with elected local officials. He promised his continued efforts in this direction.

County officials at the meeting asked about EPA, and he assured the NACo representatives that EPA can consult with state and local officials on suggested alternatives to a complete phase-out of funding. The county officials had pointed out that this type of cut-off, without any consultation with local officials and without any alternative, would cause a hardship on time by localities, places a great burden on local governments which are forced to assume complete financing of programs.

Train also told the NACo delegation that the White House is contemplating major changes in the Clean Air Act because of the energy crisis. The Washington Post recently reported that the White House has proposed major changes in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to allow the federal government to approve a wide range of energy projects without explaining how they would affect the environment. The Post reports that "Train had proposed this legislation last year." The NACo Environment and Energy Steering Committee recommended, and the NACo Board of Directors approved, an energy policy for NACO which calls for "careful consideration of the social, economic and environmental impact of energy projects."

The committee also recommended, and the Board approved, a resolution stating that before any air quality regulations are issued by EPA, elected officials of state and local governments must be consulted. The committee also believes that various levels of government are considered an important factor in regulatory formulation and adoption. Additionally, NACO called for a scientific evaluation of energy sources.
Renewing Confidence Eyed by NACIO

"There is something about the mood in this country that is pretty grim in terms of what people think about those who are in office, and I suspect it permeates down through the lowest level of local government," stated Hal Smith, President Secretary to U.S. Senator Sam Ervin, Chairman of the Special Watergate Committee.

Smith's remarks at the recent "Bridge the Credibility Gap" meeting sponsored by the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) at NACO's legislative conference set the scene for a discussion on how county government can rebuild public confidence in government.

County information officers who attended the meeting exchanged ideas about their role in rebuilding public confidence. Smith noted, "I think the credibility restoration is going to start at your level.

During the discussion the information officers discussed techniques they are now using to inform the public on what the council is doing in an honest and straight-forward manner both to the press and to the general public is essential to rebuilding public confidence.

Counties — A National News Source
Grace Basket, urban affairs reporter for the Hearst News Service told the information officers that the county dissolution of urban interest in the White House and a retreat from a good many of these (urban problem) areas by Congress, numerous news editions, and the press away from Washington and to the rest of the country for news.

She said, "the only good ideas for confronting the energy crisis have come from local units of government." She cited the example of Los Angeles county and the work of Supervisor James Hayes: "Jim Hayes and Jim Hay's county public information officer are in a lot of little black books and they are going to be consulted now when energy questions come up, and the communication back and forth has begun.

She told the information officers that they should keep the national news media and the Washington bureau of news chains, informed of some of the good programs counties operate. "There are individuals on almost every newspaper who are interested in this sort of news."

Clyde Murray, President of NACIO and Public Information Director of Maricopa County, Ariz. chaired the "Bridge the Credibility Gap" meeting. Murray also met with other NACIO officers, Vice-President Edmund L. Castilbro, Director of Public Affairs for Fairfax County, Va.; Central Regional Director, Lawrence Gauze, Public Information Coordinator, Wayne County, Mich.; and Eastern Regional Director, Thomas P.J. Barrett, Director of Public Information, Essex County, N.J. to plan the next two NACIO meetings — one at the Western Region District Convention in Seattle, Wash. — April 26-28, and one at NACO's National Convention in Dade City, Fla., July 14-17.

Hillenbrand's Washington Report
202/785-9591

Transit Subsidy Proposal Fails
Continued from Page 1
population (50 percent), transit ridership (25 percent) and transit mileage (25 percent). Funds could be used for either transit operating costs or capital expenditures.

The Rules Committee vote was influenced by a letter from Secretary of Transportation Claude Brinegar stating the Cuban situation will be the test of President Nixon. The Administration prefers a long-range approach which would consolidate existing urban street improvement funds and transit dollars. The Administration's proposal would distribute funds based solely on population. While Secretary Brinegar conceded that adjustments could be made to a population formula, he opposed the formula in the bill as giving too many dollars to a few large metropolitan areas.

The Administration's opposition to an immediate transit aid bill means starting all over again.

The situation will be complicated by a committee jurisdictional clash in the House of Representatives. The House Banking and Currency Committee previously had control over transit legislation. However, major amendments to the transit program were included last year in the 1973 Highway Act. As a result the House Committee is now claiming jurisdiction. The situation is unclear, but hearings on the Administration's transit proposal and other transit bills are scheduled later this month by the Public Works Committee.

In the Senate, the legislation will be considered by both the Public Works Committee and the Labor and Urban Affairs Committee. Field hearings on urban transportation problems are being held during the next several months by the Senate Public Works Committee. Details on time and place are in the weekly NACO column in County News.

NACE "Matter and Measure"
National Association of County Engineers

NACE Action Guides
NACE has a new price policy for sale of its sets of the 11-Volume "NACE Action Guide Series. Sets are now sold according to the following price list: if one to four sets are ordered, the list price is set at $30, five to nine sets cost $24 each, and ten or more sets cost $21 per set.


To order sets, make checks or money orders payable to NACE, enclose a purchase order, or request to be billed. Send your order to William J. Cooper, NACE Secretary-Treasurer, 318 John's Drive, N.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52205.

Senate-Transportation Hearings
The Senate Transportation Subcommittee is conducting hearings in different areas of the nation to determine priorities in "Transportation Planning and Improvement." Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas), the acting chairman, "wants to learn how local officials and representatives from transportation fields such as construction, trucking, automobile and mass transit, federal, state and local, can be conspired to administer transportation programs.

Subcommittee members will seek opinions on the outlook for highway construction following Interstate system completion, financing highway and mass transit systems and the energy crisis impact on transportation.

The first of six scheduled meetings was held March 4 in New York City. The meetings for five meetings are scheduled as follows: Detroit, March 30; Atlanta, May 10; San Francisco, May 24; Los Angeles, May 26; and Washington, D.C., July 17.

All sessions are open to the public; persons may appear at the meetings or write in written statements.

If you want to appear before the subcommittee, submit a statement, or obtain additional information, contact Ron Katz in Senator Bentsen's office: Room 240, Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; 202/865-9772.

Railroad Crossing Safety
FWHA is studying new signs at unprotected highway-railroad grade crossings. This research on the high-speed railroad grade crossing safety is funded by contributions from the 25 states, the Federal Railroad Administration.

Participating states have selected sites for the study, and the test system will be evaluated and compared to the current standard system. Current systems use a red, white and blue diamond at the crossing and the round yellow advanced warning sign with the black X and the letter RR.

Safety will be judged to have been improved If more drivers travel at a safe speed and actively look for trains as they approach the crossing when the new signs are installed. It is assumed that such behavior will result in fewer crossing accidents. Because crossing accidents are relatively rare and widely scattered, FHWA believes many years of actual accident experience is required to verify this assumption.

The seven sign systems being tested are:

- System 1 includes the standard advanced warning sign with a yellow crossbuck with a black border. System 2 is the same as System 1 except the signs are to be in bright yellow green instead of yellow.
- System 3 is the International Crossbuck (or the St. Andrews Cross) with an advanced warning sign with the cross and letters RR. System 4 is the Texas Crossbuck with the top and bottom quadrants red, and the side quadrants yellow. The standard advanced warning sign with a red, white, and black crossbuck with the top and bottom quadrant changed to red, is used.
- System 5 is the round train route symbol sign (the choo-choo) and the yellow crossbuck with a black border. System 6 is the same as 5 except the advanced warning sign is a diamond shape. System 7 is the same as 1 with the addition of an auxiliary sign, diamond shape, with the legend "Look for Trains."

The following states are participating in the project:

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The following states are participating in the project:

Washington Officers
The new officers of the Washington State Association of County Engineers are: President — Emil L. Barekay, Pend Oreille County Engineer; Vice President — William H. Thornton; Secretary-Treasurer — Gordon E. Blossom, Kittitas County Engineer.
Task Force Urges Continued Health Funding

The NACo Health Task Force has recommended the continuation of health services authorizations in the Public Health Service Act.

Meeting during the NACo annual legislative conference, the task force felt that present federal funding schemes for local health programs will be inadequate to meet the health care needs of citizens when the Public Health Service Act's authorizations expire June 30, 1974.

The task force urges the adoption of new legislation to replace the present services authorization of the Act with a new provision authorizing the federal payment of a certain percentage of expenditures incurred by state and local public health agencies in carrying out public health programs, including mental health.

The role of counties in health planning and regulation would be strengthened by several bills being contemplated by Congress (the Administration is proposing one of its own.)

Although the proposals differ greatly in many respects, they all advocate the creation of a private, non-profit, planning network designed to regulate and control the delivery of health services at the local level. These non-profit structures, dominated by health providers and consumers, would be supreme in reviewing and approving all federally supported health projects and programs. Only one-third of the policy making body would be composed of "elected" officials.

Health Resources Planning

The task force supports continuation of the facilities construction program with priority funding given to modernization projects for all categories of facilities. Highest priority should be given to the new construction projects for public health centers and to modernization projects for long-term care facilities.

The task force also supports continuation of federal funding to programs developing more manpower, especially in the public health, allied health and nursing professions. The task force supports assistance to both institutions and students. Emphasis should be given to programs designed to improve the geographic distribution of manpower and focus on medically underserved areas (inner cities and rural areas).

The task force supports continuation of the comprehensive health planning program. The law should be changed, however, to make available the comprehensive health planning agencies created by the state and county governments for local government. The task force maintains that comprehensive health planning should be responsive to local elected officials of general purpose government.

Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health

The FY '75 budget proposes cuts in alcohol, drug abuse and mental health programs. The task force opposes these cuts, especially in the projects that are effective. Project grants should be maintained for special programs that are not universal to all jurisdictions. Emphasis should be placed on formula grants which give county elected officials more latitude in determining how to allocate the funds.

The task force maintains that alcoholism and drug abuse constitute one of the most serious health and social concerns in counties today. The task force supports proposals to continue and extend the federal alcoholism program that will support and respond to the needs of local officials to provide effective services.

Preventive and Environmental Health

The task force believes that increased federal funding should be given to preventive services pertaining to disease control and prevention, nutritional, environmental and occupational health programs.

Centralization, Formula and Project Grants

The task force supports efforts to decentralize federal decision-making. Legislation should be enacted to guarantee local elected official participation in the federal regional decision-making process. The task force also supports the trend towards conversion of project grants to formula grants which give states and counties more latitude in determining how to allocate the funds.

National Health Insurance

The task force endorses the principle of a single universal comprehensive health insurance system for all people. Comprehensive health benefits must be available to all citizens regardless of residence of socio-economic differences. The national health insurance program must ensure benefits to cover a broad range of personal health care services including preventative, home health care, dental care, ambulatory, inpatient, mental and psychiatric care, drug prescription cost, nursing care and medical rehabilitation.

Health insurance programs must have both effective cost control and quality control mechanisms. The program should also provide incentives to improve the present health care delivery system by coordinating services and preventing duplication of services. The national health insurance program should also cover expenditures related to public health services carried by the majority of counties in the United States.
Dear County Officials:

The county officials who attended our legislative conference came away enormously impressed with the 45-minute speech by "Veep" Gary Ford.

He talked with very deep sincerity, and a great deal of knowledge about counties. His theme at the concluding session of the conference was that it is very important for government officials, whether we’re Democrats or Republicans, to work together at the state, local or federal level, to work together. As an example of the fruits of this type of cooperation, he cited the general revenue sharing program.

More important, he promised us an open door. He pointed out that we now have a formal relationship with the Domestic Affairs Council through Presidential Assistant Ken Cole. He did make it clear, however, that his own office is also open and that he would continue to speak for state and local government at the highest level of the government.

In all, it was a most impressive presentation and we’re looking forward to working with the "Veep" in his new capacity; just as we’ve worked so successfully with him through the years when he was a leader of the House of Representatives.

Legislative Priorities

In last week’s County News, we began listing NACo’s 1974 national legislative priorities. We kept track of the dozens of bills in Congress each year which affect counties; but NACo’s twelve steering committees, meeting in Washington last week, agreed that the eight issues we listed in this column last week, along with the six outlined below, will have the greatest impact on counties.

National Health Insurance

NACo endorses the principle of a single universal comprehensive health insurance system for all people. Comprehensive health benefits must be made available to all citizens regardless of socio-economic differences. The program should also cover expenditures related to public health and insure adequate supply of manpower that will be needed to deliver care covered under a national health insurance program.

Public Health Services

NACo supports continuation of public health services, planning and health manpower programs and urges the adoption of a federal-state-local cost-sharing program that reimburses states and counties for specified categories of public health services.

Child Welfare Services Funding

NACo urges the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees to recommend a substantial increase in Title IV-B to better match local resources. There is currently authorized $226 million for Title IV-B child welfare services — those services guaranteeing protection and care of all children. The 1978 HEW budget request is $46 million or only eight percent of total state, local and private agency spending ($600 million).

Social Services Revenue Sharing

NACo supports the social services revenue sharing proposal (H.R. 3138) and urges the House Ways and Means Committee to conduct hearings as soon as possible so that the definitions and programmatic components of social services will be clearly identified. In the meantime, the status of the current regulations needs to be clarified by Congress so that services delivery will not be crippled by the absence of definitions.

Clean Water Funding

NACo calls on the President to release the full $18 billion appropriated by Congress for planning and construction of sewage treatment plants and sewage collection systems. NACo calls on the Environmental Protection Agency to speed up its funding and review process to provide local governments with the money now available.

Economic Development Act

NACo strongly recommends that the Congress assure continuation of the grant and loan program of the Public Works and Economic Development Act through FY 1976 at a substantial level of funding. NACo reserves judgement at this time on the proposed "Economic Adjustment Assistance Program" until its details are made public.

NACo Sports Reports

Nassau County (N.Y.) County Executive Ralph Caso and County Executive John Klein of Suffolk County (N.Y.) must be rated among the top athletes in the National Association of Counties. The two of them agreed to play tennis recently, preceding the World Championship Tennis final between Stan Smith and John Newcombe. It was for a good cause — the American Foundation for Learning Disabilities.

Apparentl, it was a brilliant match, judging from the excerpts from the sports pages of a local newspaper:

"Caso tended to hit the ball patty-cake style into the net; Klein frequently cleared the net, the court and several rows of seats with his forehand. The theme of the second point of the first game, the Suffolk Executive reached with his free hand and unexpectedly caught a ball hit by Jeff Borowitzki, Caso’s partner, much to the umpire’s confusion.

Three points later, Caso hit a forehand to Scotti (Klein’s partner) and, while he turned to gesture to the crowd, narrowly missed taking Scotti’s return lob on the top of his head."

NACo is trying to engineer a return match at our annual conference in Miami July 14-17.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard F. Hillenbrand
Executive Director

NACo Disaster Management Workshop
Marriott Hotel (Airport)
March 28, 29
St. Louis, Mo.


For reservations call toll free 800/288-9290. (Identify workshop for special rate).

Times: March 28, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; March 29, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Registration fee is $10.

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