

# COUNTY NEWS

Our Prayer...  
The Wisdom to Know  
and the Courage to Defend  
the Public Interest

Vol. 6 No. 10

March 11, 1974

Washington, D.C.

## County Honors Ford



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. 28.

## 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 switchovers to dirtier but more plentiful coal, to allocate oil supplies and to set up a new \$500 million annual unemployment insurance program for persons idled by 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 Simon 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 218-175 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

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. 10294) to the House floor.

County officials, joined by city and state officials, have been urging their Congressmen to talk with their colleagues or the Rules Committee. The Committee voted Feb. 26 to table the land use bill, rather than forwarding it to the House floor.

The bill, similar to one which 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 bill.

During the legislative conference, a task force of county officials was formed, headed by McClure, to contact the members of the Rules Committee to urge them to reconsider their vote.

In addition, NACo legislative representatives met with White House

officials to urge the Administration to maintain support for the national land use legislation which contains provisions for local government input. The Administration representatives indicated they are still in support of land use legislation. But Administration hedging on its support of H.R. 10294 and the local government provisions, has been cited as one of the reasons for the Rules Committee's action.

Efforts last week included a March 5 meeting of the New Coalition in Washington, D.C., where state, county and city elected officials urged the House Rules Committee to immediately reconsider its vote to indefinitely delay House consideration of the land use bill. The New Coalition includes representatives of governors, mayors, county officials and state legislators. They reiterated each of their organizations' support for early enactment of this legislation by Congress.

## Senate Debates Minimum Wage Legislation

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 as 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.

## Transit Subsidy Proposal Fails

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-Minich 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 \$600 million).

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

Continued on Page 6



# Counties Plan New Manpower Programs

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 consortia 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 youngsters 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 planners should account for this change in the FY 1975 plans.

## Public Employment Transition

CETA Title II, Public Service Employment, regulations were published February 15 in the Federal Register. They spelled out temporary operating instructions for prime sponsors and their subsidiary 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 PEP employees to CETA funded activities face several obstacles. First, Title II limits enrollee 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 resided in those areas at the time of enrollment under the PEP program. This provision will disqualify some current PEP 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 near final 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.

## Consortia Guidance

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

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 administration in labor market areas. (These are usually considered to be areas within which a person may change jobs without changing residence, and in which there are recognized commuting patterns.) The option is not designed for jurisdictions with unrelated employment 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 consortia:

- Substantial coverage of a labor market area
- A unified planning staff
- A single program evaluation component
- A single fiscal agent
- Clear accountability to chief elected officials 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 disqualify 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.

## State Meetings

A number of states have begun to hold briefing sessions on CETA for prime sponsors. In these meetings, sponsors can expect discussion of the new state role under CETA.

Most states will now be required to have two advisory councils. One is strictly devoted to balance of state (non-prime sponsor) planning. The second and new group will be known as a Manpower Services Council (MSC). It must be composed of at least one-third prime sponsors. Prime sponsors themselves, not the state, have the right to determine who will represent prime sponsors on the MSC. City or county associations within a state may help to decide the representation question.

The Services Council will monitor and compare all prime sponsor performance, including the remaining agency and public members who will serve on this body.

## Migrant Money

Of the \$52 million available for migrant programs under CETA Title III, approximately \$10 million will be distributed to prime sponsors wishing to run programs for migrants. A dollar for dollar match will be required.

# Counties Election Officials Study Changes in Campaign and Election Law

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.

These 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, election 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



Elmer V. Staats

post card registration bill passes the House, said Rod 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 "resolve 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 proposed grant-in-aid legislation for election officials and reiterated his criticisms of the McGee bill which are included in the minority report on the House bill.

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

Continued on Page 3

# 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 the full steering committee will meet again at the Western Region District Conference in Seattle to develop a formal policy statement.



## New Directions

Edited by Marlene Glassman  
Community Development Center

### Contracting Consultants

Washington County, Md. has adopted a new system for awarding county government contracts to consulting engineers and architects. The system, proposed by Washington County Engineer Glenn Dull, requires at least three consultants to estimate fees and compete against each other for each public works contract. Qualifications of the consultants, as well as price, will determine contract awards.

Formerly, no formal written procedure existed for awarding contracts, and consultants were exempt from the normal bidding requirements which cover all other government contracts over \$5,000.

### Mass Transit by Monorail

The Broward County (Fla.) Transportation authority (BCTA) has approved a \$6 million plan for a two-mile monorail system in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The monorail system is designed by Personal Rapid Transit System Corporation (PRT) of Chicago. BCTA and PRT will apply jointly for a \$6 million grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

The monorail will operate with a rotary engine powering an electromagnetic levitation and propulsion system producing little noise and no exhaust. It will cost about 10 cents a passenger, with no operator costs since the monorail operates from controls within each car. Each car will hold a maximum of 15 persons and will travel at about 17 miles per hour, 27 feet above the city, using the equivalent of a 15 horsepower motor.

This monorail system will be a link in a planned 42-mile personal rapid transit system.

### Counties Eligible for EDA Assistance

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

Pasco County, Fla.; Mecosta and Roscommon counties, Mich.; Mower County, Minn.; and McKean County, Pa. are eligible for public works grants since they are designated by EDA as high unemployment areas. Roscommon 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 construction costs.

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

The six-parish South Central Economic Development District in Louisiana which consists of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and Terrebonne parishes 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, 1974) to institute gasoline rationing other than the odd-even allocation system used in many counties. The decision to go to a full rationing program was motivated by vocal protests from motorists who were tired of waiting in service station lines.

Officials will not issue gasoline rationing coupons, but will use a central 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 Tucson Water and Sewers Department with the Pima County (Ariz.) Sanitation Department has been agreed upon.

Pima County Manager Ken Scharman and Acting Tucson City Manager William Ealy signed a report listing ten areas for cooperation between city and county. These areas include management, rights-of-way and land acquisition, design and construction specifications, planning, cost recovery, sewer rebate agreements, metropolitan area treatment capacity, collection system monitoring, wastewater analysis, and wastewater reclamation and groundwater rights.

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) guidelines 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 Queried About Growth

The Montgomery County (Pa.) 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 a 43.4 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 want local governments to implement stronger regulations and prevent further expansion of highway strip commercial development;
- Regarding priorities for transportation funding, marked preference is on public transit facilities, both bus and rail with second priority for arterial improvements. Funding for new expressways was given lowest priority;
- Approximately 75 percent support change for zoning decision-making, advocating a mechanism for everyone to participate in decision-making on large developments impacting several communities;
- Nearly 60 percent desire a future population growth rate for the county to be less than the 21 percent growth rate experienced between 1960 and 1970; and
- More than 60 percent indicate a need for a new system for distributing industrial property tax.

For additional questionnaire data, contact Montgomery County Planning Commission, County Courthouse, Airy and Swede Streets, Norristown, Pa. 19404.

## Federal Officials to Speak At Region IV Aid Briefing

Top regional federal officials will be the major speakers at the NACo Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators (CIC) Region IV Federal Aid Briefing in Atlanta, Ga. March 20.

The briefing is designed to help county officials learn more about recently enacted federal legislation.

Following the NACo/CIC briefing a Grant Financial Management Workshop will be held March 21 and 22 in Atlanta for city, county and state management officials who work with federal grants.

That workshop is sponsored by the Federal General Services Administration (GSA), General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Topics of the CIC program Wednesday, March 20, include: Comprehensive Employment and Training Act with William V. Norwood Jr., Region IV Director of the Department of Labor and Jon Weintraub, NACo Manpower Project Director; Emergency Medical Services Act with Walter Hughes, Region IV Office of HEW; Older Americans Act with Frank Nicholson, Region IV Director of the Program on Aging; Crime Control Act of 1973; Federal Aid Highway Act; Flood Disaster Protection Act; an energy crisis update, and a discussion of federal regional councils.

Registration for the briefing will open at 8 a.m., and the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Participants will obtain lunch on their own, but at 5:30 p.m. an informal reception will be held. For room reservations at the workshop headquarters, the Sheraton-Biltmore, phone 404/881-9500. For additional information on the briefing call DeWayne Little, Dade County, Fla., 305/377-5311.

The GSA-GAO-OMB program March 21 begins with registration at 8 a.m. At 9 a.m., Dwight Ink, GSA Deputy Administrator, will welcome workshop participants. A session from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Administration and Financing of Grants, will be led by James L. Martin, Deputy Director of the National Governors Conference and Vincent Puritano, Deputy Associate Director of OMB. The Grant Process will be discussed from 10:45 a.m. until noon by John Lordon, Director of the Office of Financial Management in GSA and Joseph Amaral, Program Manager of the Integrated Grant Administration in GSA.

Afternoon sessions include: Federal Audits with Stephen J. Varholc, Assistant director of GAO; Application of Audit Standards with Mortimer Dittenhoffer, Assistant Director of GAO; and Determining Costs Chargeable to Grants, with John Lordon of GSA.

Friday, March 22, a session on Preparing an Indirect Cost Plan will take place from 9 a.m. until noon. Panelists will be Donald E. Whitteaker, Region VI Comptroller for HEW, and Joseph Handzo, Director of the Office of Cost Determination in the Department of Labor.

There is no registration fee for the GSA-GAO-OMB Workshop. For additional information, contact Philip M. Dearborn in Washington at 202/343-8821.

## Pension Reform Sent to Conference Committee

By a vote of 375 to 4, the House of Representatives last week passed legislation to strengthen regulation of the nation's 150,000 private pension plans. The Senate passed pension reform legislation last fall, so a House-Senate conference will now have to resolve the differences between the two versions of the legislation.

The House version exempts public employer pension plans from regulation at this time. Instead, it directs the House Ways and Means and Education and Labor Committees to make a two-year study of all aspects of public pension plans and to recommend any necessary reforms by December, 1976.

The Senate version would include public plans under vesting provisions beginning in 1981. Vesting means that an employee has earned a right to a share of the pension fund even if he leaves a job before reaching retirement age. Under the Senate legislation, public as well as private plans would have to provide 25 percent vesting after five years of service. The percentage would then increase each year until the employee is 100 percent vested after 15 years of service.

The Senate bill also directs the Treasury Department to study all funding aspects of public plans over the next two years, and to recommend any legislative remedies by December 1976.

Both the Senate and the House versions provide for strengthened regulation of pension fund administration, which up to this time has been minimal. Both would impose standards of conduct and accountability on plan administrators, and would require disclosure of plan provisions and financial operations. They would set up a federal insurance system to protect employees against pension fund bankruptcies.

## Elections Seminar

Continued from Page 2

law.

### Getting Help

Because of all the proposed and passed election administration laws, the General Accounting Office has assembled an Office of Federal Elections designed to provide research and technical assistance to election officials. During the closing luncheon of the seminar U.S. Comptroller General Elmer V. Staats summarized the purpose of the elections office and urged delegates to make use of it.

Gary Greenhalgh from Office of Federal Elections, and Richard Carlson of the National Municipal League's Elections Project described the resources available

through their offices, and discussed some of their current projects.

annual conference in Dallas, Texas last summer NACo passed a resolution strongly opposing post card registration as proposed in the McGee bill.

### Vote Fraud

Ted Scudder, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois gave delegates some ideas for prevention of vote fraud. His office convicted 50 persons of fraud, stemming from the 1972 March primary election in Illinois. On the same panel, Anthony Troy, Deputy Attorney General of Virginia described absentee vote violations which resulted not only in convictions but in changes in the Virginia absentee voting



## County News

EDITOR: Bernard F. Hillenbrand; EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Dorothy Sortor Stimpson; MANAGING EDITOR: Samuel M. Sullivan; ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Linda Ganschietz and Eileen Hirsch; CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Rodney L. Kendig, Ralph Tabor, Larry Naake, Margaret Seeley, Michael Gemmell, Donald Murray, Marian Hankard, William Maslin, John Weintraub, John Thomas, John Murphy, Florence Zeller, Duane Baltz, Aliceann Fritschler, Al Templeton, Marilyn Hannigan, Richard Bartholomew, Samuel Anthony McCann, Nancy ReMine, Thomas Bruderle, Barbara Hunting, Mary Brugger, Jerry B. Frockt, Donald Brezine, Charles Gambill, Roger Bason, Bruce Talley, Jayne Seeley, Charles Wall, Marlene Glassman, Rebecca Davis, and Gary Mann; COMPOSITION: Pat Anderson.

Published weekly except during the last week of December and the first week of July by:

National Association of Counties  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
202-785-9577

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 would like, for example, to have a commitment that commissioners and other policy makers would come to Washington periodically to actively support NACo 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 envisions enlisting other organizations in support of our objectives. In mass transit funding, for example, logical 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.

## Growth Management Conference



TECHNIQUES FOR MANAGING GROWTH in cities and counties will be the theme for a National Conference on Managed 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 (from 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*.

## 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 members 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-Ill.), Clem McSpadden (D-Okla.), Dave Martin (R-Neb.), James Quillen (R-Tenn.), and Delbert Latta (R-Ohio).

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

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



# EPA Director Meets County Officials To Explore Ways to Work Together

by Aliceann Fritschler  
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  
Lynwood 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 NACo-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  
areawide waste treatment management  
planning as provided in the Federal Water  
Pollution Control Act. (President Nixon  
has impounded half of the \$18 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  
"conspiracy" 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 area.

County officials at the meeting asked  
Train about a recent announcement by  
the Office of Management and Budget  
(OMB) that beginning in FY 1976 (July  
1975) there will be a cut-off of federal  
grants which help pay operating expenses  
of state and local air and water pollution  
control agencies.

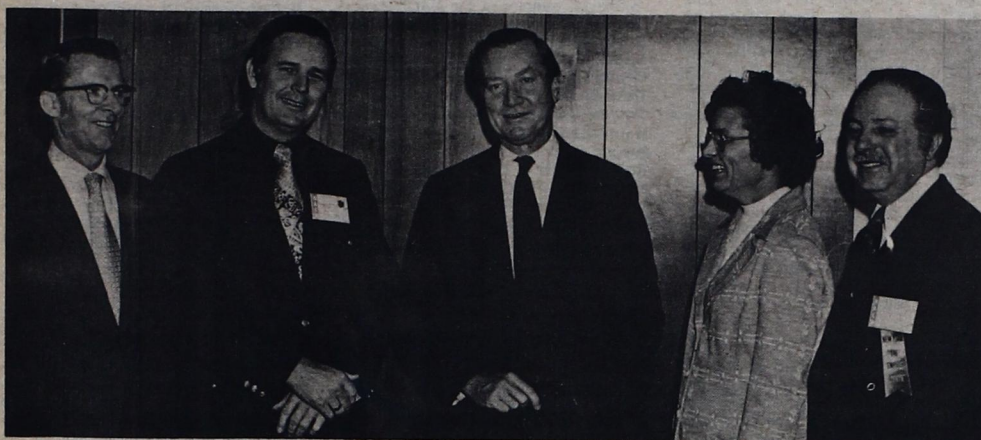
Train has protested the cuts to OMB,  
and he assured the NACo representatives  
that EPA will consult with state and local  
officials on suggested alternatives to a  
complete phase-out of funding. The  
county officials pointed out that this  
type of cut-off, without any consultation  
with local officials and without any  
allowance for a phase-down time by  
localities, places a great burden on local  
governments which are forced to assume  
complete financing of these 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  
suggestion.

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 decisions."

The committee also recommended,  
and the Board approved, a resolution  
stating that before any air quality  
regulations are issued by EPA, elected  
officials of general government must be  
consulted to insure that the views of  
various levels of government are  
considered at an early stage of policy  
formulation and adoption. Additionally,  
NACo called for a scientific evaluation of

Continued on Page 6



LEADERS OF NACo's Environment and Energy Steering Committee met with Environmental Protection Agency Director Russell Train recently to discuss ways federal and county officials can work together. Pictured (from left) are: Arthur Will, Chief Administrative Officer of Los Angeles County (Calif.); Councilman Lynwood Roberts, of Jacksonville-Duval County (Fla.); Train; Chairman Jean Packard of the Fairfax County (Va.) Board of Supervisors; and Executive Ralph Caso of Nassau County, (N.Y.)

## Welfare Directors Study HEW Policy

The officers, board of directors, and  
some members of the National  
Association of County Welfare Directors  
(NACWD) and the Council of Local  
Administrators of the American Public  
Welfare Association (APWA) met in  
Washington February 25 and 26, to study  
the current policies and thinking of the  
Department of Health, Education and  
Welfare, and to develop responsive policy  
positions and resolutions.

The administrators at the meeting  
represented 30 counties and 10 state  
associations of local welfare directors.

The county welfare directors form an  
ad hoc committee. They were originally  
organized more than a year ago to  
develop a strategy to counter restrictive  
Department of Health, Education and  
Welfare (HEW) service regulations — the  
implementation of which would have  
created significant hardship for the local  
agencies.

At the February meeting the welfare  
directors again had one major problem  
area before them — the difficulties  
encountered in the conversion of locally  
administered assistance payments  
programs for the aged, blind and disabled  
to the federal Supplemental Security  
Income (SSI) program.

Beginning with the fundamental issue  
that the "federal takeover" left behind  
numerous administrative details and  
excessive costs to be borne by counties,  
many specific problems were stated by  
the group, as they responded to the  
presentation made by SSI representatives.

Despite the empathy of the Director  
of the SSI Bureau, Summer Whittier, and  
his staff, toward the problems encountered  
by local administrators, no simple  
solutions to the problems were found —  
but issues were clarified and resolutions  
formed and adopted;

The group resolved to recommend to

the Social Security Administration,  
responsible for the SSI program, that it  
establish: a broad program of emergency  
assistance, with the possibility of  
contractual arrangements for state  
administration; and a broader  
presumptive eligibility payment system  
for the disabled. Both of these payment  
systems are currently causing major  
drains on county resources.

One SSI-related resolution of  
immediate importance supports House  
and Senate efforts to extend the period  
of time in which determination of  
eligibility for the disabled, added to the  
rolls after July 1, 1973, must be  
completed. Without immediate legislative  
activity, the deadline for determination is  
March 31, and the needs of individuals  
not recertified by then will become the  
responsibility of local government.

NACo's Board of Directors supported  
that resolution at a business meeting  
during the legislative conference. And just  
last week, the House of Representatives  
extended the deadline until Dec. 31.

Other federal presentations and  
responsive resolutions of the group  
included:

- An in-depth presentation of the  
Allied Services Act of 1974 and of  
services integration strategies by HEW's  
Director of the Office of  
Intergovernmental Systems, Tom Coyle.  
This resulted in the group's supporting  
the conceptual base, but stressing the role  
of counties.

- A presentation on the progress  
made toward reducing errors in assistance  
payments, in accord with zero tolerance  
expectations, by Fred Schutzman of the  
Office of Management of Social and  
Rehabilitation Service. This led to a  
proposal that quality control findings not  
penalize only one part of the  
administrative mechanism but that all

responsible share the fiscal burden of  
error (i.e., the federal government as well  
as the county), the recommendation of  
simplification of those processes causing  
the highest error rates, and the pursuit of  
legal suits against HEW for the fiscal  
sanctions taken against counties.

- A perspective on HEW's legislative  
proposals — without details of welfare  
reform — by Joan Hutchinson Miller,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Legislation, resulting in a  
recommendation to HEW for the  
adoption of a work security system, with  
the government as the employer of last  
resort, in response to the increasing  
unemployment rate in the country, and  
as a vital element in the development of a  
welfare reform plan.

- A discussion of the most recent  
regulations affecting the food stamp  
program by James Kocher, director of the  
program for the Department of  
Agriculture. The food stamp discussion  
led to a resolution that the federal  
government share with the counties and  
states both the administrative costs of  
implementation and the financial burdens  
caused by fraud, that eligibility for  
participation be based on income and  
need rather than source of income, and  
that eventually the food stamp program  
be cashed out.

Also resolved was the continuation of  
support for H.R. 3153, legislation which  
includes proposals for welfare and social  
services revenue sharing. That legislation  
resulted from activities organized in  
opposition to restrictive HEW regulations.

Other presentations on HEW programs  
were made by representatives of the  
Administration on Aging and the Medical  
Services Administration.

Wilbur Cohen, President-elect of the  
APWA and former Secretary of HEW also  
addressed the group.



# 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 Hall Smith, Press Secretary to U.S. Senator Sam Ervin, Chairman of the Special Watergate Committee.

Smith's remarks at the recent "Bridging 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 their counties are doing. Ideas ranged from slide presentations to service and information centers where citizens can call in — no matter what the problem is, to get answers to questions.

The key to rebuilding credibility is first doing an effective job and then letting the citizens know what you are doing, the information officers agreed. Getting that information out 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 Bassett, urban affairs reporter for the Hearst News Service told the information officers that with "this dissolution of urban interest in the White

House and a retreat from a good many of these (urban problem) areas by Congress" many national news editors are turning away from Washington and to the rest of the country for news.

For example, 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 Hayes' 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 bureaus of news chains, informed of some of the good programs counties operate. "There are individuals on almost every national newspaper who are interested in this sort of news."

Clyde Murray, President of NACIO and Public Information Director of Maricopa County, Ariz. chaired the "Bridging the Credibility Gap" meeting. Murray also met with other NACIO officers, Vice-President Edmund L. Castillo, Director of Public Affairs for Fairfax County, Va.; Central Regional Director, Lawrence Gareau, Public Information Coordinator of 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 Conference in Seattle, Wash. — April 26-28, and one at NACo's National Convention in Dade County, 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 bill would be vetoed by 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 Congressional leadership appears ready to concede that the Administration's continued 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 Public Works Committee is now claiming jurisdiction. The situation is unclear, but hearings on the Administration 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 Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. Field hearings on urban transportation problems are being scheduled during the next several months by the Senate Public Works Committee. Details on time and place are in this week's NACE 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 entire sets of the 17-volume *NACE Action Guide Series*. Sets are now sold according to the following price list: if one to four sets are ordered, the price per set is \$30, five to nine sets cost \$24 each, and ten or more sets cost \$21 per set.

The 17 volumes in the *NACE Action Guide Series* are: Organization — Personnel-Purchasing, Cost Records and Budgets, Advance Road Programs, Comprehensive County Planning, Planning County Road Systems, Refuse Disposal, County Traffic Operations, Maintenance Management, Public Support, Spot Safety Improvements, Administration of Bridge Inspection, Soil Erosion and Water Pollution Prevention, Aerial Photography, Drainage, Travel Generation, Subsurface Soils Exploration and Summary.

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 Harrington, NACE Secretary-Treasurer, 308 Jacolyn Drive, N.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405.

### Senate Transportation Hearings

The Senate Transportation Subcommittee is conducting six hearings in different areas of the nation to determine priorities in "Transportation Planning for the Seventies." Chaired by Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas), the subcommittee wants to learn how local officials and representatives from transportation fields such as construction, trucking, automobile and mass transit, feel about federal government administration of 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 remaining five meetings are scheduled as follows: Detroit, March 29; Atlanta, May 10; San Francisco, May 24; Los Angeles, May 25; Columbus, Ohio, July 1.

All sessions are open to the public; persons may appear at the meetings or submit 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; 202/255-9772.

### Railroad Crossing Safety

FHWA is studying new signs at unprotected highway-railroad grade crossings. This research on

highway-railroad grade crossing safety is funded by contributions from the 25 states listed below and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Participating states have selected sites for sign system testing at which one test system will be evaluated and compared to the current standard system. Current systems consist of a white crossbuck at the crossing and the round yellow advanced warning sign with the black X and the letters 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 both signs are to be in bright yellow green instead of yellow. System 3 is the International Swiss crossbuck (or the St. Andrews Cross) with an advanced warning sign with the cross and letters RR. System 4 is the Texas "at crossing" sign with the top and bottom quadrants red, and the side quadrants yellow. The standard advanced warning sign with the top and bottom quadrant changed to red, is used.

System 5 is the round train 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 system 1 with the addition of an auxiliary sign, diamond shape, with the legend "Look for Trains."

The following states are participating in the project:

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

### Washington Officers

The new officers of the Washington State Association of County Engineers are: President — Emil L. Barclay, Pend Oreille County Engineer; Vice President — William P. Thornton, Pierce County Engineer; Secretary-Treasurer — Gordon E. Blossom, Kittitas County Engineer.

## EPA Meeting

Continued from Page 5

auto emission standards to insure that their application is beneficial to air quality. NACo requested also that a careful review of air quality standards be made before ordering a reduction in environmental standards to permit a shift from clean to dirty fuel sources.

County officials present at the hour-long meeting with Train were: Lynwood Roberts, Councilman, Jacksonville-Duval County, Fla. and Chairperson of NACo's Environment and Energy Steering Committee; Jean Packard, Chairman, Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors and Chairperson for Air Quality; Ralph Caso, County Executive, Nassau County, N.Y. and NACo Chairperson for Water Quality; Arthur Will, Chief Administrative Officer, Los Angeles County, Calif., representing James Hayes, Los Angeles County Supervisor and NACo Chairperson for Energy; Bay Haas, Commissioner, Mobile County, Ala., representing Commissioner Howard Yaeger of Mobile County and NACo Chairperson for Solid Waste; Jack Walsh, Supervisor, San Diego County, Calif. and Herbert Wilde, Commissioner, St. John's County, Fla.



# 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 restricted 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 health 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 areawide comprehensive health planning agencies creatures of the state and county governments and not of the federal 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 project grants field. Project grants should be maintained for special problems 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 alcohol 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 made 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 out by the majority of counties in the United States.

## NACo's 39th Annual Convention

### "States and Counties: Partnership for Progress"

July 14-17, 1974

Dade County, Florida

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

DEADLINE: JULY 5, 1974

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

#### HOTEL CHOICE

First \_\_\_\_\_

Second \_\_\_\_\_

(Please circle preference)

single double/twin suite rate \$

Arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAKE RESERVATION FOR:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

#### PERSON MAKING THESE RESERVATIONS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### HOTELS

Barcelona  
Single \$14  
Double \$16

Doral-On-The-Ocean  
Single or twin \$22 32  
Suites \$35 37

Eden Roc  
Recorders and Clerks Headquarters  
Single or twin \$22 32  
Suites \$42 72 (2 rooms)  
\$104 (3 rooms)

#### Fontainebleau

Convention Headquarters  
NACo Board of Directors Engineers  
Treasurers and Finance Officers  
Single or double \$19 31  
Suites \$70 90

Montmartre  
Single \$18  
Twin \$20 24  
Suites \$48 72

#### Playboy Plaza

Single or twin \$22-32  
Suite \$75 (2 rooms)  
\$104 (3 rooms)



## AMERICAN COUNTIES TODAY

Dear County Official:

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

He talked with very deep sincerity, and a great deal of knowledge about counties.

The theme of his address at the concluding session of the conference was that it is very important for government officials, whether we're Democrats or Republicans, and whether we work 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 out for state and local government at the highest level of the government.

All 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 keep 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 an adequate supply of manpower that will be needed to provide services 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 1975 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. 3153) 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 '75 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.

Apparently, it was a brilliant match, judging from the following 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.

"On the second point of the first game, the Suffolk Executive reached with his free hand and unexpectedly caught a ball hit by Jeff Borowiak, Caso's partner, much to the umpire's confusion.

"Three points later, Caso hit a forehand to Scott (Klein's partner) and, while he turned to gesture to the crowd, narrowly missed taking Scott'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,

*Bernie Hillenbrand*

Bernard F. Hillenbrand  
Executive Director

## Coming Events

### MARCH

20 NACo Region IV Federal Aid Briefing Atlanta, Georgia Sheraton Biltmore DeWayne Little 305/377-5311

21 - 22 GSA-GAO-OMB Region IV Workshop on Federal Grant Financial Management Atlanta, Georgia Sheraton Biltmore Phillip M. Dearborn 202/343-8821

23 - 24 National Association of County Records and Clerks Meeting Little Rock, Arkansas Irma Shoffner 501/523-3826

28 - 29 NACo Disaster Preparedness Conference St. Louis, Missouri Charlie Wall 202/785-9577

31 - Apr. 3 County Officers Association of State of New York Annual Meeting Grossinger, New York Herb Smith 518/455-1473

### APRIL

28 - 30 NACo Western Region District Conference Seattle, Washington Jim Evans 202/785-9577

Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Annual Convention Atlanta, Georgia Hill Healan 404/522-5022

### MAY

1 - 3 Utah Association of Counties Annual Convention Salt Lake City, Utah Travel Lodge Jack E. Christiansen 801/359-3332

2 - 4 New Mexico Association of Counties Annual Convention Albuquerque, New Mexico P. Larragoite 505/983-2101

5 - 8 American Society for Public Administration Annual Convention Syracuse, New York Hotel Syracuse Richard Legon 202/785-3255

15 - 16 Region III Federal Aid Briefing Baltimore, Maryland Hunt Valley Inn Stephen Collins 301/494-3317

### JULY

14 - 17 NACo National Convention Miami Beach, Florida Rod Kendig 202/785-9577

### NACo Disaster Management Workshop Marriott Hotel (Airport)

March 28, 29 St. Louis, Mo.

A workshop for county elected officials to discuss: Financial Assistance Available, Energy Conservation Management Programs, New Federal Legislation relating to planning.

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

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.

## Change of Address

If the County News is incorrectly addressed, please give the correct address below and return to NACo.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Attach old label here