

This Week

Update on
legislation,
pages 10-15

Vol. 10, No. 11

COUNTY NEWS

"The Wisdom to Know and the Courage to Defend the Public Interest"

March 13, 1978

NACo
Washington, D.C.



JOHN KLEIN, Suffolk County (N.Y.) executive, testifies on the reenactment of CETA. NACo analysis, page 2.



JIM FLAHERTY, commissioner, Allegheny County, Pa. paints 'startling' bridge picture, page 5.



RODNEY DIRIDON, supervisor, Santa Clara County, Calif. asks Congress to commit more funds for mass transit, page 5.



DON WALLACE, health officer, Prince George's County, Md. testifies on funding public health programs, page 3.

Lobby Act Is 'Unfair'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As county officials meet in Washington for NACo's annual legislative conference, one of the major topics they will be discussing with their congressmen will be the treatment of counties, states, and cities and their associations in the Public Disclosure of Lobbying Act, H.R. 8494.

On Feb. 23, the House Judiciary Committee reported H.R. 8494 (repealing the 1945 Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act which is largely unenforceable) which requires NACo and other associations of state and local elected and appointed officials to register as lobbyists. Excluded from registration and disclosure under the bill are associations of members of Congress, members of Congress, congressional employees and federal officials.

Individuals employed by a single county would not be required to reg-

ister; however, employees hired by counties joining together in a national association would be required to register.

THERE ARE at least 675 people in 32 federal agencies, including the White House, engaged in federal lobbying and at least \$15 million of public funds is spent on federal "congressional relations" work. These agencies and individuals are exempt from registration and disclosure by the fact of their federal government employment.

County, city and state officials who join together in associations like NACo, the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, National League of Cities, and U.S. Conference of Mayors are treated differently from federal officials under the bill.

A *County News* editorial, Feb. 20, described the situation.

"Certainly it is grossly unfair to make distinctions between national officials and state and local officials based either on the size of electorates; the money resources of the constituency; or the status of their aides or agents.

"A dangerous precedent will be established if governors, mayors, and county officials and other state and local elected and appointed officials are singled out for unfair treatment in the Lobby Registration Act.

"A fair solution is simple. Require congressional and presidential employees to register or exclude the agents of governors, mayors, county officials and other state and local elected and appointed policy-making officials from registering."

—Aliceann Fritschler

NACo Testifies: CETA Bill Needs Overhaul

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Suffolk County (N.Y.) Executive John V.N. Klein urged a Senate subcommittee to overhaul the Administration's proposed extension of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) March 6.

Testifying before the Senate subcommittee on employment, poverty and migratory labor, Klein said that "the Administration's bill (S. 2570) does not meet its defined objective" and protested "the extreme recategorization" of programs in the proposal.

He called for significant changes and suggested that "progressive program administration by the Labor Department would achieve a better result than additional over-prescriptive requirements affecting all prime sponsors, good and bad."

HIGHLIGHTING conclusions reached by NACo's Employment Steering Committee at its early February meeting, Klein, who chairs the committee, said, "NACo supports:

- "Most of the major structural changes in S. 2570, such as the consolidation of the administrative provisions, the establishment of an administrative cost pool, and the move to a uniform eligibility criterion;
- "The elimination of Section 212, which requires maintaining program activities at fiscal '77 levels;
- "Requiring prime sponsors to provide staff for the planning coun-

cil that is responsive to the needs of the council and not solely accountable to the council;

- "Requiring prime sponsors to submit their plans to the governor for review and comment and to consider comments made by the governor;
- "The elimination of the resource allocation formula under the Wagner-Peyser Act and the creation of a block grant of funds to the governor for these activities, while requiring the governor and prime sponsors to engage in joint planning at the local level for the use of these funds;
- "Not correcting the ills of the Wagner-Peyser Act (which establishes state employment services) by amending CETA. Both acts need concurrent review in order to ensure effective legislative action;
- "Establishing uniform client eligibility for all CETA titles, with the exception of the countercyclical public service employment (PSE), at 100 percent of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lower living standard income level;
- "Raising the PSE salary ceiling through indexing;
- "The elimination of PSE project requirements (which prohibit regular public jobs under CETA);
- "Strict congressional limits on the amount of required paperwork and reporting;
- "A limitation on the amount of the Secretary's national and discre-

tionary funds, thus lowering the Title III ceiling to 10 percent, or 20 percent of Title II; and

- "Provisions to ensure smooth transition from P.L. 93-203 to the new legislation."

PRIME SPONSOR DECISION-MAKING

Klein emphasized NACo's objections to the pervasive retreat throughout S. 2570 from local flexibility to design programs that meet local needs and priorities.

Calling for the elimination of Section 212, he explained, "One cannot have flexibility if funds are earmarked for program activities and frozen based on fiscal '77 levels by law.

"When this language is coupled with the maintenance of effort language on youth in Sections 433 and 438(A)(2), prime sponsors are left with decision-making authority over 10 percent to 15 percent of the resources in Title II (now Title I). Section 212 does not support the

See KLEIN, page 2

**Immediate
Fiscal Relief in
Doubt, Page 3.**

Klein Tells Senate Panel: CETA Needs an Overhaul

Continued from page 1

basic CETA concept that a locally defined program design and mix best meets the needs of the CETA client population."

PAPERWORK

Excessive paperwork and constantly changing instructions drew Klein's criticism. He listed 28 weekly, monthly and quarterly reports required each quarter.

Moreover, he pointed to 458 field memoranda in fiscal '77 and 167 such memos already this year as evidence of constant changes in instructions. "These memos interpret or elaborate on regulations, revise reporting requirements or add additional reporting demands," he explained.

PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS

"NACo endorses the need to establish two distinct public service employment programs—one structural and one countercyclical—with different client eligibility requirements," Klein said. "We cannot accept the retention of the current wage ceiling of \$10,000 for PSE and suggest a geographically indexed wage ceiling, such as 135 percent of the BLS lower living standard income level."

To explain NACo's objections to PSE projects, Klein said, "The project format was added in P.L. 94-444 primarily as a tool to curb substitution. S. 2570 has added multiple legislative tools that are far more effective at curbing substitution, such as the 18-month limit in a job and the

10 percent ceiling on supplementation.

"Prime sponsors have found projects to have a detrimental effect on the affirmative action successes that they have had within the local governments they serve. Prior to projects, prime sponsors used PSE as an excellent tool to bring minorities and women into entry level jobs in the various public health and safety departments of county government," he said.

RETIREMENT

Klein added, "The proposed quarterly (PSE) grant system is administratively unworkable and must be deleted. Local officials must know their PSE funding level for at least a year in order to properly plan, budget, and administer the program."

"The Administration's bill fails to resolve the retirement issue, a problem of major dimension in over 25 states," Klein said. "The effect of the bill is to require state and local governments and private nonprofit employers to contribute up to 20 percent of PSE payroll costs out of local general tax revenues to provide retirement coverage for most CETA enrollees, although enrollees are not likely to remain with employers long enough to draw retirement checks."

"The final CETA bill must resolve this issue so that prime sponsors are not 'taxed' for their PSE jobs."

S. 2570 and the companion House bill, H.R. 11086, were introduced Feb. 22.

Save CETA

County officials can help reverse the trend away from local control of CETA. Call, write or wire and urge the following changes in the CETA reenactment bills, S. 2570/H.R. 11086:

- The elimination of Sections 212 and 438(a)(2). These would nearly freeze the mix of CETA training and developmental services under Title II at their fiscal '77 levels.

- Making staff "responsive to" the CETA advisory council, not "solely accountable to" it as specified in Section 109. Let Congress know that you endorse a strong and active council, but it makes no sense for a volunteer council to supervise staff.

- A legislative limit on the number and frequency of required reports and grant submissions.

- The elimination of the presumptive role of the Employment Service (ES) by deleting Section 103(b)(2). The governor's comments should not outweigh local decisions, so revise Sections 104(b) and (c).

- The overhaul of public service employment as described in the bill. "Projects" and the quarterly grant system should be eliminated. There should be two separate programs—structural and countercyclical. The

\$10,000 salary ceiling should be raised and/or indexed.

- Eligibility for everything except countercyclical PSE should be uniform at 100 percent of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) lower living standard budget.

- A limit on the Secretary's authority by reducing funds available for Title III to 10 percent in Section 122(d) and a requirement that rules and reporting be set and unchanged by the beginning of each fiscal year.

In addition to your own delegation, the following members of Congress should hear your views on CETA:

Rep. Carl Perkins (D-Ky.)
2365 Rayburn House Office Building

Rep. John Dent (D-Pa.)
2104 Rayburn House Office Building

Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.)
2350 Rayburn House Office Building

Rep. William Clay (D-Mo.)
2264 Rayburn House Office Building

Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.)
429 Cannon House Office Building

Rep. Joseph LeFante (D-N.J.)
507 Cannon House Office Building

Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.)
1229 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Rep. Baltasar Corrada (D-P.R.)
1319 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Rep. Albert Quie (R-Minn.)
2185 Rayburn House Office Building

Rep. Carl Pursell (R-Mich.)
1709 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Rep. Ronald Sarasin (R-Conn.)
229 Cannon House Office Building

Rep. Edward Beard (D-R.I.)
131 Cannon House Office Building

Rep. Michael Myers (D-Pa.)
1331 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Sen. Harrison A. Williams (D-N.J.)
352 Russell Senate Office Building

Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.)
5241 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.)
229 Russell Senate Office Building

Sen. William Hathaway (D-Maine)
248 Russell Senate Office Building

Sen. Donald Riegle (D-Mich.)
1207 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.)
321 Russell Senate Office Building

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)
6317 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.)
3105 Dirksen Senate Office Building

NACo Analyzes CETA Bills: S. 2570/H.R. 11086

Statement of Purpose

- Language "which will result in an increase in earned income" in describing opportunities is added, along with a sentence on coordination with non-CETA.

Title I: Administrative Provisions

- Existing Title I becomes Title II in the reorganization.
- This new title incorporates the administrative provisions previously existing in other parts of the act.
- Sets 20 percent ceiling on Title III based on total funds appropriated for the act, excluding funds for Title VI.
- Extends CETA for four more years.
- Divided into three parts: Part A, "organizational provisions, prime sponsors"; Part B, "general provisions—conditions applicable to all programs"; and Part C, "upgrading and retraining." The comprehensive employment and training plan (Section 103) must include job search agreement with the employment service or a description of other arrangements for that service.

Title II: Comprehensive Employment and Training Services

- Divided into: Part A, "financial assistance provisions—purpose of the program" and Part B, "services to the economically disadvantaged—description of program."
- Emphasizes "increase in earned incomes" in purpose of title.
- Retains existing Title I allocation formula.
- Changes eligibility to economically disadvantaged and unemployed, underemployed or in school.
- Provides for 90 percent hold-harmless based on prior fiscal year as in existing Title I.
- Eliminates 150 percent ceiling and 50 percent floor in existing Title I [Section 103 (A)(4)].
- Adds secretary's discretion in giving bonuses to consortia.
- Minimum grant of \$50,000 for the State Employment and Training Council, SETC (formerly SMSC).
- Strengthens role of governor and State Employment and Training Council.
- Sets limit of 5 percent of allocation for Part C, upgrading.
- Sets ceiling of 50 percent on expenditure for work experience and public service employment under Title II-B, floor of fiscal '77 spending for other programs.

Title III: Special Federal Responsibilities

- Divided into: Part A, special national programs and activities; and Part B, research, training, and evaluation.
- Youth programs in existing Title III-C and Section 304(a) are transferred to Title IV.
- Emphasizes secretary's right in Part A to fund program "sponsored by public or private organizations that conduct federally assisted activities in more than one state." This would allow direct funding of community based organizations with comment by the prime sponsor advisory council.
- Increases Indian program funding from 4 percent to 4.2 percent.
- Part B adds secretary authority to fund supported employment and training projects, voucher projects, job-sharing and other alternative working arrangements.

Title IV: Youth Programs

- Includes existing Section 304(a) and Title III-C.
- Requires a review of the youth title in a report to Congress on March 1, 1979 and recommendations for modification.
- Divided into: Part A, youth employment demonstration programs; Part B, job corps; and Part C, summer youth program.
- Summer youth program includes allocation formula of new Title II (old Title I) with 50 percent of funds based on last summer's allotment.
- Up to 5 percent of summer funds are reserved for secretary discretion.
- To the extent that funds are available, there will be a 100 percent hold harmless on prime sponsor slots in the previous year summer program.

Title V: National Commission for Employment and Training Policy

- Presidential appointments shall be for two-year terms except that in the case of individuals appointed before Sept. 30, 1978, not less than five members shall be reappointed for terms of one year each.

Title VI: Public Service Employment Program

- Combines existing Titles II and VI into one program.
- Authorizes "such sums as necessary" for fiscal '79.

- For fiscal '80 on, provides a base authorization of \$1 billion to be allocated to areas of substantial unemployment only.

- For fiscal '80 on, provides an additional authorization of \$1 billion when the national unemployment rate for the preceding calendar quarter exceeds 4.75 percent, plus \$1 billion for each increase of .5 percentage points in the national unemployment rate over 4.75 percent, except that the sum so calculated shall be reduced (not below zero) by an amount equal to funds already made available in the three preceding calendar quarters.

- This triggering may require quarterly allocations to prime sponsors and, thus, quarterly grant modifications.

- Provides that 85 percent of the funds allocated to prime sponsors shall be used for wages and employment benefits.

- Not less than 2 percent of funds appropriated shall be reserved for Native American entities.

- Provides that 85 percent of the funds are to be allocated by formula with 15 percent for secretary's discretion.

- The allocation formula is identical to the existing Title VI formula with the exception that an "area of substantial unemployment" is now defined as an area averaging 6.5 percent unemployment for 12 months, not three consecutive months. Thus starting in fiscal '79, fewer prime sponsors should qualify for funds under Section 604(a)(3)(B). Regular public service jobs are to be phased out in fiscal '79 and only projects will be allowed from fiscal '80 on.

- Participation is limited to 78 weeks out of five years.

- Participants already enrolled and on-board as of Sept. 30, 1978 may remain for 52 weeks in fiscal '79 before they must be terminated.
- The program agent concept is retained.

- Supplementation of wages of entry level, nonprofessional government and education public service employment enrollees are limited to 10 percent of the prime sponsor's Title VI allocation.

- Where supplementation of wages of public service employment enrollees has occurred prior to Sept. 30, 1978, such supplementation may continue until these enrollees are phased out Sept. 30, 1979. Such supplementation is not

counted in the 10 percent limitation above.

- No other supplementation is allowed.

- The \$10,000 ceiling on federal contribution to wages is retained, but a \$7,800 average national wage must be maintained.

- Title VI client eligibility is limited to economically disadvantaged, individuals (based on prior three months income) who have been unemployed for at least five weeks.

- "Economically disadvantaged" is defined in Title I as "a person who receives or is a member of a family who receives cash welfare payments under a federal, state or local welfare program, has or is a member of a family who has a total family income (for six months prior to application) which, in relation to family size, does not exceed the Office of Management and Budget poverty level or 70 percent of the lower living standard income level, whichever is higher; is a foster child on behalf of whom state or local government payments are made; or in cases permitted by regulations of the secretary is institutionalized in a sheltered workshop, prison, hospital, or similar institution."

- The definition of "unemployed" means unemployed for seven consecutive days and continues to exclude persons who are institutionalized (hospitals, prisons, juvenile homes, sheltered workshops) and to exclude new entrants to the labor force (women, youth).

Title VII: Private Sector Jobs for the Economically Disadvantaged

- Purpose targeted to placing economically disadvantaged individuals and young adults in private sector jobs; prime sponsor would establish local industry job councils.

- Competitive application for funding of prime sponsors.

- Emergency economic adjustment assistance also exists for prime sponsors in areas of severe economic dislocation, including those caused by plant closings, mass layoffs, natural disasters to provide job services for displaced workers.

Title VIII: Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC)

- Retains YACC program as authorized in 95-93, Youth Employment and Training Act, 1977.

- Authorized through fiscal '80.

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Immediate Fiscal Aid Faces Snag

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Immediate payment of \$187 million to counties and states in fiscal relief for welfare costs is now in doubt because the Senate Appropriations Committee has questioned the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's (HEW) authority to make these payments out of unspent fiscal '77 funds.

In December the President signed the Social Security Financing Amendments of 1977 (P.L. 95-216) which provided the fiscal relief funds. The law provides that 100 percent of the funds are to be passed through to counties which fund welfare. In states where counties administer welfare, these funds can be of some help in meeting current budgetary demands.

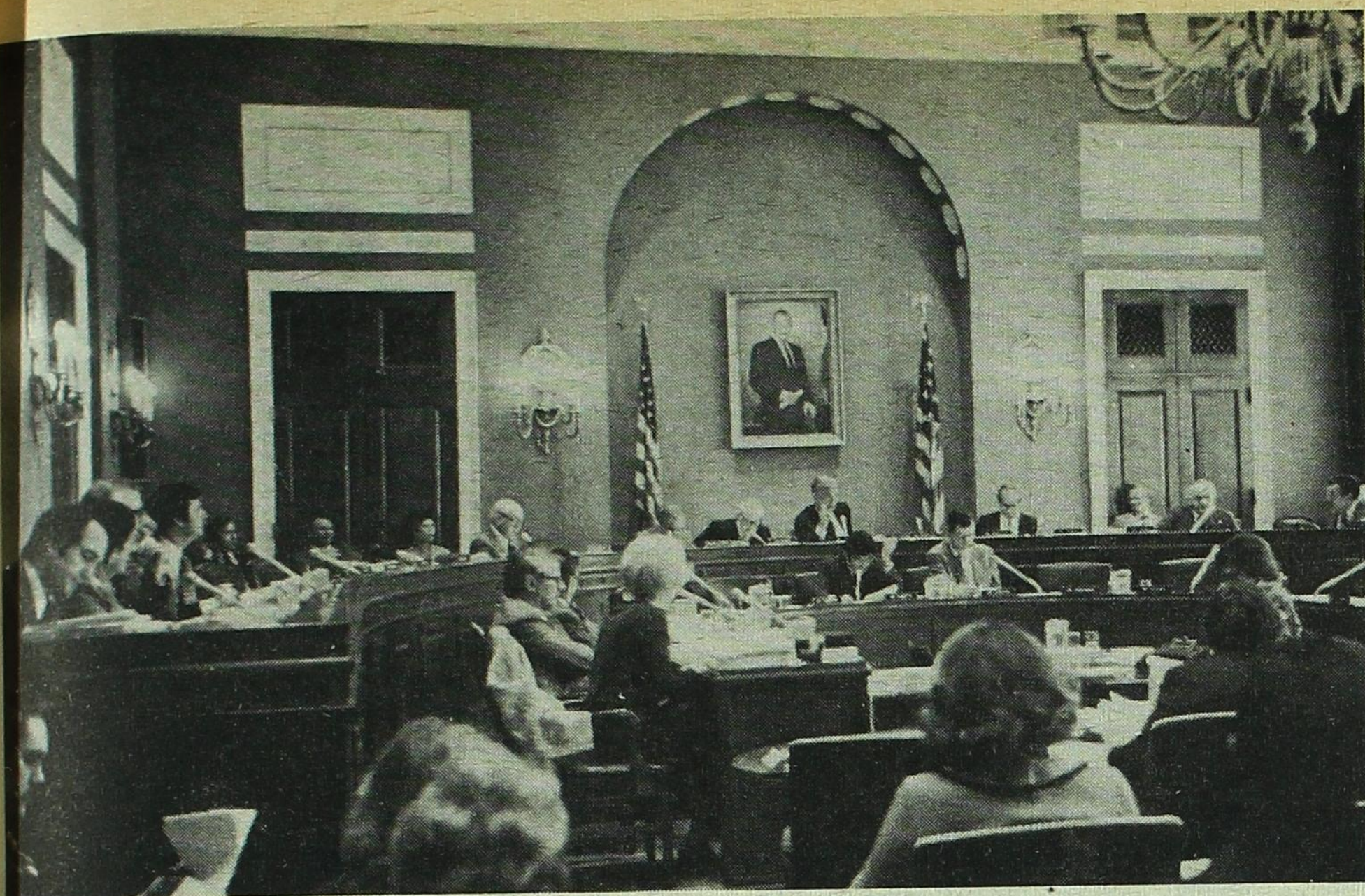
NACo had urged HEW Secretary Califano to make the payments immediately, pending passage by Congress of the second supplemental appropriation bill probably sometime in April or May.

On Feb. 21, HEW Undersecretary Hale Champion, with Office of Management and Budget approval, requested permission from the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to make payment out of unobligated 1977 funds.

However, on Feb. 28 Sen. Warren Magnuson, chairman of the Labor-HEW Appropriations subcommittee, wrote Champion questioning the legality of HEW's decision to use 1977 funds, rather than waiting for the supplemental appropriation. Magnuson said it was "a highly unusual situation" to use a continuing resolution to fund a new activity that was authorized after passage of the appropriations act.

At this point HEW's general counsel is preparing a response to a legal opinion prepared by the Library of Congress for Magnuson. The HEW opinion should be available next week. NACo will continue to press for immediate payment.

—Aliceann Fritschler



The House Agriculture Committee, chaired by Rep. Thomas Foley, considers landmark rural development legislation.

AG PANEL AT WORK

Rural Development Gains

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rural counties would become eligible for greater amounts of assistance at improved terms under amendments to the Agriculture Credit Act of 1978.

The House Agriculture subcommittee on conservation and credit, chaired by Rep. Ed Jones (D-Tenn.), has completed work on the legislation. The bill is now being considered by the full committee, chaired by Rep. Thomas Foley (D-Wash.).

Specifically, the bill provides for:

- Increased funding level for water and waste disposal grants from \$300 million to \$400 million a year.

- Elimination of the legislatively imposed 50 percent ceiling on grants as a percentage of project cost and placing the new ceiling at 75 percent.

- Deletion from the bill of a provision that would have virtually doubled the interest rates on rural development loans. (Level is maintained at 5 percent ceiling.)

THE INCREASED authorization was needed to meet the large demand in rural areas for water and waste disposal systems. The water and waste program was envisioned as the major component of the Rural

Development Act of 1972. Since its inception, the demand for these grants has greatly exceeded available funds. (See related article.)

The change in the grant ceiling moves the rural development programs toward equity with urban-oriented programs. While the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental

Protection Agency are authorized to distribute grants covering 100 percent and 75 percent of project cost respectively, grants from the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) were restricted by law to 50 percent of project cost.

Legislation amending the Rural Development Act has also been introduced in the Senate.

Progress Seen in Health Bills

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Several recent congressional actions have placed counties in a better position to participate in the federal health funding process.

All of the major health funding laws of significance to counties are up for renewal this year and NACo has been working to ensure that local officials are accorded a major voice in determining how these programs will be administered.

Last week the House Commerce health subcommittee reported out a bill, H.R. 10460, which expands elected officials' representation on private health systems agencies

(HSAs) and gives public HSA governing boards more control over such functions as: budget and plan approval, appointment and setting personnel requirements.

The Senate Human Resources health subcommittee is expected to approve similar changes in its bill later this month.

There is also a NACo-supported provision in both bills which earmarks over \$100 million for grants to public general hospitals for refurbishing and modernization.

IN THE AREA of health services, Title III of the Health Services

Amendments of 1978, H.R. 10553, would replace the current 314(d) comprehensive health grants provision with a new one authorizing the federal payment of a certain percentage of expenditures incurred and raised by state and local governments in carrying out basic public health programs.

Donald Wallace, M.D., health officer of Prince George's County, Md., recently told Sen. Edward Kennedy's health subcommittee that it should adopt the same approach to funding public health programs.

Hugh Tilson, M.D., director of human services, Multnomah County, Ore., testified Feb. 21 in the House in favor of the health services amendments, saying the bill has the potential of being one of the most significant health promotion and disease prevention pieces of legislation enacted by Congress.

Title II of H.R. 10553 would establish a consolidated block grant approach for states and counties for immunization efforts and programs to control venereal disease, tuberculosis, rodents and lead-based poisoning.

In another development, the House Commerce health subcommittee overruled the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and agreed to continue allowing county health departments to conduct child health screening while, at the same time, referring patients to comprehensive health care facilities and private physicians.

OTHER HEALTH ISSUES under consideration by Congress and the Administration are hospital cost containment, which has been stalled in committee, and national health insurance.

To move the Administration's proposal for a temporary cap on hospital increases, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means health subcommittee, compromised with major health providers on a voluntary cost containment plan.

The new proposal would reduce hospital expenditures by 2 percent a year, from 16 to 14 percent the first year and to 12 percent the second year. If hospitals failed to achieve the reductions, the Administration's cap of 12 percent would take effect. It is unclear whether Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) can muster enough support for this latest compromise.

In a closer step toward developing a national health insurance proposal, the Administration recently released several options which federal officials are considering.

Of significance to counties is the proposal for a public-guaranteed health protection plan to be phased in over five years. This would be a mandatory, public sector national health insurance plan supported by 75 percent employer-paid and 25 percent employee-paid premiums and taxes. Employers and individuals could "opt out" of the plan through the purchase of private coverage which met federal standards.

Another option would utilize federal tax revenues, state and local Medicaid contributions, and individual Medicare contributions to target medical assistance to those persons currently excluded from the network of public and private insurance programs.

COUNTY NEWS

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT

\$50 Million Supplemental Urged

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House and Senate Agriculture Appropriation subcommittees will shortly be considering supplemental appropriations bills for the current fiscal year. NACo is supporting a supplemental appropriation of \$50 million for the water and waste disposal program.

The current waiting list for this program exceeds \$620 million in projects. The fiscal '78 appropriation is \$250 million out of a total authorization of \$300 million. The maximum amount of increased grants that could be provided to secure full funding is, therefore, \$50 million.

In other legislation, NACo is supporting raising the authorization from \$300 million to \$400 million.

The increased appropriation is important not only to provide improved water and waste disposal systems, but also to provide jobs, maintain existing business and industry and attract new employers.

County officials are urged to contact their representatives to urge support of the \$50 million supplemental appropriation level for water and waste disposal grants.

The following is a list of the mem-

bers of the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations subcommittees that will be considering the proposed additional funding.

For additional information, contact Elliott Alman of the NACo staff.

House Appropriation subcommittee on agriculture and related agencies: Jamie L. Whitten, chairman (D-Miss.), Frank E. Evans (D-Colo.), Bill Burlison (D-Mo.), Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Bob Traxler (D-Mich.), Bill Alexander (D-Ark.), Robert L.F. Sikes (D-Fla.), William H. Natcher (D-Ky.), Mark Andrews (R-N.D.), J. Kenneth Robinson (R-Va.), and John T. Myers (R-Ind.).

Senate Appropriations subcommittee on agriculture and related agencies: Thomas F. Eagleton, chairman (D-Mo.), John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), William Proxmire (D-Wis.), Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.), Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.), Henry Bellmon (R-Okla.), Milton Young (R-N.D.), Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.), and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

Current! Waiting List for FmHA Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program			
Ala.	\$16,371,500	Mont.	\$2,533,000
Alaska	47,000	Neb.	1,179,000
Ariz.	800,000	Nev.	221,499
Ark.	10,656,200	N.H.	2,650,000
Calif.	25,498,351	N.J.	—
Colo.	10,831,400	N.M.	3,302,414
Conn.	—	N.Y.	13,414,116
Del.	—	N.C.	8,620,400
Fla.	48,802,839	N.D.	1,180,900
Ga.	30,867,911	Ohio	28,655,100
Hawaii	1,538,680	Okla.	19,243,682
Idaho	3,272,041	Ore.	4,707,030
Ill.	24,705,469	Pa.	38,628,400
Ind.	5,943,000	R.I.	—
Iowa	9,783,150	S.C.	2,235,986
Kan.	12,110,717	S.D.	10,074,000
Ky.	38,551,376	Tenn.	32,152,319
La.	20,789,859	Tex.	16,540,550
Maine	4,877,500	Utah	3,479,362
Md.	1,177,300	Vt.	—
Mass.	328,900	Va.	25,300,800
Mich.	9,507,000	Wash.	3,679,400
Minn.	15,891,600	W.Va.	29,456,050
Miss.	28,478,800	Wis.	14,611,560
Mo.	19,806,720	Wyo.	4,277,250
		P.R.	50,000
Total		\$622,890,831	

NACo Joined in Lobby Bill Protest

STATEMENT ON BEHALF
OF
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
President: William O. Beach, County Judge
Montgomery County, Tenn.
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
STATE LEGISLATURES
President: Fred Anderson, Senator
State of Colorado
NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION
Chairman: William G. Milliken
Governor of Michigan
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
President: Thomas Moody, Mayor
Columbus, Ohio
U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
President: Lee Alexander, Mayor
Syracuse, N.Y.
COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
on
Lobbying Disclosure Reform Legislation
Submitted to the
Committee on Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate
Feb. 24, 1978

The National Association of Counties (NACo), National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), National Governors' Association (NGA), National League of Cities (NLC), U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), Council of State Governments (CSG) request the members of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee to grant to elected officials and their employees at the state and local level the same status as that granted to federal officials in the lobbying disclosure reform legislation under consideration by the committee.

The bills (S. 1785 and S. 2026) before the committee exempt from registration as lobbyists, members and employees of Congress, or associations of members of Congress, and federal employees. S. 1785 also exempts individual federal, state and local units of government. We firmly believe that as public officials we come under the same provisions as do congressional and federal officials. We, therefore, request that the Congress exempt all public officials including state and local officials and employees acting in their official capacities and that the record show that this includes the employees of our national organizations.

THE PURPOSE of these bills is to require disclosure about "the identity and extent of activities ... to influence members of Congress...." Governors, state legislators, mayors, city council members and county officials agree with the need for disclosure and their associations already make available their membership, policies and communications. The organizations are funded by public appropriations and are under the direct control of elected officials.

The current Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946 requires "any person who shall engage himself for pay ... for the purpose of attempting to influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by the Congress ..." to register as a lobbyist and file regular reports of his expenditures. However, the act specifically excludes "... any public official acting in his official capacity." The public official exemption was generally assumed to include employees of organizations of exempted officials until the autumn of 1973 when former Attorney General Saxbe advised the National League of Cities and U.S. Conference of Mayors that they must register their employees engaged in congressional relations and to supply records of their lobbying activities for the previous years or face criminal penalties up to a \$5,000 fine and a year in jail. Faced with criminal prosecution, the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties retained counsel and began preparation for legal action in federal court to declare their employees exempt from the reach of the lobbying statute.

BECAUSE OF the implications for its own employees, the National Governors' Association originally joined the other public interest groups in retaining counsel but withdrew from the suit following a meeting of the National Governors' Conference Executive Committee in June of 1974. The Executive Committee directed its employees not to register and advised the Attorney General of its action. In a letter to Attorney General Saxbe, then Chairman Daniel Evans of Washington said, "I consider it is my duty to accentuate the point ... that the governors totally reject the idea that employees ... who are supported by legislative appropriations from the several states, be required to register as lobbyists."

The National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties filed suit for declaratory judgment and, in a decision announced Dec. 18, 1974, Judge Gerhard Gesell of the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia found for the plaintiffs. His order stated "that each such officer and employee is exempt from registration under the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act so long as such person engages in lobbying undertaken solely on the authorization of a public official acting in his official capacity and such person receives his sole compensation and expenses for lobbying activity directly or indirectly from public funds contributed by cities, counties or municipalities, as the case may be."

IN DISTINGUISHING the lobbying of governmentally financed organizations from private groups, Judge Gesell referred to a 1954 case upholding the constitutionality of the lobbying act. In that case, the U.S. Supreme Court held the purpose of the act was to force disclosure by private "special interest groups seeking favored treatment while masquerading as proponents of the public weal."

In his decision, Judge Gesell described the situation faced by state and local governments today:

"The involvement of cities, counties and municipalities in the day-to-day work of the Congress is of increasing and continuing importance. The court must recognize that the voice of the cities, counties and municipalities in federal legislation will not adequately be heard unless through cooperative mechanisms such as plaintiff organizations they pool their limited finances for the purpose of bringing to the attention of Congress their proper official concerns on matters of public policy."

In his opinion, Judge Gesell sharply distinguished organizations of state and local officials from the type of organizations referred to in the Supreme Court case. "Here," he said, "there can be no doubt that all officers and employees of the plaintiff organizations are engaged in lobbying solely for what may properly be stated to be in 'the public weal' as conceived by those in government they repre-

sent who are themselves officials responsible solely to the public and acting in their official capacities. The narrow interpretation of the act should be maintained to assure its constitutionality. Significantly, the legislative history reveals the definition of "organization" was intended to apply to "business, professional and philanthropic organizations not to organizations of public officials and their agents. (A copy of Judge Gesell's decision is included for the record.)"

ATTORNEY GENERAL Levi did not appeal Judge Gesell's decision. Now Congress is again considering a new lobbying regulation law. It is at this point that we seek your understanding that public officials, federal, state and local are not the object of such legislation and since we are already "public," we should be exempted.

The associations representing states, counties and cities are already recognized as partners in the federal system in federal legislation and regulation.

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations Act, P.L. 86-380, Section 1 names our state and local official associations as the groups responsible for recommending the President candidates for appointment to ACIR.

The Office of Management and Budget Circular A-85 requires that each of the state and local public interest groups be consulted on major agency regulations, standard procedures and guidelines, prior to final federal action. The courts upheld the right of states, counties and cities to this prior consultation in *NARC v. James T. Lynn* (Civil Action 2203-73 Jan. 9, 1974, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia).

On Feb. 25, 1977, President Carter issued a memo to heads of executive departments and agencies calling for more state and local involvement in major policy, budget and reorganization proposals which have significant state and local impact.

All of these actions and many more point to the uniqueness of the associations representing state, county and city elected officials and their employees in our federal system. We urge the Congress to recognize these government and their representatives' unique role in the federal system.

Reminder: April 1 Weighted Vote Tally

As of April 1, by provision of the NACo Bylaws adopted at the 1977 annual business meeting in Detroit, the 10 states having the highest number of weighted votes will each be entitled to an additional seat on the next NACo Board of Directors, provided also that each such state has (A) either 50 percent of its counties as NACo members or has (B) NACo members representing 50 percent of the state's county population. A state otherwise in the top 10 but

failing to meet the 50 percent standard will be dropped from the list of 10. No proposed bylaw amendments will change this category of board seats.

The 1978-79 board of directors will be elected at NACo's annual conference and business meeting July 8-12 in Atlanta, Ga.

For voting at the annual business meeting, paid-up member counties are allocated a certain number of votes based on their population. Any

county joining NACo before the annual conference will be eligible to vote at the business meeting. But for the purposes of board-seat allocation, state voting totals will be finalized April 1.

As *County News* went to press, the 46 states with NACo member counties ranked as follows:

—Meg Gianess
Membership Coordinator

NACo Member Percentage			
State	Votes	% of Counties	% of Population
I. States with 100 or More Weighted Votes			
(1) Calif.	365	86	95
(2) N.Y.	254	74	92
(3) Tex.	252	37	71
(4) Mich.	214	69	93
(5) Ohio	208	67	70
(6) N.C.	181	100	100
(7) Fla.	177	67	95
(8) N.J.	163	95	87
(9) Pa.	159	49	49
(10) Minn.	139	94	99
(11) Ala.	117	99	99
(12) Wis.	112	60	82
(13) Md.	107	100	100
(14) Ga.	104	31	70
(15) Tenn.	103	59	77

NACo Member Percentage			
State	Votes	% of Counties	% of Population
II. States with 50-100 Weighted Votes			
(16) La.	98	91	81
(17) Wash.	95	92	89
(18) Va.	94	51	71
(19) Iowa	91	63	82
(20) Colo.	82	87	75
(21) Ill.	82	22	26
(22) Mo.	71	23	51
(23) Kan.	65	40	69
(24) Ore.	63	81	92
(25) S.C.	61	59	75
(26) Ky.	61	27	55
(27) Neb.	56	44	76
(28) Miss.	51	50	50
(29) Ariz.	50	100	100

NACo Member Percentage			
State	Votes	% of Counties	% of Population
III. States with Less Than 100 Weighted Votes			
(30) Utah	49	100	100
(31) Idaho	47	93	96
(32) W. Va.	39	51	58
(33) Ind.	37	11	25
(34) N.M.	35	63	86
(35) S.D.	35	53	55
(36) Mont.	31	54	48
(37) Nev.	25	100	100
(38) N.H.	22	100	100
(39) Hawaii	21	100	100
(40) Wyo.	21	83	93
(41) Ark.	20	21	24
(42) Del.	15	100	100
(43) N.D.	14	23	38
(44) Maine	13	50	37
(45) Alaska	11	82	98
(46) Mass.	8	57	78

\$2 Billion for Bridges Needed

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Claiming that statistics on bridges paint a "startling picture," NACo's chairman for bridges, Jim Flaherty, asked Congress to more than quadruple the amount of funds the Administration has requested for bridge repair nationwide.

Flaherty, chairman of Allegheny County (Pa.) Board of Commissioners, told the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee March 6 that 105,000 bridges around the country need help and that it would cost a total of \$23 billion to repair or replace them.

He pointed out that the annual \$450 million for bridge repair proposed in the Highway Improvement Act of 1978 (S. 2440) would only be enough to solve the bridge problems in his county alone. (Allegheny includes the city of Pittsburgh and has 1,725 bridges that bear 417,000 tons of finished steel products each day.)

FLAHERTY EMPHASIZED that a "truly national bridge program that will preserve and protect life,

safety and commerce would more effectively be funded at \$2 billion per year." He said that \$2 billion is "a lot of money to a county or state budget" but represents only 4/10 of a percent of President Carter's proposed fiscal '79 budget.

Explaining that it costs \$40,000 to \$60,000 just to inspect a bridge in his county, Flaherty asked the committee to "project that cost over 1/4 of the 105,000 bridges nationwide ... and we are in need of \$1 billion for inspection alone."

He continued, "Add to that huge engineering costs and construction costs that are escalating rapidly every day we delay and it soon becomes clear why the current federal funding total of \$180 million, and even the Administration's proposal of \$450 million, fall far short of our country's need."

COUNTIES FIND three encouraging signs in S. 2440, Flaherty told members: Federal aid would no longer be limited to bridge replacement but would include bridge re-

habilitation as well; the matching formula would be increased to 80 percent from 75 percent; and annual funds would be increased from \$180 million to \$450 million.

However, Flaherty pointed out that at the rate of \$450 million per year, it would take 41 years to repair or replace just the known defective bridges today.

In addition to requesting \$2 billion annually, Flaherty called for:

- A matching formula in which the federal government shares 90 percent of costs;
- Federal spending to be determined jointly by state and local officials;
- Improved enforcement policies and actions to prevent overloading of

bridges; and

- Allocation of funds based on lineal lane feet of bridges.

Flaherty, who is chairman for bridges on NACo's Transportation Steering Committee, explained that NACo launched a major bridge campaign last year to draw attention to the hazardous conditions of the nation's bridges.



NATION'S BRIDGES FALLING APART—Bridges like these across the country are showing their age—many dangerously so. NACo's chairman for bridges Jim Flaherty, Allegheny County (Pa.) commissioner, pointed out to Congress recently that the annual \$450 million for bridge repair proposed in the Highway Improvement Act of 1978 would only be enough to solve the bridge problems in his county alone.

Matter and Measure



3-R RESOLUTION

NACE at its New Orleans meeting Feb. 17 passed the following resolution on design guides for R-R-R federal-aid projects:

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has withdrawn a proposal for revising design guides for resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation (R-R-R) projects on federal-aid highways, other than Interstate (Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 13, Jan. 19, 1978); and

WHEREAS, FHWA will now develop design guides for federal-aid R-R-R projects (other than Interstate) and will make such guides available for review and comment under normal rulemaking procedures; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) have gone on record supporting the concept of AASHTO's "Purple Book" as the acceptable guide for federal-aid R-R-R projects, believing such adoption would not jeopardize the safety of the traveling public; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Association of County Engineers urges FHWA to:

- Work with NACE members and NACo staff in developing early drafts of proposed design guides for federal-aid R-R-R projects;
- Publish proposed design guides as an advance notice of proposed rulemaking with ample time for public comment (a minimum of 90 days) before publication of a subsequent notice of proposed rulemaking with ample time for public comment.

Copies of the resolution have been sent to Transportation Secretary Brock Adams and other officials in Washington, D.C. I will keep you posted on future developments.

—Milton L. Johnson, P.E.
NACE President

GRANTS TO DEVELOP AIRPORT STANDARDS

Arizona and South Carolina received \$22,845 and \$20,000, respectively, under grants designed to aid states in developing their own standards for design, configuration and construction of general aviation (nonairline) airports. The grants were made by the Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Under a 1976 amendment to the Airport and Airway Development Act, FAA is authorized to participate in an amount not exceeding 75 percent of the cost of a project, with a ceiling of \$25,000 to any one state.

Under the program, airport standards basically will cover: runway length and width, runway-taxiway separation, pavement thickness, drainage and construction methods and materials.

An example of potential cost savings is the substitution of local materials for those specified in FAA standards for runway construction. State standards could permit use of locally available pavement materials in lieu of those which might have to be shipped from distant locations at considerable cost.

Standards must be comparable to FAA standards they would replace and must be approved by FAA. Standards covering approach safety are not included.

FAA's Office of Airports Program has published an Advisory Circular, entitled "Development of State Standards for General Aviation Airports." Copies are available free from the Department of Transportation, Publication Section, TAD-443.1, Washington, D.C. 20590.

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

The Department of Transportation has released a report describing transportation and pedestrian traffic innovations in seven large American cities aimed at helping to revitalize their downtown areas.

The booklet, entitled "Center City Environment and Transportation: Local Government Solutions," was developed under a DOT grant to suggest techniques which might be used by other local governments, and public and private groups.

The cities discussed in the report are: Detroit; San Francisco; Seattle; Buffalo, N.Y.; Houston; New York City; and Los Angeles.

Copies of the report are available free from: Technology Sharing Program (TCI-20), U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, 202/426-4208.

Increased Commitment to Public Transit Asked of Hill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rodney Diridon, chairman of the Santa Clara County (Calif.) Board of Supervisors, told Congress recently that it must commit more federal funds for public transit "if the nation is to meet its transportation, energy and environmental goals."

Testifying before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Diridon delivered the county point of view on the 1978 Federal Public Transportation Act, S. 2441, one of three bills which the Carter administration recently introduced as part of its comprehensive transportation package.

DIRIDON SAID that county governments support the provision extending federal public transportation programs through 1983. Local governments must budget annually, he pointed out, and this measure would assure that "there will be no delays or cutbacks in federal funding."

However, Diridon said he was "dismayed" by the level of proposed funding. The bill would increase total transit money by only 2.6 percent between fiscal '78 and '79 and would drastically cut discretionary capital grants by more than 30 percent.

Diridon explained that Santa Clara County operates its own public transit system with 516 buses serving 40,000 people per day. The county hopes to expand that system, particularly commuter links with other places in the San Francisco Bay Area, in order to serve 90,000 people by 1980. Diridon said funding levels proposed in S. 2441 would "severely handicap" local governments such as

his from starting or expanding such public transit programs.

Diridon added that many counties and cities currently cannot meet federal clean air standards and that the automobile is the "prime polluter in most urban areas." In order to fight pollution, local governments must use transportation controls such as public transit, bus and car-pool lanes, and "park and ride" lots. Diridon called an increased commitment to public transit "one of our nation's crucial requirements."

THE SANTA CLARA official also made a special plea for rural areas. He pointed out that only 1 percent of federal public transit funds have been spent in these areas, despite the fact that half the nation's citizens live there.

"Rural residents share the same transportation needs as urban

citizens; in fact, rural Americans have the greatest distance to travel for basic necessities. Many rural citizens must travel hundreds of miles to pursue a livelihood or secure medical and food provisions," he said.

As a result, Diridon called for the establishment of a new and "identifiable" program for rural public transportation within the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. (Under the proposed bill, rural transit programs would be funded by the Highway Trust Fund with the general fund reimbursing the trust fund for operating expenses.)

Finally, Diridon told the Senate committee that statewide transportation planning as required in S. 2441 was unnecessary.

Diridon is vice chairman for public transportation on NACo's Transportation Steering Committee.

Winter Energy Problems?

The record breaking winter and extended coal strike are causing energy problems in many portions of the nation. The energy shortages and expanded human service needs are expected to grow more severe in the near future. To assist state and local governments in meeting these needs, the Department of Energy has prepared an inventory of potentially applicable federal programs.

The booklet, released last week,

identifies the "by whom, for whom, and how to" of programs in housing, food, financial, health and medical, transportation, federal manpower and equipment, and emergency information areas.

Counties facing winter energy emergencies will find this a useful source of current information areas. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the booklet titled "Human Needs," please call the NACo energy project.

Civil Service Changes Draw Mixed Reactions

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House has scheduled hearings this week on President Carter's proposals to change the federal government's civil service system. The announced reforms have drawn a mixed reaction.

During a March 2 speech at the National Press Club here President Carter said of the reform proposals, "We have no illusions that this task will be easy. Our government and its bureaucracy have evolved over many generations and the work of reform cannot be completed in a single year or a single administration."

CONGRESSIONAL committees with jurisdiction over the reorganization proposals are the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Nix (D-Pa.) and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired

by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.) The Senate has yet to schedule hearings.

In broad terms, the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 submitted to Congress would:

- Inscribe in law basic merit principles governing the federal personnel system, and specifically identify the prohibited personnel practices that undermine the system.

- Improve the procedures for deciding employees' appeals and install a new approach to appraising employees' performance, with less cumbersome procedures for taking corrective action on the basis of poor performance records.

- Permit additional participation by agencies in staffing processes, and increase their flexibility in hiring decisions.

- Modify the veterans preference to strengthen employment oppor-

tunities for disabled and Vietnam-era veterans, but to reduce it for others.

- Establish a comprehensive system for managing and utilizing senior executive personnel.

- Install an incentive pay plan for managers and supervisors at the GS-13 through GS-15 grade range which relates pay increases to the quality of their performance.

OF SIGNIFICANCE TO counties, the proposal authorizes research and demonstration projects aimed at improving intergovernmental personnel management programs.

- Existing statutory requirements attached to federal assistance programs administered by state and local governments would be abolished, except those contained in the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA), those prohibiting employment discrimination, and those

in the Davis-Bacon and Hatch Acts.

Federal agencies would be authorized to require, as a condition of participation in grant programs, personnel systems which meet a single set of standards to be published by the Office of Personnel Management.

Changes would also occur in the eligibility of agencies and employees to participate in intergovernmental mobility assignments. Other changes would correct present inequities in the mobility program affecting the pay and benefits of mobility assignees.

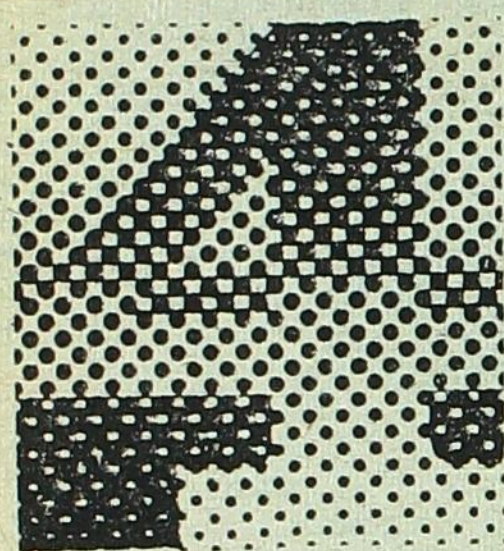
SPECIFIC TITLES of the legislation are as follows: Title I, Merit System Principles; Title II, Civil Service Functions, Performance Appraisal, Adverse Actions; Title III, Staffing; Title IV, Senior Executive Service; Title V, Merit Pay; and Title VI, Research and Demonstration Authority.

The proposal has been endorsed by a number of federal unions, state and local public interest groups as well as business groups. The American Federation of Government Employees is supportive of the plan,

also, the Chamber of Commerce, Common Cause, the National Association of Committees for Women, the National Civil Service League, and the AFL-CIO and member unions. Opposition to the plan has come from the second largest union—the National Federation of Federal Employees—the National Treasury Employees Union and a number of angered veterans organizations will also oppose certain provisions in the reorganization plan.

Congressional approval of the reorganization plan for the Civil Service Commission would establish the necessary organizational framework to carry out the basic reforms. CS Commissioner Alan Campbell states that he would begin efforts to sell the proposals to members of Congress and would testify on behalf of the Administration to seek support at passage.

Additional information on the President's legislative proposal to Congress may be obtained from Arthur Simpson, legislative representative for labor management relations, NACO.



The Fourth Annual Labor Relations Conference

April 30-May 2, 1978
Host International Hotel
Tampa, Florida

Delegates can both preregister for the conference and reserve hotel space by completing this form and returning it to NACO.

Conference registration fees must accompany this form before hotel reservations will be processed. **Enclose check, official county purchase order or equivalent.** No conference registrations will be made by phone.

All Advance Conference Registrations must be postmarked no later than April 20. After the 20th, you must register on-site at the hotel and there will be an additional \$5 charge per registrant.

Refunds of the registration fee will be made if cancellation is necessary, **provided that written notice is postmarked no later than April 17.**

A two-track program is planned to meet the needs of both novices (Track I) and experienced practitioners (Track II). To help us plan the function space, please indicate whether you are primarily interested in either:

☐ Track I ☐ Track II

Conference registration fees: (Make payable to NACO) \$95 Advance \$100 On-Site

Conference Registration

Please print:

Name _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Initial)

County _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tele. (____) _____

Hotel Reservation (Host International)

Special conference rates will be guaranteed to all delegates whose reservations are **postmarked by April 7.** After that date, available housing will be assigned on a **first come basis.**

Please print:

Occupant's Name _____ Single \$28

*Arrival Date/Time _____ Departure Date/Time _____

Occupants' Names _____ Double \$34

*Arrival Date/Time _____ Departure Date/Time _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Reg. check/P.O. # _____ Housing Deposit Check # _____
Amount \$ _____ Amount \$ _____

Send preregistration and hotel reservations to: **National Association of Counties—Labor Relations Conference, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.** For further housing information call NACO Conference Registration Center, 703/471-6180.

*Hotel reservations are only held until 6 p.m. on arrival day. If you anticipate arriving near or after that time, list a credit card name and number below to guarantee your first night reservation, or send one night's deposit.

MINNESOTA COUNTY

St. Louis Contracts Out Work Program

LIMA, Ohio—County welfare directors and work relief (workfare) directors throughout the state learned about the various ways counties conduct programs in which general assistance recipients are required to "work off" their payments, including a new approach in St. Louis County, Minn.

The Workfare Conference, held in Lima last month, also attracted representatives from the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and Health, Education and Welfare. NACO Research, Inc. (NACoR) organized the panel to discuss federal involvement in workfare. NACoR is currently surveying workfare programs nationwide for the Labor Department.

Since 1974, St. Louis County Department of Social Services has contracted the administration of its work relief program out to two Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) prime sponsors: the city of Duluth Manpower Office and the CETA consortium. The primary reason for this arrangement is that the Social Services Department does not consider itself qualified to serve as an employment agency. These two prime sponsors receive CETA Title I, II, and VI funding.

General assistance (GA) recipients who are considered able to work (employable) are initially interviewed by both a CETA counselor and a Work Experience and Training program specialist to determine appropriate job placement. All those certified employable are required to attend work orientation classes and work assignment meetings.

Results of the employment screening determine whether the person will be assigned to a GA or CETA work slot. There are 450 positions available through the Duluth Manpower Office and 550 available through the CETA consortium.

If an individual is placed in a GA position, the county pays the person directly without going through the CETA prime sponsor. However, if the person is placed in a CETA job, which requires a 40-hour work week, he or she is paid from CETA funds and the county reimburses the CETA prime sponsor up to the appropriate amount of the GA payment and CETA funds make up the outstanding balance.

Persons assigned to a CETA job may end up working for a 12-month period which gives them continuing in their work history records.

Work relief participants are paid \$3.36 an hour which is the local city service entry wage. Work is assigned at public agencies and non-profit organizations and the most common type of work is custodial and clerical.

St. Louis County assigns between 800 and 850 persons to work relief jobs every month. According to the county, 50 percent of the cases are closed because the individual does not report for work-orientation and 25 percent of the remaining cases are closed because of incomplete job performance. Only 25 percent of the monthly caseload of workers actually complete their work assignments.

Other aspects of the St. Louis program are:

- The average work assignment is slightly less than two months;
- Thirteen percent of the monthly worker caseload find unsubsidized employment;
- Work relief has a 20 percent monthly turnover rate;
- A high percentage of participants locate CETA jobs.

St. Louis County estimates that during fiscal '78, it will pay \$34,000 to the city of Duluth and \$33,000 to the CETA consortium for CETA administrative expenses.

The county is pleased with the effectiveness of this new approach to workfare and is receiving several inquiries from other counties in the state who are interested in establishing similar programs.

—Megan Murphy, NACO

Call
(202) 785-9591

NACO's Hotline for a legislative update.

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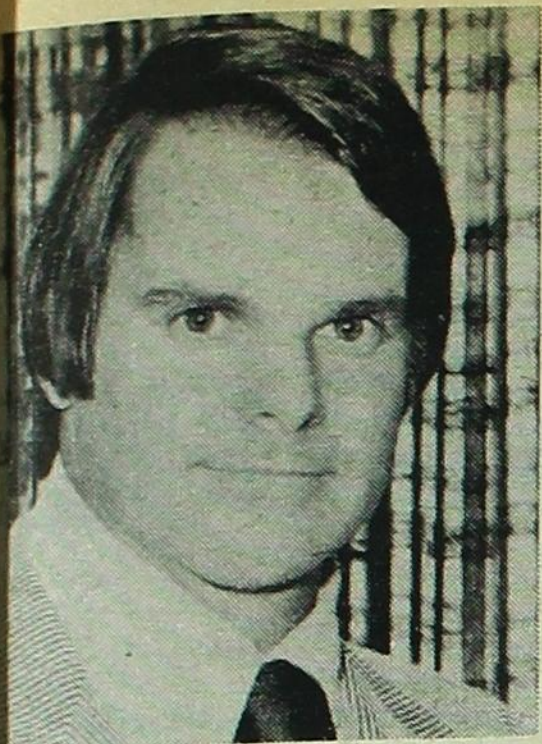
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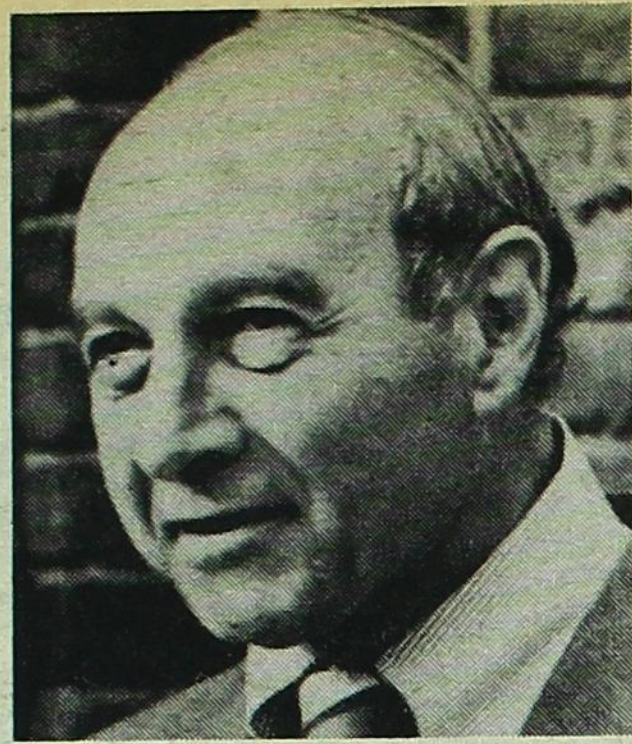
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Child Support Enforcement Helps Recoup Welfare Cost

WASHINGTON, D.C.—“Collections of child support payments from runaway parents have contributed to the first leveling off of welfare rolls in a decade,” Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph Califano told federal, state, and local officials attending the Symposium on Child Support Enforcement here on March 1.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Russell B. Long (D-La.), who was the leading force behind the Child Support Enforcement Act, gave the keynote address.

The Child Support Enforcement Program, Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, helps locate absent parents who fail to contribute to their children's support.

In fiscal '77, states and counties collected almost \$418 million in overdue child support payments at a cost of \$258 million. Califano said it resulted in a net savings to taxpayers of \$175 million that year.

STUDIES OF successful child support programs were presented by officials of Michigan and Utah. In Michigan, 87 percent of the absent parents are located, and the average return is \$600 per case.

Dr. John F. Dempsey, director of the Michigan Department of Social Services, said the one significant resource which has increased their speed and efficiency is the Telecommunicator installed by HEW. This device transmits requests for information to the federal Parent Locator Service in Washington.

Eugene Eidenberg, deputy under-

secretary for intergovernmental affairs, observed that 31 states communicate with HEW through a computer network, and related that HEW would like to use this network to allow states to communicate with each other.

Dr. Anthony W. Mitchell, executive director of the Utah State Department of Social Services described Utah's open-ended appropriation for the Child Support Enforcement Program. Because of Utah's success in collecting child support (it leads the nation in collections for AFDC case), the state legislature allows its Office of Recovery to collect money, pay operational costs from the proceeds and return a profit to the state and federal government.

The Child Support Enforcement Program is not expected to be affected by the President's welfare reform bill; however, the House and Senate Finance versions of H.R. 7200, the Public Assistance Amendments of 1977, differ in the treatment of non-AFDC cases using the Parent Locator Service.

THE HOUSE version of H.R. 7200 makes federal matching funds available for two years to non-AFDC individuals whose incomes are not more than double the AFDC standards. The maximum amount a state could charge for use of this service is \$20. If paying this amount would qualify an applicant for AFDC, then this fee could be waived.

For non-AFDC recipients whose total income is less than twice the

state AFDC standard of need, the amount deducted to cover costs must be the lesser of either 10 percent of the amount of child support collected or the average cost in the state of providing child support services to non-AFDC individuals.

The Senate Finance Committee bill continues federal matching for services to non-AFDC families on a permanent basis. This version would allow federal matching for child support duties performed by court personnel, such as judges and clerks, who are not currently covered, only to the extent that the compensation is clearly identifiable with, and directly related to services performed under the Child Support Enforcement Act.

Present law allows states, at their option, to continue to collect support payments from an absent parent for up to four months after AFDC payments have been terminated.

HEW WOULD be allowed to reduce the amount of payments to the state by the federal share of child support collections made but not reported by the state. Another provision prohibits advance payment to the state of the federal share of administrative expenses unless the state has submitted a full and complete report of the amount of child support collected and disbursed for the calendar quarter which ended six months earlier.

H.R. 7200 is expected to reach the Senate floor in late March or early April.

—Diane Shust

Details Announced for Exec Workshop

SHELBY COUNTY, Tenn.—Edwin Michaelian, former Westchester (N.Y.) county executive, and Michael Carroll, former deputy mayor of Indianapolis-Marion County, Ind., will join John Klein, Suffolk (N.Y.) county executive, in addressing the Workshop on the Council-Elected Executive Form of County Government.

The workshop, to be held in Memphis April 6-7, will be one and one-half days devoted solely to studying issues surrounding the adoption and workings of the council-elected executive form of government.

Michaelian, who served as Westchester County executive for 16 years (1958-1973), is now a professor with the Institute for Suburban Government of Pace University, N.Y. Carroll, who was deputy mayor from 1974 to 1976, is now special assistant to Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.). In addition to serving as Suffolk County executive, Klein is president of both the National Association of Elected County Executives and the New York State County Executives' Association.

The program for the workshop will be as follows:

Thursday, April 6

9 a.m.—WELCOME: Mayor Roy Nixon, Shelby County, Tenn., and NACo President William O. Beach, Montgomery County, Tenn.

9:30 a.m.—OPENING SESSION: "What Is a County Executive?" (Dr. Michaelian).

10:15 a.m.—PANEL SESSION: "The Variety in County Executive Counties."

Noon—LUNCHEON: "Governing the Urban County" (Carroll).

2:30 p.m.—PANEL SESSION: "Legislative/Executive Relationships: The Process of Government."

6 p.m.—RECEPTION: Hosted by Shelby County, Tenn.

Friday, April 7

9 a.m.—PANEL SESSION: "Problems in Transition: Organizing and Settling In."

10:45 a.m.—PANEL SESSION: "Advantages and Disadvantages of the Council-Elected Executive Form of Government."

12:15 p.m.—LUNCHEON: "The Executive as Representative and Leader of the County" (Klein).

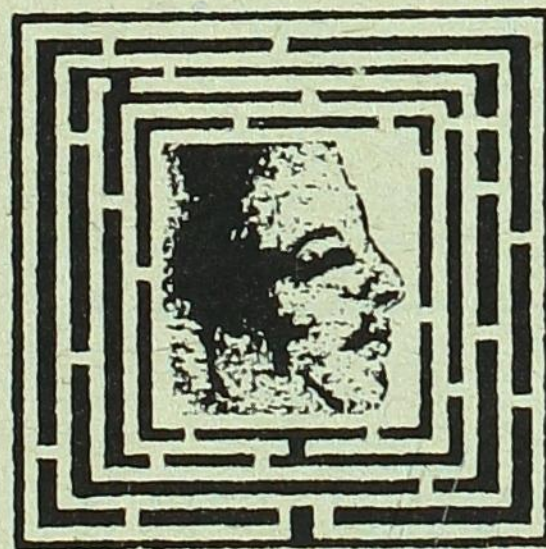
AMONG THE panelists already confirmed to participate at the workshop are the following: Judge James A. Baker, Baxter County, Ark.; Mayor W.W. Dumas, Baton Rouge-East Baton Rouge Parish, La.; County Executive Art Sypek, Mercer County, N.J.; County Executive Mike White, Jackson County, Mo.; County Executive Mary Jorlin, New Castle County, Del.; County Executive David Bausch, Lehigh County, Pa.; Chief Administrative Officer James Long, Shelby County, Tenn.; County Executive John Spellman, King County, Wash.; and

William Dodge, director, Committee for Progress in Allegheny County, Pa.

Conference registration will be held at the workshop. There will be a registration fee of \$55, which will include all packet materials, luncheons on both days, and the reception on Thursday evening. Hotel arrangements should be made directly with the Holiday Inn Rivermont in Memphis, 901/525-0121 (Room rates: \$24/single, \$30/double). No deposit is required; participants should identify themselves as being with the "County Modernization Conference."

The workshop is being cosponsored by the New County, U.S.A. Center of NACo, Shelby County and the National Council of Elected County Executives. Any questions concerning the workshop program should be directed to Bruce Talley of the NACo staff at 202/785-9577.

Second National Assembly on the Jail Crisis



May 17-20, 1978
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The American Jail in Transition

Topics include:

- Who should be in jail?
- Role of elected officials in jail reform
- Function of standards
- Improvement in medical care, education, vocational training, recreation, furloughs
- Federal financial and technical assistance
- Intergovernmental solutions.
- Program needs of incarcerated women
- Diversion of children from jail
- Legal issues: prisoner rights, liability of appointed & elected officials
- New approaches to jail management
- Technical assistance booths staffed by national organizations.

Conference Registration

To take advantage of the conference advance registration fee, a personal check, county voucher or equivalent must accompany this registration form; make check payable to: National Association of Counties Research Foundation

All advance conference registration fees must be postmarked by May 1, 1978. After May 1, registrations will be at the on-site rate at the hotel. (no registrations by phone)

Refunds of the registration fee will be made if cancellation is necessary, provided that written notice is postmarked no later than May 5.

Conference registration fees: ☐ \$75 advance ☐ \$95 on-site

Please Print:

Name _____

County _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel. () _____

Hotel reservation request: Radisson Hotel

Occupant's name(s) _____

☐ Single \$30 ☐ Double \$36

Arrival Date/Time _____ Departure Date/Time _____

Suites available on request \$75-\$200

Send pre-registration and hotel reservation to:
National Association of Counties Research Foundation
Second National Assembly on the Jail Crisis
1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

Our Members at a Glance 700

A Message from the President...

As president of the National Association of Counties, I am proud to share with *County News* readers our prediction that by April 1 we will achieve an all-time high membership of 1,700 of the nation's county governments.

NACo has never been stronger. Our membership has increased by over 400 percent in the past 15 years. Today, 54 percent of the nation's 3,100 counties are NACo members, and they hold 74 percent of the total U.S. county population.

Counties join NACo because, as the only national organization representing county governments, we are in a position to provide our members with these unique services in return for their support:

Legislative Representation: NACo presents the county viewpoint before Congress on current legislation affecting counties. For example, NACo has successfully pushed for "a fair share for counties" in such programs as

general revenue sharing, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, payments-in-lieu of taxes, countercyclical antirecession fiscal assistance, public works assistance, and a host of others. NACo alerts its members and county officials when their active support or opposition to pending legislation is needed.

Federal Grants Information: As the single representative of counties at the national level, one of NACo's jobs is to be aware of existing and potential sources of federal aid to counties and to assist individual county officials in obtaining that aid. Federal regulations are also analyzed for county impact and comments are submitted through NACo to the appropriate federal agency.

Policy-making Opportunities: NACo member county officials, nominated by their state associations of counties, are appointed to one or two-year terms as members of our policy steering committees. Committee members initiate and develop NACo policies which

County News receive individual county's dues.

Technical Assistance: Research and publication of solid working programs

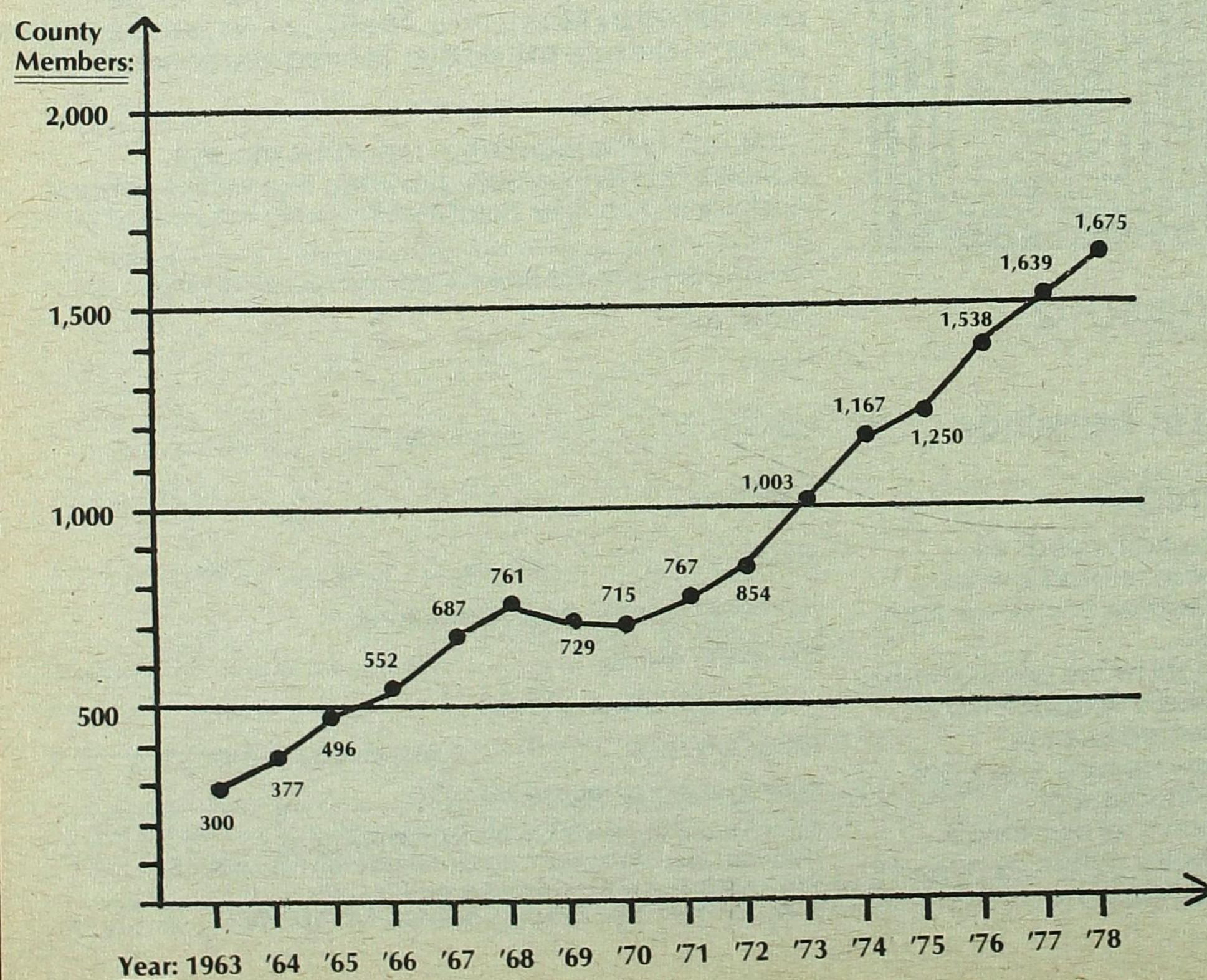
projects offer dual service as central communities with problems similar to

How we've grown

In the late 1950's and early 60's, the National Association of County Officials (NACO) underwent a change from an organization with individual members to one with county government members. The name was changed to the National Association of Counties (NACo), and it is recorded that in 1963 the

new association had approximately 300 dues-paying member counties.

In the 15 years since then, NACo has grown by more than 400 percent—and today we have 1,675 member counties. This chart records our progress and shows the exact number of member counties on Jan. 1 of each year.



State ¹	Total Counties ²	NACo Members	State ¹	NACo Members
Alabama	67	66	Maine	8
Alaska	11	9	Maryland	24
Arizona	14	14	Massachusetts	8
Arkansas	75	16	Michigan	57
California	58	50	Minnesota	82
Colorado	63	55	Mississippi	41
Delaware	3	3	Missouri	26
Dist. of Columbia	1	0	Montana	30
Florida	67	45	Nebraska	41
Georgia	159	50	Nevada	17
Hawaii	4	4	New Hampshire	10
Idaho	44	41	New Jersey	20
Illinois	102	22	New Mexico	20
Indiana	92	10	New York	43
Iowa	99	63	North Carolina	100
Kansas	105	42	North Dakota	12
Kentucky	120	32	Ohio	59
Louisiana	64	58	Oklahoma	0

1,700 Counties... 35,000 County Officials

Approval by the general membership, serve as the national platform of county government on such issues as environment and energy, community development, employment, transportation, welfare and social services, health and education, and others.

County News: Member county officials, both elected and appointed, receive individual subscriptions to the weekly newspaper included in the county's dues.

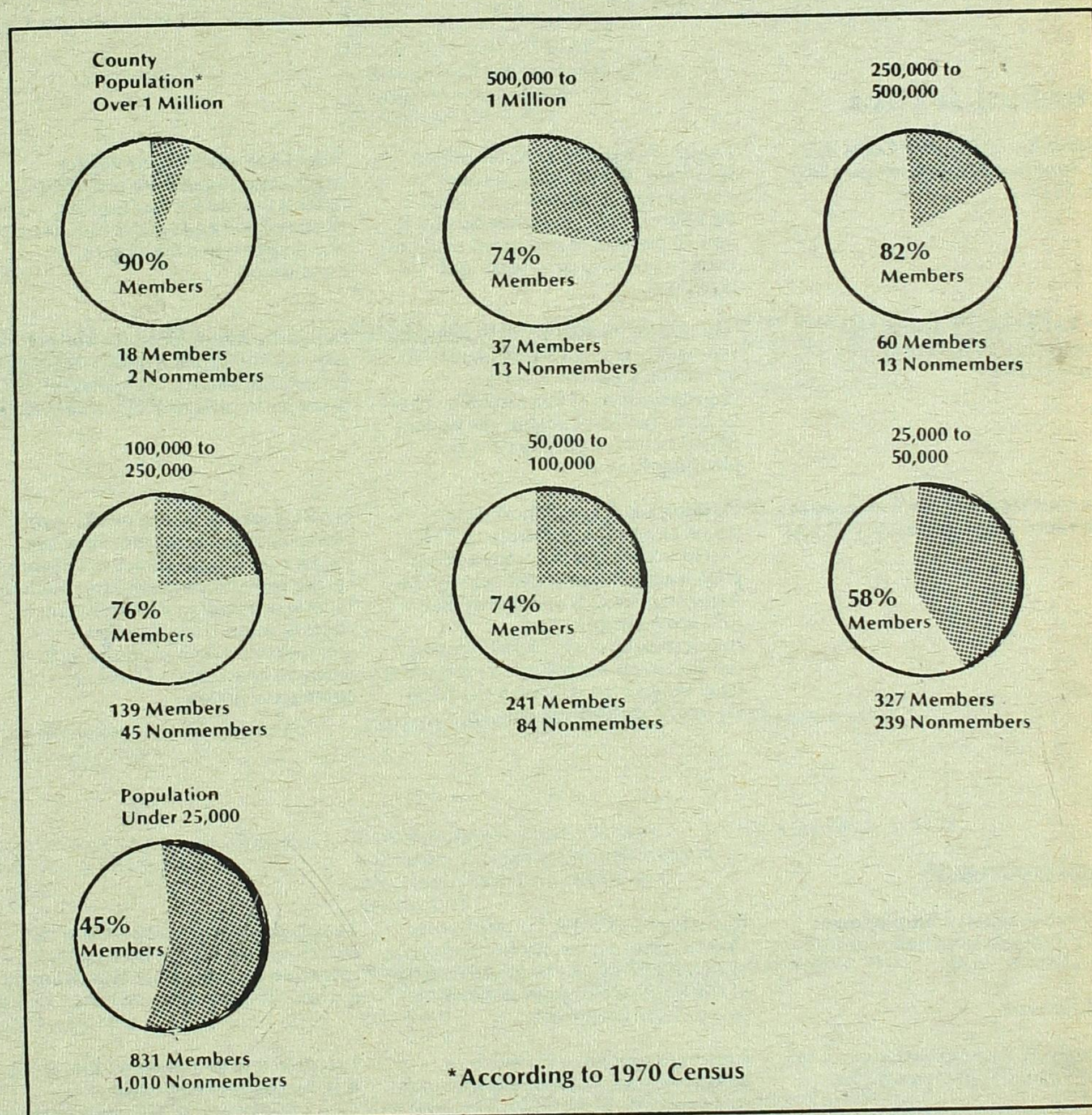
Technical Assistance: NACo's federally funded grant projects conduct research and publish information about what counties are doing in such fields as solid waste management, county transportation and engineering, aging programs, energy conservation, and criminal justice activities. Some projects offer direct onsite technical assistance to member counties, and others serve as central, national "clearinghouses" of information so that counties with particular problems can find out how other counties have solved similar problems.

Reduced Fees: Member county officials pay reduced registration fees for NACo conferences, and some NACo publications are available at special member rates.

To support NACo's legislative and public affairs programs, and to be eligible for all of the above services, NACo member counties pay an annual fee based on their population. The current assessment rate is 1.2 cents per person, plus \$25. The minimum fee is \$200, the maximum \$24,000.

We are proud of having 1,700 member counties whose diversity, as illustrated in various ways on these pages, is a sign of NACo's strength. We are equally proud of what NACo has accomplished for counties, and we anticipate even more "success" stories in the future.

William O. Beach
Montgomery County (Tenn.) Judge
President, National Association of Counties



Honor Roll

NACo salutes the states whose counties are all members.

North Carolina—100 counties

Arizona—14 counties

Utah—29 counties

New Hampshire—10 counties

Maryland—23 counties and 1 city

Hawaii—4 counties

Nevada—17 counties

Delaware—3 counties

NACo Members	State ¹	Total Counties ²	NACo Members
8	Oregon	36	29
24	Pennsylvania	67	33
8	South Carolina	46	27
57	South Dakota	64	34
82	Tennessee	95	56
41	Texas	254	95
26	Utah	29	29
30	Vermont	14	0
41	Virginia	136	69
17	Washington	39	36
10	West Virginia	55	28
20	Wisconsin	72	43
20	Wyoming	23	19

Notes: 1. Connecticut and Rhode Island do not have county governments.

2. "Counties" includes all counties, city counties and independent cities.

3. Oklahoma counties are prohibited by state law from joining national associations.

Special Report

Status of Legislation

On Eve of Legislative Conference

Bill	Issues	NACo	Status	Outlook
(NACo Contacts)				
Community Development				
Community Development Appropriations <i>John Murphy</i>	Adequate funding for the community development block grants, rehabilitation loans, and housing programs.	Authorization levels.	Administration has requested full funding of \$4.15 billion for block grants, \$95 million for rehabilitation loans, and 400,000 units of assisted housing.	Congress requested to approve Administration requests.
Economic Development Appropriations <i>John Murphy</i>	Adequate funding for Economic Development Administration grant and loan programs to meet rural and urban county needs.	Supports programs.	Administration has requested significant increases in EDA grants for rural and urban areas.	Congress expected to approve Administration requests.
Criminal Justice				
Federal Assistance for Local Jail Construction/Renovation (S. 1245; H.R. 8714)	Legislation provides \$150 million first year, \$350 million second year for jail construction funded through LEAA. Match ratio of 3-1, and 25 percent of any grant could be used to improve programs and practices.	Board has adopted resolution supporting legislation providing federal assistance for local jail construction and renovation. NACo will testify when hearings are announced.	Hearings to be scheduled in both House and Senate later in year; no legislative movement to date.	Depends on initiatives from President Carter in his first major message on crime, to be presented in early spring. Potential for serious consideration and passage is present in 95th Congress.
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) Appropriations	Amount requested by Administration represents a small cut of about \$5 million from last year's appropriations of \$647 million. There is, however, a cut within the budget of \$30 million from the Part B planning funds.	Supports Administration budget request but opposes cut in planning funds until there is comparable decrease in planning requirements.	House hearings after March 15; Senate hearings subsequently.	Uncertain. Last year Congress cut Administration request by \$100 million. Questions regarding LEAA's reauthorization next year cloud issue.
Reorganization of Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA)	Pending LEAA's authorization which expires in September 1979, two of what are certain to be many proposals have emerged: one by the Attorney General and one by Sen. Edward Kennedy. The Reorganization Act of 1977 giving the President authority to reorganize federal agencies will form the basis for many of the proposals.	NACo does not have a position on reorganization structures but has policies favoring a direct assistance, rather than block grant, approach to federal criminal justice assistance. Staff is submitting detailed comments on each proposal as it emerges based upon steering committee review.	No formal congressional action to date.	Some reorganization likely to be enacted. Too early to predict its form.
Employment				
The Comprehensive Employment and Training Amendments of 1978 (H.R. 11086; S. 2570) <i>Jon Weintraub</i>	Reauthorizes CETA for four years. Creates more authority for Secretary of Labor and governor at the expense of the local prime sponsor. Creates new private sector title.	Testified before Senate on March 6 and House on March 16. Supports retention of local decision-making authority.	Before House and Senate subcommittees to be reported by May 15.	Congress will enact extension with curbs on elected official authority unless elected officials get active with Congress.
Labor-HEW Appropriations Act for Fiscal '79 and Supplemental for Fiscal '78 <i>Jon Weintraub</i>	Increases needed in President's budget request to meet the minimum wage raise.	Testified before Senate on March 13. Will testify before House.	Before House and Senate subcommittees.	The abortion issue will probably delay passage again.
Environment and Energy				
National Energy Act (H.R. 844) <i>Robert Weaver</i>	Provisions for conservation of existing energy supplies, coal conversion incentives, and utility rate reform have been agreed to by House and Senate conferees. Natural gas pricing, new energy taxes and disposition of revenue for consumer rebates, incentives for development of alternative energy sources, additional conservation incentives are pending conference agreement.	Supports conservation provisions and impact assistance to areas experiencing population and employment increase due to increased coal and uranium mining. These parts have been agreed to by conferees.	Natural gas conferees are still deadlocked on the price for new gas and the ultimate deregulation of natural gas prices. Agreement possible at any time. Agreement on tax, spending, and tax credit provisions not clear until after natural gas agreement.	Uncertain. If agreement on natural gas is achieved a month or more will be required to complete action on tax provisions. Supporters of the conservation provisions are considering an attempt to sever those and the coal conversion and utility rate reform titles and push for final passage during March.

Bill

Issues

NACo

Status

Outlook

Environment and Energy Continued

Resource Conservation and Recovery Appropriations

Robert Weaver

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act authorized the appropriation of \$160 million for the entire legislation. The Administration has requested \$57 million, most of which would be targeted to expanded hazardous waste programs. Because the boost in assistance to states from \$14 to \$26 million was made, it is uncertain how much federal assistance will ultimately be available to local governments.

Supports additional funding over the Administration's request so that funds will be available for pass-through to counties and other local governments.

Congressional budget committees will consider target for solid waste funding by March 15. Appropriations committees will consider during the spring.

Uncertain at this time whether Congress will provide funds above the Administration request.

Clean Air Act Appropriations

Robert Weaver

Provides funds for grants authorized by Section 175 to local governments to conduct clean air planning and participate with the state in the revision of State Implementation Plans. Administration support is awaiting agreement between the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency on coordination of air quality and transportation planning.

Strongly supports appropriation of full \$75 million for local government activities in SIP revision and air quality planning.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has recommended the supplemental appropriation of and inclusion of \$25 million in the fiscal '79 budget. Budget committees will consider inclusion in 1979 budget by March 15.

Inclusion in the 1978 supplemental appropriation possible with strong urging by counties and other local government groups. Fiscal '79 funds are probable if the Administration supports it.

Water Quality Appropriations

Robert Weaver

The Clean Water Act of 1977 authorized the appropriation of \$4.5 billion per year for 10 years for the wastewater construction grants program, and \$150 million per year for three years for the Section 208 water quality management program. The Administration requested \$4.5 billion for construction grants and \$50 million for Section 208 planning. Construction funds are available for 75 percent of the cost of "conventional" treatment facilities, and for 100 percent of the cost of alternative or innovative facilities.

Supports full funding for both parts of the clean water program.

Congress approved a fiscal '78 supplemental of \$4.5 billion for construction grants and \$69 million for Section 208 planning. Fiscal '79 requests will be reviewed by the House and Senate Budget Committees by March 15 and the appropriations committees throughout the spring.

Full funding for the construction grants program is probable. Congress may increase the Administration's request for Section 208 planning funds.

Water Resource Policy Recommendations

Robert Weaver

The Administration is preparing policy recommendations for Congress on water conservation practices, division of responsibility between state and federal agencies, and cost sharing between federal and nonfederal sources for water resource projects. Study was initiated after the Administration recommended the deletion or slow down of a number of water projects last year.

The Environment and Energy Steering Committee is evaluating policy options at its meeting during the Legislative Conference.

Policy study is nearly complete by the Administration.

Final congressional action is not likely this session. Hearings will probably be held on the President's recommendations.

Health and Education

Labor-HEW Appropriations for Fiscal '79

Mike Gemmell

Provides funds for basic health and education programs that are of concern to counties.

Seeks full funding for all programs, including education.

Hearings in House and Senate.

Passage certain.

Education Bills (S. 1753)

Mike Gemmell

Extension of Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Bill encompasses various education programs, including impact aid, elementary and secondary education.

Supports most provisions. Opposes attempt to cut back education impact aid.

Hearings this spring by House education subcommittee and Senate subcommittee on education and humanities.

Passage likely in 1978.

Health Services (H.R. 10553; S. 2474)

Mike Gemmell

Three-year extension of basic public health programs of concern to counties: health incentive program, community mental health, migrant health, V.D. immunization, etc.

Supports the House version to establish a cost sharing program for health incentives.

Hearings held. Markup by House and Senate subcommittees in March and April.

Passage certain.

Health Planning (H.R. 10460; S. 2410)

Mike Gemmell

Three-year extension of P.L. 93-641, health planning and resources programs. Bill recommends several changes.

Supports three-year extension, but seeks several amendments to make HSAs more accountable to elected county officials.

Hearings held. Markup by both House and Senate subcommittees this month.

Passage certain.

National Health Insurance

Mike Gemmell

Over a dozen bills introduced. Range from "cradle-to-grave" coverage to status quo.

Supports comprehensive bill; incremental approach by first federalizing Medicaid.

Bills referred to appropriate congressional committees.

No action until next year.

Medicaid Reform (H.R. 3; S. 143)

Mike Gemmell

Strengthens capability of federal government to control fraud and abuse in Medicaid/Medicare.

Supports bill.

President signed.

Rural Health (H.R. 422; H.R. 8422)

Mike Gemmell

Provides Medicare reimbursement to rural and inner city health clinics.

Supports bill.

President signed in January.

Hospital Cost Control (H.R. 6575; H.R. 1753; S. 1470; S. 1391)

Mike Gemmell

Leading proposal sets a two-year voluntary program, with a 12 percent cap on hospital rates set in reserve. Others seek cost control through incentives, through Medicare/Medicaid reform.

Supports bills.

House marking up. No action in Senate.

Passage uncertain.

Bill	Issues	NACo	Status	Outlook
Health and Education Continued				
Child Health Care (S. 1392; H.R. 6706; H.R. 7474) <i>Mike Gemmell</i>	Expands Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Testing EPSDT program.	Supports bill with amendments.	House marked up bill with NACo amendments. No action in Senate.	Passage certain.
Illegal Aliens Health Care (H.R. 2400) <i>Mike Gemmell</i>	Reimburses counties for health care to illegal aliens.	Supports bill.	Hearings held in House Commerce health subcommittee. No hearings in Senate.	Passage unlikely.
Home Rule and Regional Affairs				
Lobbying Disclosure (H.R. 8494; S. 1785; S. 2026) <i>Aliceann Fritschler</i>	Associations and employees of state and local elected and appointed officials would be required to register as lobbyists. Elected and appointed federal officials and employees, and individual county representatives are exempt from registration and disclosure.	NACo urges that county, city, state officials, their associations and employees be granted same status as elected federal officials, and be exempt from registration.	House Judiciary Committee voted to include state and local officials' associations. Senate Governmental Affairs held hearing. NACo, governors, mayors, state legislatures, and cities filed joint statement opposing registration.	Some kind of new lobbying disclosure bill possible. Many issues unresolved.
Universal Voter Registration (H.R. 5400; S. 1072)	Administration bill gives states option to allow potential voters to register at the polls on election day for federal elections.	NACo opposes same day registration.	No action scheduled.	Passage unlikely.
Civil Rights Improvement Act of 1977 (S. 35) <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Legislation amends Section 1983 of Civil Rights Act of 1871 to establish liability for violations of civil rights on local and state governments. Government entities, which are currently immune as a result of recent Supreme Court decisions interpreting the act, would become liable for monetary damages and court-ordered injunctions.	Opposes legislation.	Senate Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution to conduct hearings in March. NACo to testify.	Uncertain.
Labor Management Relations				
Deferred Compensation Plans (H.R. 10746; H.R. 10893; S. 2627) <i>Ann Simpson</i>	These bills would require the Internal Revenue Service to make no changes in currently approved compensation plans and consider pending plans under the ruling granted for the Louisiana plan in January 1977.	NACo supports these bills and is working with sponsors to get additional cosponsors and hearings held immediately.	Bills have been referred to House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee. Sponsors are soliciting support from other members of Congress.	Public awareness and support increasing. Passage uncertain.
Public Pension Legislation (S. 1587; H.R. 9118; and other identical bills) <i>Ann Simpson</i>	All bills amend the Internal Revenue Service Code 1954 to exempt certain state and local government retirement systems from reporting and taxation requirements.	NACo passed a resolution in support of bills.	No congressional hearings have been scheduled on either bills. IRS postponed filing deadline of annual returns to July. IRS will hold public hearings March 15.	Hearings expected in the Senate Finance Committee this year. House action uncertain.
Social Security Deposits (H.R. 11117) <i>Ann Simpson</i>	The bill would amend Section 218 of the Social Security Act to require that state and local governments having agreements with Social Security Administration continue to make FICA payments and reports on a quarterly basis as opposed to monthly basis.	NACo Tax and Finance Steering Committee supported similar legislation last year. The Labor Management Steering Committee will submit a resolution in support of bill during the Legislative Conference.	Bill, introduced Feb. 23, referred to House Ways and Means Committee for action.	Passage uncertain because of implications in Social Security Amendments of 1977.
Social Security Amendments of 1977 (H.R. 9346) <i>Ann Simpson</i>	Joint study by HEW and other agencies on the impact and feasibility of mandatory coverage of counties, and other units of government in the Social Security system. Study to be complete by 1980. The study groups will also survey the legal and constitutional barriers to universal coverage.	NACo lobbied vigorously in support of maintaining the present option to join or withdraw from the system.	Passed both House and Senate after considerable debate.	Signed by President Dec. 20, 1977 (P.L. 95-216).
Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Appropriation for Fiscal '79 <i>Ann Simpson</i>	President Carter requested \$20 million in fiscal '79 budget. Same level approved by Congress last year. Provides for grants to state and local governments to strengthen personnel management systems and technical assistance.	NACo supports an increase above President Carter's budget level. Will testify before both House and Senate Committees. NACo will also seek an expansion in the program providing for three-year experimental project in productivity improvement assistance to state and local governments.	House appropriation hearings scheduled later in March. Senate hearings scheduled for April 4.	Passage likely.
Equal Employment Opportunity Reorganization Plan No. 1 <i>Ann Simpson</i>	Provides for consolidation of major enforcement activities under Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.	NACo supports consolidation and voluntary compliance programs. No position on reorganization reform as of yet.	Congress has 60 days to act. Hearings were held by House legislation and national security subcommittee March 3.	Passage uncertain.

Bill

Issues

NACo

Status

Outlook

Land Use

Agricultural Land Retention Act
(H.R. 11122)

Robert Weaver

Proposed legislation would establish a national commission to study the reasons for farmland loss in the United States, the impact of federal agency actions on farmland, and methods for retaining and conserving valuable agricultural land. It would also provide demonstration grants to states, counties and other local governments to develop local solutions for preserving farmland. It authorizes the appropriation of \$50 million per year for four years for demonstration grants.

Supports legislation which includes a specific prohibition on federal control over land use and state and local government actions.

House Agriculture subcommittee on the family farm, rural development and special studies has approved H.R. 11122 and referred it to the full Agriculture Committee. Hearings have been held in the Senate on similar legislation. Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) is expected to offer a new bill shortly.

Good. Passage during this session of Congress is possible.

National Heritage Program

Robert Weaver

The Administration will shortly propose a National Heritage Program to assist counties and states with the acquisition, preservation, and development of significant historic, cultural, and natural areas. A total of \$69.3 million has been proposed for this program of which \$63.7 million would come from the state and local government portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Land Use Steering Committee will consider this program at its meeting during the Legislative Conference.

The Administration is expected to submit its program to Congress during March.

Hearings in both the House and Senate are expected during this session.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Appropriations

Robert Weaver

Appropriates funds for grants to counties, other local governments, and states to acquire and develop park and recreation land consistent with approved state comprehensive outdoor recreation plans. Authorization for fiscal '79 is \$900 million. Fund also supports federal purchase of national parks.

Supports full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Administration requested \$725 million for fiscal '79 of which \$370 million would be available to state and local governments. Congressional budget committees will decide initial target for program by March 15, and appropriation committees will consider requests during the spring.

Prospects for support of the Administration's request are good.

Public Lands

Payments-in-Lieu Fiscal '79 Appropriation (H.R. 7636)

Jim Evans

Department of Interior has requested \$105 million to provide for fiscal '79 full funding of P.L. 94-565, the Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes Act.

Supports the \$105 million amount together with language to allow for adjustments of prior year underpayments.

Before House subcommittee for markup.

Prospects good for passage.

Amendments to Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes Act

Jim Evans

Various bills have been introduced to add fish and wildlife, military, Indian, and exchanged lands as entitlement acres. The Koch/Holt Bill (H.R. 931) would qualify all lands with a full assessment approach.

Supports provisions to qualify all federal lands as entitlement acres.

Only H.R. 1341 to add fish and wildlife refuges is moving.

Except for fish and wildlife refuges, outlook appears unlikely for passage this year.

Federal Land Planning and Management Act Four-Year Authorizations (S. 2234)

Jim Evans

Would provide four-year authorizations for funding programs administered by the Bureau of Lands Management.

Supports provisions to implement the payments-in-lieu of taxes act, land use planning and coordination, and energy impact loans.

Senate Energy Committee has completed hearings.

Prospects good for passage in Senate. No action scheduled yet in House.

Forest Management Act Amendments to Allow Oral Timber Bids (S. 1360, P.L. 95-233)

Jim Evans

Deletes requirement that all timber sales on national forests be made by sealed bid.

Supported provision to allow oral bids in counties socially and economically dependent upon local timber economy.

House and Senate approved measure each by a more than two-thirds majority.

President signed bill (P.L. 95-233).

Energy Impact Loan Program

Jim Evans

Legislation has been proposed by the Administration to implement a \$40 million Energy Impact Loan program under the Mineral Leasing Act. The bill would provide for market interest rates rather than low interest rates.

NACo supports implementation of this program, including the market interest rate provision.

Congressional sponsor needed.

Passage uncertain this year.

1872 Mining Law Reform (H.R. 5831)

Jim Evans

Would reform basic federal mineral leasing laws on federal lands.

NACo Western Interstate Region opposes repeal of the 1872 mining law or any modification of its fundamental principles.

House Interior Committee to schedule hearings soon. Senate action uncertain.

Passage uncertain this year.

Rural Development

Agriculture Credit Act of 1978 (H.R. 8315)

Elliott Alman

Legislation proposed increasing interest rates on rural development and community facility loans from existing 5 percent level up to 9 percent to 10 percent.

Opposes increase in interest rates. Supports amending bill to: increase authorization for water and waste disposal grants; and lift 50 percent ceiling on grants up to 75 percent of project cost.

House Agriculture subcommittee on conservation and credit has deleted provision that would have raised interest rates on loans. Current ceiling of 5 percent will be maintained; amended Rural Development Act of 1972 to: increase annual authorization for water and waste disposal grants from \$300 million to \$400 million; and raise ceiling on maximum grant a rural county may receive from current 50 percent level up to 75 percent of project cost.

House subcommittee and Agriculture Committee approval expected during March. House vote expected in early spring.

Rural Development Policy Act of 1978 (H.R. 10885)

Elliott Alman

Strengthens rural development role and responsibilities of Department of Agriculture; increases rural planning grants authorization from \$10 million to \$50 million; changes name of Farmers Home Administration to Farm and Rural Development Administration and name of USDA to Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

NACo to testify in support of legislation in late March.

House Agriculture subcommittee on family farms, rural development, and special studies to conduct hearings in late March.

Subcommittee action likely in early April.

Bill**Issues****NACo****Status****Outlook****Rural Development Continued**

Rural Community Development Act (H.R. 9983) <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Would establish a separate community development program for nonmetropolitan areas with a population of 20,000 or less. HUD Community Development Program would be altered.	No position.	House Agriculture subcommittee on family farms, rural development and special studies to conduct hearings in March.	Subcommittee action likely in early spring. Bill must also be referred to House Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
Rural Housing Act of 1977 (S. 1150) <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Provides for significant increases in Rural Housing and Development Programs of Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) including: Creation of a new homeowner subsidy program for low and moderate income families; increased authorization for water and waste disposal grants from current \$300 million up to \$1 billion a year; and alteration of ceiling on grants to vary from 25 percent to 75 percent of project cost.	NACo testified before Senate rural housing subcommittee in support of increased and new rural housing programs and increases in water and waste disposal grant authorizations. NACo supports setting grant ceiling at flat 75 percent of project cost.	Senate rural housing subcommittee completed hearings in late 1977. House subcommittee has not yet scheduled hearings.	Senate markup not yet set. Bill expected to be reintroduced in House as Rural Housing Act of 1978.
Rural Housing Authorizations <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Provides for reauthorization and expansion of rural housing programs administered by the Farmers Home Administration.	NACo supports reauthorization of the rural housing programs and urges that the legislation be amended to incorporate key provisions from Rural Housing Act of 1977.	Senate and House subcommittees on rural housing to conduct hearings in March.	Action expected early spring.
Department of Food, Agriculture, and Renewable Resources Act of 1978 (S. 2519) <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Strengthens Department of Agriculture by creating new expanded Department of Food, Agriculture, and Renewable Resources. Also authorizes transfer to new department of specific functions of the Departments of Interior and HEW.	No position.	Senate Agriculture subcommittee on nutrition to conduct hearings in spring.	Uncertain.
Supplemental Appropriations for Rural Development for Fiscal '78 <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Appropriation committees to consider provision of additional funding for current fiscal year. For this year, \$250 million has been appropriated out of \$300 million authorization for water and waste disposal grants. Current backlog exceeds \$650 million.	Supports supplemental appropriation of \$50 million to achieve full funding for that program for fiscal '78.	House and Senate Appropriation subcommittees on agriculture to act in late March.	Uncertain.
Rural Development Act Appropriations for Fiscal '79—Water and Waste Disposal Grants and Loans and Other Programs <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Administration proposes \$265 million for water and waste disposal grants; \$800 million for loans; \$10 million for business and industrial grants; \$1.1 billion for loans; \$250 million for community facility loans. No funding requested for rural fire protection and rural planning. Congressional Rural Caucus recommends full funding.	NACo supports full funding for grant and loan programs of Rural Development Act.	Authorizing committees to recommend budget targets.	Appropriation Committees to begin action late spring or early summer.
Rural Development Loans (S. 312; S. 2126) <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Legislation would increase interest rate on rural development loans from current 5 percent ceiling to prevailing market rate, plus 1 percent. New rate would therefore almost double to 9 percent or 10 percent.	Opposes provision in bill increasing interest rates on loans to rural counties.	Senate Agriculture subcommittee on agricultural credit and rural electrification deleted provision from bill. Senate bill provides for maintaining current 5 percent ceiling on rural development loans.	Senate Agriculture Committee to act in spring.

Tax and Finance

Countercyclical Antirecession Fiscal Assistance <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Current program expires Sept. 30. Assistance provided to counties with unemployment rates over 4.5 percent. Administration proposes one-year extension of program at a level of \$1.04 billion.	NACo supports enactment of permanent countercyclical antirecession program.	No legislation introduced yet to extend program.	Legislation to be introduced in House and Senate in March.
Municipal Securities Disclosure (S. 2339) <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Legislation would amend Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to force local governments to prepare annual reports and distribution documents when issuing municipal securities.	Supports voluntary disclosure. Opposes enactment of bill. Mandatory disclosure would result in costs to local governments exceeding \$200 million annually.	Hearings not yet scheduled in Senate. House bill expected to be introduced shortly.	Uncertain.
Taxable Bond Option (TBO) <i>Elliott Alman</i>	Administration proposes taxable bond option. This would offer local governments and states the option of issuing tax-exempt bonds or taxable municipal bonds. Federal government would subsidize local governments for higher interest rates on taxable bonds.	NACo opposes any action which would directly or indirectly tax interest on state or local municipal bonds, or would place those bonds in an inferior position with federal debt instruments and corporate securities.	Taxable Bond Option is a part of the Administration's tax reform package; \$7 billion is requested to subsidize interest over life of bonds. Hearings not yet scheduled.	Uncertain.
Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (S. 431; H.R. 7691) <i>Linda Church</i>	Distinguishes federal grant and cooperative agreements from federal procurement relationships.	NACo testified in support.	Passed by House and Senate.	Signed by the President (P.L. 95-224).
Federal Program Information Act (S. 904; H.R. 6257) <i>Linda Church</i>	Requires the computerization and improvement of data in the federal aid catalogue by Office of Management and Budget.	NACo testified in support in House and Senate.	Passed by House and Senate.	Signed by the President (P.L. 95-220).
Federal Assistance Reform Act of 1978 <i>Linda Church</i>	Would provide for standardization of crosscutting requirements, program consolidation, advanced funding and other grant reforms.	NACo supports.	Bill being drafted for introduction in late March.	Passage in Senate likely this year. House passage uncertain.

Bill**Transportation**

Aircraft Noise

Tom Bulger

Transit (S. 20)

Tom Bulger

Public Transportation

Tom Bulger

Highways and

Tom Bulger

Airline Deregulation

Tom Bulger

Asphalt (H.R. 11145)

Tom Bulger

Welfare Reform

Aliceann Fritts

AFDC Fiscal

Aliceann Fritts

Public Assistance

Jim Koppel

Older Americans

Amended

Jim Koppel

Indo-Chinese

Program

Aliceann Fritts

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Transportation

Aircraft Noise (H.R. 8124)

Tom Bulger

Extends until 1990 deadline for aircraft to meet federal noise standards; makes local abatement programs voluntary with \$400 million for '79 and '80 for implementing local programs; and gives metropolitan planning organizations a role in imposing mandatory local action.

NACo testified in April. Finds extension of deadline for quieter aircraft unacceptable; supports voluntary grant programs. Opposes role of MPO in triggering mandatory local noise abatement program.

Rep. Glenn M. Anderson (D-Calif.), chairman of the aviation subcommittee, and 25 members on the Public Works Committee have introduced a revised aircraft noise bill, H.R. 8729. The newest version eliminates provisions objectionable to NACo and would provide \$400 million in fiscal '79 and '80 for off-airport noise abatement projects, plus \$15 million for noise planning.

Land use implications make this a volatile issue.

Transit (S. 208)

Tom Bulger

Would extend transit program through 1982; increase funds \$5.3 billion; permit use of rural funds for operating or capital.

NACo supported in February testimony. Opposes any change in formula.

Passed Senate June 23. House surface transportation subcommittee chairman Jim Howard is proposing \$400 billion annually.

Highway and transit bill, due out soon, would replace H.R. 8648.

Public Transportation (S. 208)

Tom Bulger

Administration transit proposal would extend federal transit program through 1983; would provide only a 2.6 percent increase over the program's 1978 authorization level.

NACo testified March 3, generally not in favor of the Administration's bill. NACo does not support the proposed funding levels.

Senate Banking Committee is conducting hearings. Sen. Harrison Williams' S. 208 could become the Senate's transit bill, not S. 2441.

House Public Works Committee now developing highway and transit bill due soon. New bill would replace H.R. 8648.

Highways and Bridges (H.R. 8648)

Tom Bulger

The current authorization for the federal-aid highway program expires Sept. 30. The Federal Highway Administration reports 105,000 deficient bridges on which repair or replacement would cost \$23 billion.

NACo urging extension to include a major bridge program; clarification of role of local elected officials; NACo has already testified on bridges and has initiated a major campaign to highlight the bridge crisis.

H.R. 8648, introduced by surface transportation subcommittee chairman Jim Howard (D-N.J.), would extend the program up to four years at \$10 billion annually with \$2 billion for bridges, including off-system bridges.

New bill expected out of House and Senate Public Works Committees by May 15. Expected to include significantly increased funds for bridges.

Highways and Bridges (S. 2440)

Tom Bulger

The Administration's Highway bill for 1978 would extend the federal-aid highway program for four years. Includes a special bridge replacement and rehabilitation program at \$450 million per year.

NACo supports the extension of the federal-aid highway act; however, dismayed at the level of bridge funding proposed. NACo is investigating the impact of consolidating highway categories as proposed in the bill.

The House version H.R. 8648, introduced by surface transportation subcommittee chairman Jim Howard (D-N.J.), is being rewritten as explained above. NACo is urging the Senate to increase bridge funding.

Some bill is expected out of the Senate Public Works Committee by May 15.

Airline Deregulation (S. 689; H.R. 11145)

Tom Bulger

Would change the basis on which the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) approves airline routes.

NACo supports the legislation because airline service would increase and small communities would be protected.

H.R. 11145 introduced in February compromises regulatory reform critics. House floor action due soon.

An airline regulatory reform bill is expected to be approved by Congress this year.

Asphalt (H.R. 6831)

Tom Bulger

Energy bill would tax the wellhead price of domestic crude oil to force it to the world price. Some counties report a possible doubling in the cost of asphalt.

NACo is investigating the possible impact of the proposed tax on the cost of asphalt.

Bill has been accepted by House Ways and Means Committee. It will be considered by the House and Senate Energy conferees after a decision is reached on natural gas deregulation.

Uncertain due to the complexity of the energy legislation before the conferees.

Welfare

Welfare Reform (H.R. 10950)

Aliceann Fritschler

Administration proposed a combined cash assistance and jobs program based on NACo welfare reform proposal. Bill would consolidate income maintenance and food stamps into a federal minimum benefit cash program. For persons expected to work, a jobs program would be provided. Fiscal relief for states and counties would begin in fiscal '81 and increase through fiscal '85.

NACo supporting overall approach but seeking immediate and significant fiscal relief for counties.

Special House welfare reform subcommittee reported bill Feb. 8. Ways and Means will probably mark up in late April. Agriculture and Education and Labor have not scheduled action. Senate hearings scheduled for Administration.

Action in 95th Congress uncertain. Increased county pressure will be needed.

AFDC Fiscal Relief

Aliceann Fritschler

Fiscal relief legislation originally introduced in Senate, now being considered in congressional budget and as amendments to other legislation.

NACo supports immediate fiscal relief for counties: \$374 million for '78; \$1 billion in '79; and \$2 billion in '80.

\$187 million in fiscal relief for '78 provided in Social Security Act; \$187 million additional for fiscal '78 expected during consideration of H.R. 7200 on Senate floor. \$400 million provided in fiscal '79 budget by House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees.

Outlook uncertain in House and Senate Budget Committees. Work will be needed to ensure inclusion in congressional budget.

Public Assistance Amendments to Social Security Act (H.R. 7200)

Jim Koppel

Covers minor Supplemental Security Income amendments; Title IV-A AFDC foster care and adoption changes; Title IV-B child welfare changes. Title XX social services ceiling upped to \$2.7 billion. Title IV-A foster care federal funding broadened to include voluntary as well as court placement. Title IV-B establishes entitlement program with funding ceiling of \$266 million upped from \$56.5 million prior appropriations.

Supports federal adoption subsidy provisions. Funding for voluntary foster care as well as court ordered, establish Title IV-B child welfare as an entitlement program with full authorization funding—\$266 million. Supports an additional \$200 million for Title XX social services bringing fiscal '79 ceiling to \$2.9 billion.

Senate action expected in late March. House passed their version last year.

Several amendments will be offered on Senate floor. Major differences must be resolved in conference.

Older Americans Act of 1965 as Amended

Jim Koppel

Reauthorization of the act which delivers community services, provides jobs, nutrition programs and senior centers for the elderly.

NACo testified before Senate Feb. 3 and scheduled for House hearings on March 13. Supports consolidation of the separate Titles III, V, VII, and IX. Also supports multiyear planning and increased involvement of county officials.

Administration to announce position in March. No congressional action at this time.

Reauthorization and federal funding is expected this year.

Indo-Chinese Refugee Assistance Program

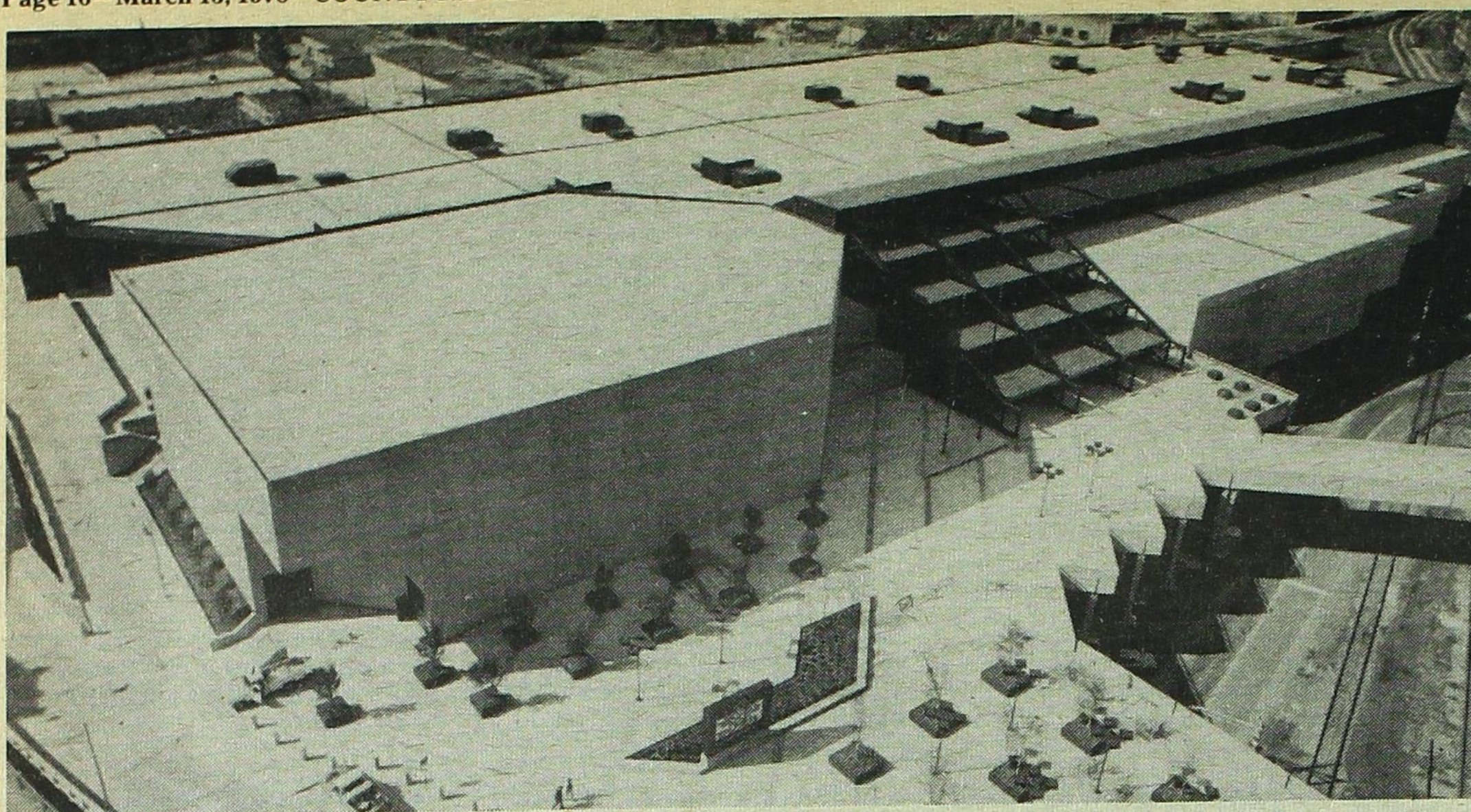
Aliceann Fritschler

Congressional authority for federal responsibility and funding (now 100 percent) of assistance and services to Indo-Chinese refugees expires Sept. 30. Counties and states will be responsible for local share of assistance to refugees eligible for federally assisted programs (AFDC, SSI) and full cost for those needing general assistance.

Supported three-year extension of program at full federal funding, and phase down only after refugee influx stops and population stabilizes. NACo welfare committee to consider resolution supporting 100 percent funding.

No bill for extension introduced.

Unknown.



Georgia World Congress Center in Fulton County (Atlanta), Ga.

Join Us in Fulton County

NACo 43rd Annual Conference and Educational Exhibits July 8-13, 1978 at the Georgia World Congress Center, Fulton County, Atlanta Georgia

Delegates to NACo's 1978 Annual Conference can preregister for the conference and reserve hotel space by completing this form and **returning it to NACo**. Check if this is your **first NACo Annual Conference**. ☐

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Conference registration fees must accompany this form before hotel reservations will be processed. **Enclose check, official county voucher or equivalent. No conference registrations will be made by phone.**

Refunds of the registration fee will be made if cancellation is necessary, provided that **written notice is postmarked no later than June 30, 1978.**

Conference registration fees:

\$95 member \$125 nonmember \$50 spouse \$30 youth (Make check payable to NACo)

Name _____ County _____

Title _____ Telephone (_____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spouse, if registering _____ Age of youths attending _____

HOUSING RESERVATION:

Special conference rates will be guaranteed to all delegates whose reservations are sent to the NACo office and are postmarked by June 24. After that date, available housing will be assigned on a first-come basis.

Hotel	Single	Double/Twin	Suites	Room type	
1. Atlanta Hilton	\$36-55	\$48-67	\$120 up	single _____	twin _____
2. Hyatt Regency Atlanta	35-49	45-59	110 up	double _____	suite _____
3. Marriott Motor	35-50	45-60	125 up	Hotel preference	
4. Omni International	39-54	49-64	100 up	1st choice _____	
5. Peachtree Center Plaza	36-49	46-59	100 up	2nd choice _____	
				3rd choice _____	

Names _____

Arrival date/time _____ Departure date/time _____

No room deposit required. Rooms may be guaranteed by credit card number.

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It is the largest single exhibit room on one level in the entire United States.

If they could raise the roof a bit, a man could sit in air conditioned comfort and watch the Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl, Gator Bowl, Liberty Bowl, Sun Bowl and Peach Bowl— all at the same time.

If the base of the Eiffel Tower were placed at one end and the tower were tilted over on its side, the top of the tower would reach the other end.

The volume of the interior is about the same as the Empire State Building.

Architects used 16½ acres of drawing paper to design it, and that's about the size of it.

What is it?

It's the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, where Fulton County will host the 1978 NACo Convention July 8-12.

Since the GWCC was opened in September 1976, millions of people from all over the world have passed through its doors. The mammoth international trade show and convention facility is expected to bring more than a half-billion dollars into the Atlanta area during its first 10 years in operation.

The Congress Center, located in downtown Atlanta, includes a 350,000 square-foot exhibition hall, 35 separate meeting rooms, and a 1,952-seat auditorium with simultaneous interpretation equipment. Total meeting room space, excluding the exhibition hall, is more than 200,000 square feet.

The \$35-million facility represents the largest construction contract ever awarded by the State of Georgia.

The GWCC was designed so that groups ranging from 25 to 10,000 persons can be adequately accommodated.

Located next door to the GWCC is another gigantic facility, the Omni Sports/Omni International Complex. The Atlanta Hawks play basketball at the Omni Coliseum, and the Atlanta Flames use it for hockey. The Omni International Complex houses a large number of stores and shops, ranging from restaurants to bookstores to candy shops. There are six theaters in the complex.