

County News

NACo - Celebrating 60 years of service to counties!

Vol. 27, No. 5 • March 13, 1995

National Association of Counties • Washington, D.C.

Clinton, Gingrich share same stage, same day, but not same views

Clinton: Welfare reform shouldn't punish needy children

By Jill Conley
senior staff writer

In a 50-minute address to NACo's Legislative Conference, President Clinton criticized welfare reform measures in the original Republican Contract with America proposal for being weak on work and parental responsibility and too hard on children.

The president, who recently signed an executive order to crack down on federal employees who owe child support, advocated his belief that the toughest possible child support enforcement must be a central part of welfare reform. "If we collected all the money that delinquent parents owe, we could move 300,000 others and over a half-million children off the welfare rolls immediately — tomorrow — just through child support collection."

According to Clinton, the original child support provisions in the Republican contract included the most effective means for finding delinquent parents, including a system to track them across state lines. Thirty percent of delinquent cases cross state lines, Clinton says. "Our plan calls on states to deny drivers and professional licenses to people who refuse to pay their child support," said the president. "Slowly, I know that's a tough idea, but let me tell you, 19 states are doing that today, and they're collecting a lot more child support as a result of

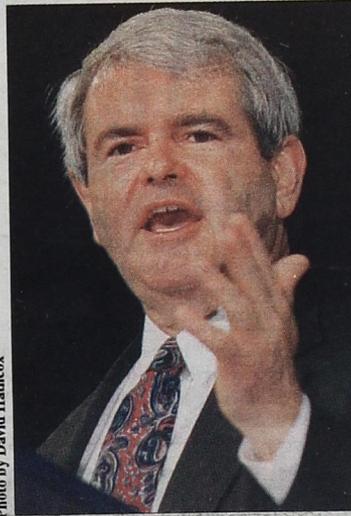
"We've got to send a loud signal," he continued. "No parent in America has a right to walk away from the responsibility to raise their children."

The most important part of welfare reform, Clinton said, is moving people from welfare to work.



President Bill Clinton

Photo by David Hathcox



House Speaker Newt Gingrich

Photo by David Hathcox

Gingrich: A decentralized America is a stronger America

By Susan D. Grubb
senior staff writer

Even though demonstrators forced the cancellation of his scheduled address on Monday, March 6, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) returned on Tuesday to the delight of NACo delegates, who gave him a standing ovation.

He began by updating delegates on the rapid changes taking place in the House under his charge. "During the campaign last year, we said to the country, 'Elect us, we're going to be different,'" the speaker said, holding up a copy of the Contract with America. "We are keeping our word. We are working very, very diligently to improve things."

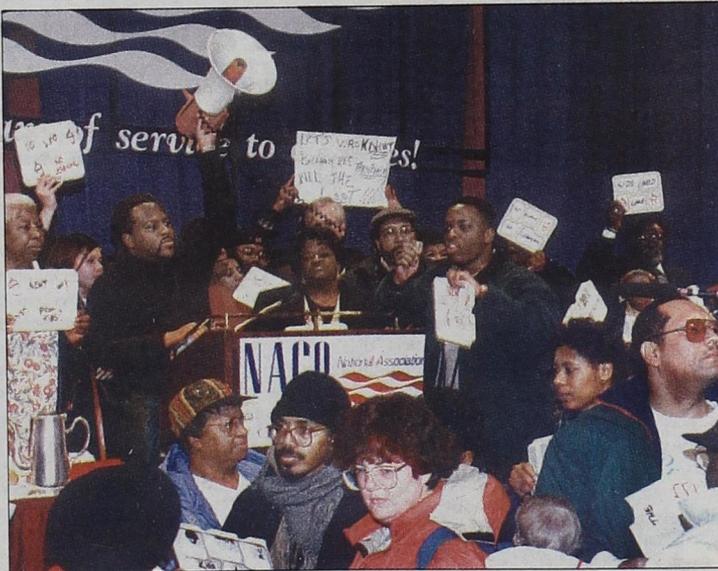
"In terms of county government," he continued, "when you take how much you'll save on litigation reform and how much you'll save on unfunded mandate reform ... you're going to have more control over your resources, with a lot less money going to bureaucracy and in red tape. ... I think, in that sense, we're beginning a process of decentralizing and strengthening America."

Gingrich then presented five reasons why he believes change is unavoidable.

1) The federal budget is out of control and the most effective way to address it is to develop a new partnership at every level of government — "Only by creating a new partnership, are we going to have any opportunity to get to the next 10 or 15 years. ... Isn't it time we have open dialogue about where we're going?"

Communicating openly about the seriousness of the national debt and taking the steps to control it are key to this dialogue.

Under the current system, retiring Baby



Protesters, hoping to confront House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), crowd the ballroom stage at the Washington Hilton during the delegate luncheon at NACo's Legislative Conference, March 6. Although the unexpected demonstration forced the cancellation of the luncheon and Gingrich's scheduled address, the House speaker returned the next day to address delegates (See story, page 2).

Photo by David Hathcox

See CLINTON, page 7

See GINGRICH, page 6

I N S I D E

With this issue, *County News* begins its two-part coverage of NACo's annual Legislative Conference, which ended March 7. The conference, with nearly 2,500 delegates, was the largest in recent memory and featured national leaders and major policy announcements:

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It's a good bet that communicating with staff or constituents can be made easier with the Institute of Local Government's "Editor's Kit for Local Government Communications." _____ page 6

Award applications are now available for programs serving the disabled. _____ page 8

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Federal government should be reined in, Dole says

By Susan D. Grubb
senior staff writer

Overshadowed by the scrutiny of his leadership in failing to pass the balanced budget amendment by one vote just the week before, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) seemed to take it all in stride as he addressed delegates at Monday's General Session.

Dole, who is soon expected to announce his presidential candidacy, joked about his previous failed attempts at reaching the Oval Office. He even kidded his wife Elizabeth, who is president of the American Red Cross. "At least she got to be president of something. That's more than I can say."

He also poked fun at the fast pace at which the House has passed legislation since the start of the session. In the Senate, "it's like watching grass grow or paint dry."

Dole, who made unfunded mandates legislation one of the first items on the Senate's legislative agenda this year, described it as "a bipartisan effort." Congress will not pass any mandate legislation "unless we send the

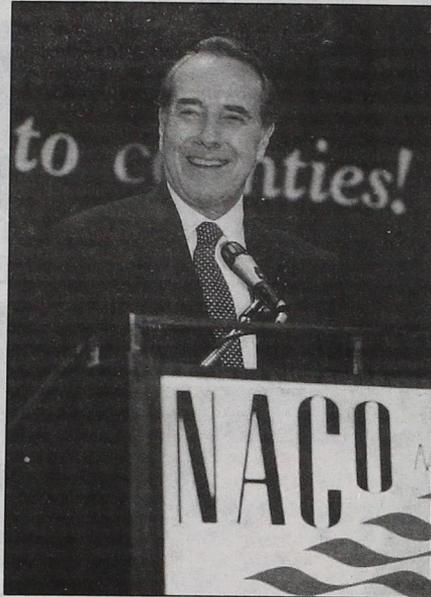


Photo by David Hathcox

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) jokes about his run for the presidency at Monday's General Session, but was serious about giving local governments more control.

money with the mandate," he promised. It affects taxpayers too, not just local governments, he said. "They have a stake in this."

Constitution, which refers to state's rights. After reading it aloud, he said, "What we're hoping to do, what we believe may

Noting the dramatic proposals in Congress seeking to limit the federal government's role, the senator said he believes the government has done a lot of good things through such laws and programs like the Voting Rights Act and the GI Bill of Rights. "I'm not here to bash the government.... I'm here to suggest we have some serious problems at the federal level."

Dole then pulled out a copy of the 10th Amendment of the

have been one of the many messages sent by the voters last November," he said, "is to rein in the federal government and give it back to you."

He shared one example of a bearded man who had to quit a job at a brick factory because of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration regul-

"I'm not here to bash the government.... I'm here to suggest we have some serious problems at the federal level."

Senate majority leader

No one in Washington can tell county officials they aren't the closest to the people, he acknowledged. "They know how to find you at night.... You can run, but you can't hide," he said. "I don't want to be misunderstood," he continued. "This isn't some raw Republican effort to just strip the federal government of a lot of power. We're talking about a partnership."

Dole then moved on to regulatory reform. Certainly some regulations are necessary, he conceded, but some "are worthless." He asked delegates to send to his office 10 "regulation horror stories, regulations you think we should look at."

requiring a close fit between face and the mask. The man, an Amish, and for religious reasons chose not to shave it off. "It's a common sense test of regulation."

Dole referred to the balanced budget amendment in closing. Some said the fight over it was meaningless, "but it put emphasis on the Congress that we knew we had to do something the next seven years," he said.

"None of us are perfect in business," he added. "None have all of the ideas in this business. We all understand we live on the greatest country on the face of the earth. That's the bottom that's where we start from."

Protesters bring conference luncheon to a halt

By Susan D. Grubb
and Beverly Schlotterbeck

With D.C. police late in arriving and hotel security overwhelmed, more than 400 demonstrators streamed into the Washington Hilton's International Ballroom during Monday's delegate luncheon, swept aside NACo leadership and guest speakers on the dais, seized the microphone, and began an hour-long protest aimed at proposed cuts in the school lunch program.

The protesters, from the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), had hoped to confront House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), who was scheduled to address the delegates, along with Labor Secretary Robert Reich. However, Gingrich, whose flight from Georgia had been delayed, was not present.

Undeterred, the demonstrators continued their protest, chanting, "The people, united, will never be defeated," and waving Styrofoam lunch trays with messages such as "Gingrich Has Got to Go, He's Not for the Po" and "We Will Not Stand for Taking Food Out of Our

Children's Mouths" written on them.

The demonstrators milled about the aisles between luncheon tables where approximately 2,500 delegates remained seated. One group of demonstrators moved onto the stage in an attempt to gain access to the ballroom's sound system. At that point, NACo's Executive Committee decided to cut the power to the microphone and leave the head table.

NACo officials canceled the luncheon 20 minutes into the protest rather than risk injury by having the demonstrators forcibly ejected. According to Franke, the decision to cancel the luncheon program was made to de-escalate what he saw as a potentially explosive situation.

Shortly afterwards, NACo President Randy Franke reproached ACORN for its tactics, saying, "The group trespassed and violated the rights of the county officials who were there to hear Rep. Gingrich and the other speakers."

He also hinted at the inappropriateness of using a meeting of county officials to stage its protest. "County governments are the level of government that provides the kinds of services that the protesters don't want

Delegates angered by disruption

The ACORN demonstration prompted mostly anger and frustration among delegates interviewed after it ended.

"I think the timing was poor, and situations like this, where it disrupts an organized meeting, should not take place," said Northampton County (N.C.) Manager William Daniels.

"I understand what their concerns are," Williams continued, "but at the same time I think it's ill-conceived to do it in a session like this. If they want to demonstrate, I can see them demonstrating on the street when Gingrich arrived, but they interfered with a lot of people here who came to

hear some interesting speakers."

Many of those interviewed believed the protesters' behavior injured, rather than advanced their cause. "We're the people who are trying to help them. To do something like this just alienates everyone," remarked Francis Jensen, Bingham County (Idaho) commissioner. Asotin County (Wash.) Commissioner Jim Fuller suggested, "They should have gotten on the agenda like anyone else. They just separated a lot of people [from their cause]."

Some delegates, like Bucks County (Pa.) Commissioner Andy Warren, were more philosophical. "In politics, perception is reality. And the perception among these people is that there's some bad things happening and they

have no way to respond other than disruption."

Just two weeks ago, Warren, who also chairs NACo's Transportation and Telecommunications Steering Committee, attended a transportation meeting in Pennsylvania that was stopped by activists for the disabled.

"Unfortunately, some of the delegates now think that they're under attack, so they've got to stand up and be even more hard-hearted. That's not the answer. We better realize that whatever message Congress [thinks] it's getting across, isn't going. And when we start getting back to the '60s and '70s with fear in the streets, nobody is going to win on that one."

and took security precautions. Groups of protesters, however, used every hotel entrance to gain access, including service entrances, and overpowered hotel officials and NACo staff who were covering entrances to the luncheon. D.C. police did not respond until after the demonstrators had completely entered the ballroom. There were no arrests.

NACo has already begun discussions with hotel staff and D.C. officials about ways to avoid disruption of any future conferences and ensure the safety of conference attendees.

"Our members come to Washington to get information and hear presentations from national leaders. NACo will do what's necessary to ensure that their time in the national capital continues to be well-spent," Franke said.

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(Grubb is a County News staff writer. Schlotterbeck is County News editor.)

County News invites Letters to the Editor

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

HUD Secretary Cisneros defends housing programs against cuts

By Susan D. Grubb
senior staff writer

gauge bankers and the home builders... We're making good strides in that arena."

5) Combine the Previous Four Priorities and Make Them Work in Communities — Programs like CDBG and the Empowerment and Enterprise Zone initiatives are helping "put a face on HUD as a partner and a facilitator with the communities, instead of an obstacle as it so frequently did," he acknowledged.

As part of the reinvention of HUD, he explained, three major changes will occur:

1) More than 60 categorical, specialized programs will be consolidated into three large performance-based funds:

- Affordable Housing Fund — consolidates the HOME Program and the disabled and elderly housing programs into a multibillion dollar housing assistance fund, with sixty percent going to entitlement communi-

ties (local governments) and 40 percent to the states.

- Community/Economic Development Fund — functions like the CDBG Program, with 70 percent going to entitlement communities and 30 percent to the states.
- Certificate Fund — takes all of the other housing-related programs and blocks them into a large certificate fund to help state and local gov-

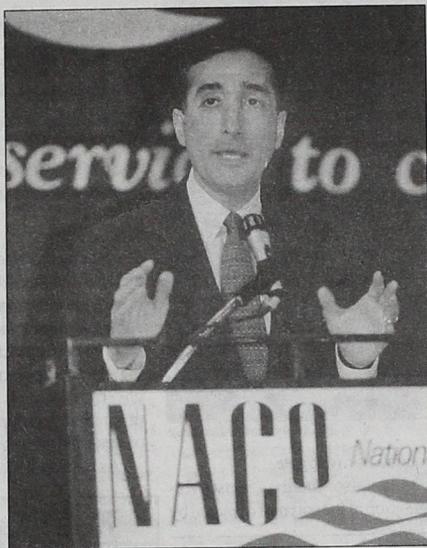


Photo by David Hathcox
HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros explains at the Opening General Session how federal cuts to housing programs "are beginning to hurt real people in real ways."

ernments and public housing authorities use the Section 8 certificate program in new ways.

"We're going from a system where, in effect, today, we tell communities you must make your problems relate to our 60 competitive grant programs and meet our deadlines," he explained. "We're going instead to a system where we say, 'You devise a plan. You devise a strategy. You dream your hopes for your community, and we will stand behind you with flexible funding and more deregulation than ever before.'"

2) The Federal Housing Administration will be transformed into an entrepreneurial government corporation, which works with the private sector, its staff will be pared from 6,000 to 2,500, and its operation moved out of Washington and into processing centers. "It will be a results-oriented, performance-driven organization."

3) The public housing system will be modified into a different kind of human experience in three steps:

Step I — Decentralize the current system, fund it on a block grant basis, and take out insensible rules, such as one that requires families to use 30 percent of their income on rent, whether they're on welfare or working. "Families tell me there is actually a disincentive to work because of the rate at which the rent rises when they go to work."

Step II — Move to a certificate/voucher system for funding the units instead of the present

block grant approach.

Step III — Establish a tenant-based certificate system, allowing tenants the choice of using them for a public housing unit, or, if mandated improvements aren't made to the property in a certain amount of time, use them in the open market.

"Who are we to say to residents today that they must be trapped in these god-awful public housing buildings because we have more loyalties to the building than we do to the people," he proclaimed. "It's the only mechanism I've found in two years of searching and consultation ... that will put appropriate market disciplines into the system and give people choices."

He allowed that the debate over changes being proposed by Congress is healthy, but encouraged delegates and members of Congress to remember some fundamental facts about realities.

"There are people who are poor, who are victims of the changes in our economy and outside the economic mainstream, and there are people who continue to suffer forms of discrimination ... We are angry. We are making changes. We are too often pitted one against the other, us versus them."

"Let us dedicate ourselves, especially you in local government, to say a prayer for our country and for our people and for ourselves, that as we make these changes, we are guided by a vision of America that is hopeful and is a vision of a country that has room for all its people."

NACo to cosponsor Conference of Local Governments

NACo's Board of Directors voted, March 6, to join with the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and the National League of Cities in holding a Conference of Local Governments later this year to discuss pending proposals to restructure the federal system.

At the conference, local officials will identify local concerns and recommendations related to restructuring, and develop a strategy to promote collective recommendations.

At the news conference announcing the Board's decision, NACo President Randy Franke noted that the national organizations representing state governments plan to hold a Conference of States in October, but county and city officials have been excluded from participating as delegates.

"The decision not to invite local officials to the state conference is a shortsighted, unfortunate mistake," Franke said. "Having a conference to discuss federalism without the officials that actually carry out the programs and services is difficult to understand. But we can't dwell on their decision. We've got to discuss the impact of these proposed changes and how counties and cities will respond to them."

Congress and the Administration are considering proposals to

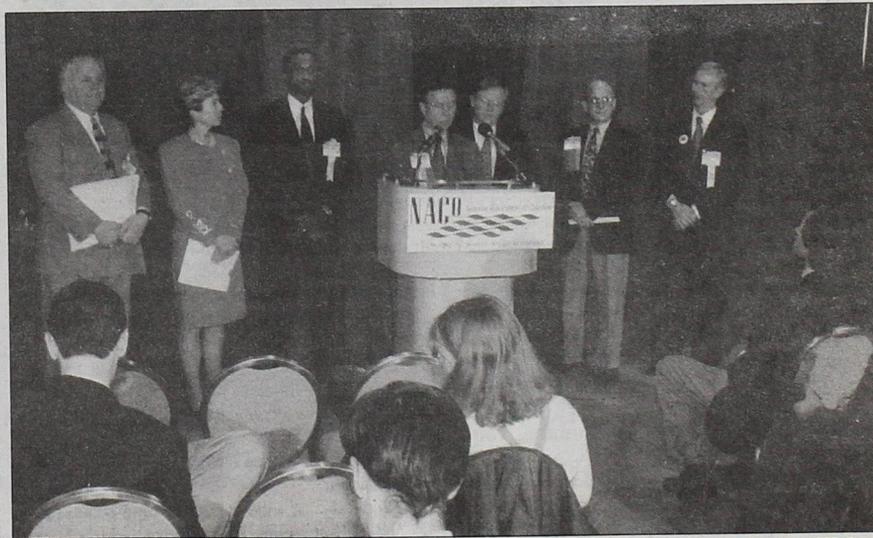


Photo by David Hathcox

At a news conference, March 6, NACo President Randy Franke announces that NACo, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and the National League of Cities have agreed to cosponsor a summit of local government leaders to explore the impact of proposed federal shifts in government responsibilities. Listening to the announcement are: (l-r) USCM Executive Director Tom Cochran, Salt Lake City (Utah) Mayor Deedee Corradini, NACo Second Vice President Michael Hightower, Franke, USCM President Victor Ashe, NACo First Vice President Doug Bovin, and NACo Executive Director Larry Naake.

significantly reduce the role of the federal government in the intergovernmental partnership, Franke explained. These proposals would eliminate numerous federal agen-

cies and programs, consolidate many categorical programs under block grants at reduced levels of funding, and move many federal programs and responsibilities to

state and local governments.

"One of the reasons our federal system isn't working as it should be

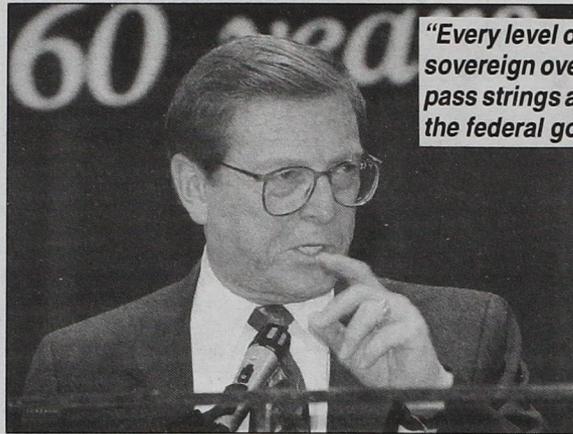
See CONFERENCE, page 9

"Devolution" likely to get messy, Domenici says

Don't tell House Speaker Newt Gingrich or Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, but Senator Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), a self-described "Italian-American boy from Albuquerque," believes he'll have more impact on how next year's budget looks than either of them.

That's what the Senate Budget Committee chair told Legislative Conference delegates on Monday during a speech that opened with the "revolution" and ended with a warning and some advice about the forthcoming devolution.

On the revolution kicked off by the voters last November, Domenici claimed most Americans understand that "we cannot afford as much government in Washington as we have." To illustrate the breadth of the problem, he pointed out that children now being born "will need to pay taxes at



"Every level of government claims itself sovereign over the next level. States can pass strings along to you, just as well as the federal government."

Senator Pete Domenici (R-N.M.)
Senate Budget Committee chair

an 82-92 percent marginal rate" in 15 to 20 years, assuming no policy changes and an unlikely sustained economic growth rate. Voters also rebelled against over-regulation of the sort best depicted by

officials, Domenici warned, need involved right away to make of their needs are not overlook government reform bumps functions down a level or two

"Every level of government itself sovereign over the next States can pass strings along to just as well as the federal government. You should make sure it don't let that happen." Del should also make certain that executives who work for you involved in the budget reconciliation bill," and support efforts to the amount of money spent on entitlement programs and in tax

"The longer we wait to get entitlements under control, the money we have for program serve you."

six volumes of Medicaid regulations and the Endangered Species Act.

As Congress responds to voter demands, Domenici predicted that there won't be much systematic sorting out of responsibilities among government levels. "We'll not have time to go through an orderly process of determining who does what"

As a result, local government of-

Counties oppose budget rescissions, saying cuts hurt families, children

NACo has taken a strong position opposing budget rescissions being considered by Congress because the deep cuts and termination of programs adversely affect children, families and rural America.

"We are concerned about giving our children a fair start in life," said NACo President Randy Franke in a news conference, March 7. "We recognize that the deficit must be reduced to make sure that tomorrow's generations are not burdened by the spending policies of the last decade. But NACo opposes penalizing today's children and youth. Some of the rescissions proposed by the House of Representatives will do just that.

Franke said not only do they roll back funding of proven, effective programs in midstream, but they also kill others.

"These cuts fall disproportionately on the backs of families," he said. "We also are concerned about the effect of these cuts on counties serving rural America. Those areas often are least able financially to meet the needs of their residents."

The cuts in programs NACo is most strongly opposed to are:

- Summer youth jobs
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Rural health
- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
- Women, Infants and Children Feeding Program (WIC), and
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

At the news conference, NACo officials also discussed their position on crime proposals and welfare reform. On the crime legislation, county officials want a balanced approach — money for additional police officers, but also funding for prevention and courts and corrections.

On welfare reform, county officials want assurances that they will



Photo by David Hathcox

At a news conference, March 7, NACo First Vice President Doug Bovin tells reporters that budget cuts under consideration by Congress may have a disproportionate impact on rural communities. Seated are: (l-r) NACo President Randy Franke and Third Vice President Randy Johnson.

be partners in designing the program so they are able to meet the unique needs of their community.

Here is a summary of the budget cuts that would affect counties:

Summer youth jobs

The proposed rescission would eliminate funding for the program, wiping out jobs for 615,000 disadvantaged youth in 1995 and 1996. Managed by the private sector, in cooperation with county and other local officials, the program has a proven history of successfully moving low-income youth from the streets to jobs and positive working experiences.

LIHEAP

More than half of the LIHEAP recipients are families with children. Many counties administer this state block grant program at the local level. States, counties and other local orga-

nizations have devised creative ways to administer the program as well as leveraging additional resources. This program is part of the basic safety net for many families with children, the elderly and the working poor.

Rural health

More than \$75 million is cut from a wide variety of rural health programs. The rural health outreach program is proposed for elimination, which provides funding to initiate or support partnerships of counties and non-profit health providers to address their area's unique health needs. Also proposed for near elimination is the rural hospital transition grant program which helps rural hospitals, many of them county-based, to modify their services to meet the needs of their populations and re-

NACo

on the move

◆ Neil Bomberg, director of job training programs, met with representatives of other public interest groups, Feb. 21, to help develop a common set of principles on consolidation to share with Congress.

◆ In Bismarck, N.D. for the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDAC) meeting, Feb. 21-24, Associate Legislative Director Jeff Arnold participated in a new commissioners orientation seminar where he gave an overview of NACo and its programs.

While in Bismarck, Arnold accompanied NDAC Executive Director Mark Johnson to the state capitol for a meeting with Governor Schafer.

◆ At Westcott Communications in Carrollton, Texas, Feb. 17, NACo communications and Training Director Lois Kampinsky met with producers and public parties liaison to help plan a videotape on "Critical Issues for Newly Elected Officials." Westcott produces the Government Services Television Network, a videotaped series of news, information and training for local elected officials.

◆ David George is the newest addition to the NACo staff. He joins the Environmental Programs division as research assistant.

County News

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

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Published biweekly except August by:
National Association of Counties Research Foundation, Inc.

440 First Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001-2080

202-393-6226 FAX 202-393-2630

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Second class postage paid at Washington D.C. and other offices. Mail subscriptions are \$82.50 per year for members, \$55 per year for non-members purchasing multiple copies. Educational institution rate, \$41.25 per year. Member county supplemental subscriptions are \$16.50 each. Send payment with order and address change to NACo, 440 First St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

County News cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to *County News*, 440 First St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 (USPS 704-620) • (ISSN: 0744-9798)



Using the telephone in its newest incarnation can boost productivity

Making appropriate information available and selecting the right means of access can prove very beneficial for your county.

Many counties are now using relatively old technology — the telephone — in surprisingly new ways to boost both efficiency and effectiveness as they respond to an increasingly demanding citizenry.

At the most simple level are telephone systems that provide general information such as hours of operation, location of services, and additional contact information regarding how to talk to a "real" person, if desired. These systems are merely message systems where a citizen obtains a recording of the general information. They provide various types of information and are activated by pressing appropriate buttons on a touch-tone telephone.

A little more sophisticated use of the telephone is employed when the message system is connected to a computer that contains additional information.

Typically, these types of systems are similar to the simple message system, but allow more information to be conveyed, as well

as more specific and current information. There are many applicable uses of the telephone in this manner, including status of bill payments and balance of accounts.

A system such as this has been used to monitor inmates on work release programs that are required to call in on a routine basis. The inmate simply calls in to register by entering a code through the telephone. This information is transmitted to the computer system. If an inmate fails to call within the required time frame, the computer will call the telephone number for the inmate and a recorded message will inform the answering party of the need to call in.

Another useful application of this type of system is to schedule

and obtain the status of building inspections. A citizen that has obtained a building permit can utilize his or her telephone to request inspections. Additionally, the system can be used to obtain the status of the inspection after the building inspector's job is done, since an inspector can enter the results of the inspection using this same phone system.

The ultimate utilization of the telephone is to allow direct access to a computer system by allowing one computer to dial to another computer.

Many jurisdictions are providing such access in cases where a great deal of information is needed or where the information may be used for research purposes. In

many cases, the information is so important that the recipients are willing to pay just to have the capability to access it. Charging for the service allows the jurisdiction to pay for development of the system and possibly provide a source of revenue as well.

Prince George's County, Md. has implemented such a system, entitled Prince George's County Online. Prince George's Online was initially begun in response to requests from attorneys for case information and court assignments. Previously, attorneys would have to make a trip to the courthouse, fill out forms to request specific information, or spend countless time on the telephone trying to get the needed information.

Now attorneys can connect from their office and obtain information regarding their cases. Civil case information, including docket entries for Maryland's Circuit Court, as well as adult criminal case information for active Maryland District and Circuit Court cases, can be ob-

tained. Additionally, Circuit Court case assignments by judge, attorney or case is also available.

This system has expanded to include real property information from the assessor's and treasurer's files, including property assessments, taxes due and paid, current owner, previous owner, triennial assessment values, as well as other pertinent data. The addition of this data has saved many hours of staff time in responding to requests for information.

Making appropriate information available and selecting the right means of access can prove very beneficial for your county in ways the old telephone operator never conceived.

(For assistance from NACoNET, NACo's information technology service, call toll-free: 1/800/551-2323. Any comments, questions or suggestions for future topics can be sent to: Technology News, c/o County News, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001, or fax to: 202/737-0480.)

What about them?



Public employees can help their families plan for the unexpected, by signing up for the universal life insurance option offered within the National Association of Counties Deferred Compensation Program. The insurance is underwritten by Providian Corp. (formerly Capital Holding).

The program's savings and life insurance options can help employees replace lost income should they retire or die. The options represent key elements in your plan for financial security.

For family peace of mind, ask about the universal life insurance option. Contact your local representative of PEBSCO (Public Employees Benefit Services Corporation), Plan Administrator of choice for the NACo Program. Or, call 1-800-545-4730.



Kempthorne, Portman: first winners of NACo's Legislator of the Year Award

By Jill Conley
senior staff writer

Four friends of NACo's unfunded federal mandates battle were on hand at the Legislative Conference to praise NACo mandate-relief efforts and offer their continued support in the fight against passing down responsibilities without the accompanying bucks to pay for them.

Two of those, Senator Dirk Kempthorne (R-Idaho) and Representative Rob Portman (R-Ohio) were presented with NACo's first-ever Legislator of the Year Awards for their lead roles in moving mandate-relief legislation through the House and the Senate.

Receiving the award at Tuesday's General Session, Rep. Portman thanked NACo for its "arm-twisting" and calling the mandate-relief legislation "the first step toward a new federalism," compared Congress to a compulsive gambler, who, for the first time was saying, "Stop me

before I do it again."

At Monday's General Session, Knoxville (Tenn.) Mayor Victor Ashe, president, U.S. Conference of Mayors, congratulated NACo on its role in the coalition responsible for the mandate-relief legislation currently in conference committee. "We know it will become law in the future. We just need to keep up the pressure to make sure it happens," he told delegates, reminding them that it does not end mandates, it just forces accountability in terms of cost and role call vote.

He also reminded county officials that the current legislation doesn't deal with burdensome mandates already in place, and called on counties to urge Congress to evaluate current mandates for "worst practices" and make some common-sense revisions.

Because the unfunded mandate problem does not rest with the federal government alone, Ashe called for local governments to convene a national conference similar to the

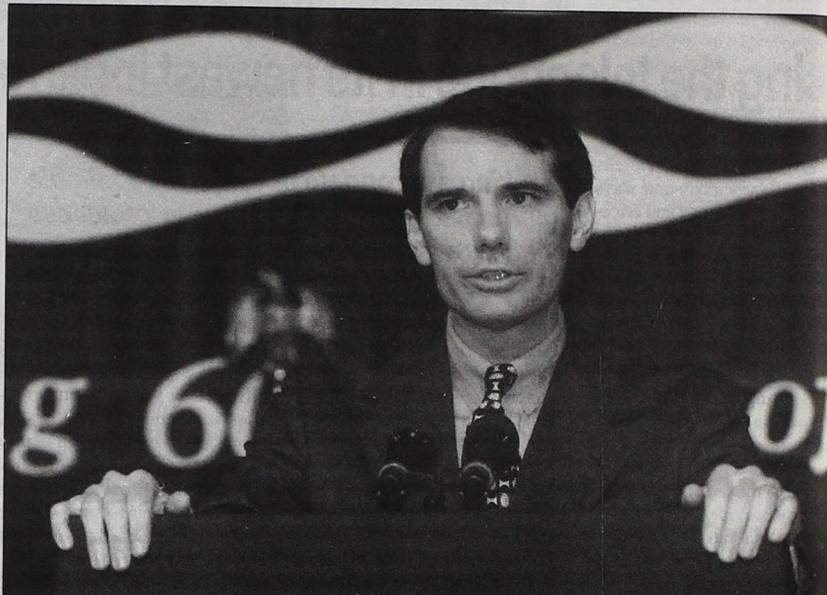


Photo by David Hartz
Representative Rob Portman (R-Ohio) was honored by NACo with a Legislator of the Year Award at the Legislative Conference for his work on mandate-relief legislation.

upcoming Conference of States that will look at 10th Amendment issues. Expressing his disappointment that a request for counties and cities to attend was turned down by Utah and Nebraska governors, who are coordinating the conference, Ashe said, "Cities and counties are

where services are delivered, not in the statehouse. We must work to educate statehouses so that we can all work together."

Ohio Governor George Voinovich, a former Cuyahoga County commissioner and strong partner in the unfunded mandate

battle, was also on hand at Monday's General Session.

According to Voinovich, "What should government be doing? Who plays the role? and who pays for it?"

BEST BET WE LIKE THIS ONE!

Need good copy in a hurry for an employee or community newsletter? If you do, we think you should take a look at The Editor's Kit for Local Government Communications.

Produced by the Local Government Institute in Tacoma (Pierce County), Wash., the kit contains nearly 200 professionally researched and written articles, as well as basic tips on newsletter design and graphics. All the articles vary in length (the easier to fill that odd space where nothing seems to fit) and are copyright-free.

The Editor's Kit comes in either 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" diskettes, prepared in an ASCII text format for either DOS or MAC. That makes the files easy to retrieve for use with any MAC; MS DOS™; or Windows™. based, IBM™-compatible word processing or desktop publishing program. In addition, you'll also receive a 32-page manual, "Guidelines for Municipal Newsletters."

The disks and handbook are available as a package or may be purchased separately. Available sets include:

- **CITIZENS EDUCATION** disk, containing articles to educate citizens about local governance (NOTE: Some of the material in this area concerns city, not county, governance. But it can be

readily adapted to suit county needs.)

- **HEALTH AND WELLNESS** disk, consisting of more than 60 articles on diet, disease, exercise, injury, stress, substance abuse and family

- **QUIPS AND QUOTES** disk, providing you with hundreds of wise or witty sayings especially suited for local government, and

- **SUCCESS SKILLS** disk, containing 70 articles on improving various employee skills, and includes sections on personal, success skills, interpersonal skills, leadership and management skills. Good for employee newsletters.

The price for all four sets is \$99. Individual sets cost \$29. Shipping and handling fees are waived for prepaid orders. For more information, or to order, call toll free: 1/800/277-6253, or fax: 206/565-6253. When ordering, you need to specify the operating system you are using (MAC, DOS, Windows) and the disk size (3 1/2" or 5 1/4") you prefer. There is a 30-day, money-back guarantee.

The Local Government Institute is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of local government. Its address is: 1231 Farallone Ave., Tacoma, WA 98466.

GINGRICH from page 1

Boomers won't be able to rely on the Social Security system. "No politician today, until the House Republicans stood up in the batter's box, is prepared to talk to you honestly about how much change we need if we're going to be ready in 2012 for the Baby Boomers to retire."

According to Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, he added, leaving an unbalanced budget will cause a rise in interest rates by two percentage points. "Are you really prepared to say to your children and grandchildren, We sold the farm, but we're leaving you the mortgage? Isn't that the opposite of the American dream?" he asked.

In May, he said, the Budget Committee will submit a budget which will be in balance over the next seven years without tax increases and without touching Social Security. The House will not consider any budget that doesn't have steps in it to be in balance by the year 2000, he said.

2) Jobs are created by economic growth, not by government — "Only economic growth will give you enough money to stabilize Social Security, to increase take-home pay, provide public and private resources, and to give the U.S. the economic strength to continue to lead the world."

3) The welfare state has failed — What's worked in America for the

last 350 years is a church- and synagogue-based spiritual effort to reach out to people and transform their lives, he believes. "When a secular bureaucracy hands you a check, it begins to destroy you as a person. ... Americans are not clients, they are citizens, and every time we treat them as clients, we demean them, we demoralize them, and we destroy them."

4) The 30-year experiment in centralized Washington bureaucracy has failed — "The time has come to go back to city government, to go back to county government, to go back to state government, and to actually trust elected officials more than we trust the Washington bureaucracy."

In May, Gingrich said, the House will introduce "Corrections Day," a day set aside each week for people to submit what he describes as "the single dumbest thing the federal bureaucracy is doing," which the House will take action to repeal.

"Part of what makes us a genuine revolution is that we believe the elected officials of this country ought to have the ability to communicate with the bureaucracy of this country in a positive way which actually leads to change."

NACo's campaign to stop federal unfunded mandates is a good example of this, he believes. But he feels it should go one step further with an unfunded mandates bill in

every state.

5) The world is changing dramatically — As the speaker held what looked like a small, rectangular plastic container with a compartment inside, he pointed to the portion of it, which, he said, holds 70 electric motors.

He then pulled out a vacuum tube and told delegates that the federal government is the world's largest purchaser of vacuum tubes, which are still being used for air traffic control systems. "We're the largest purchaser because the regulations are so stupid that it is impossible to procure 20th century technology as readily as it's developed," he said. "We can move into the 21st century rapidly, and have the most modern technology in the world, offering the best services at the lowest cost. If we raise choices, we can lower the cost of government, increase the quality of what we're delivering to our citizens, and improve our country."

As he sees it, there are only two directions this country can go: "We're going to keep lying to the American family, keep kidding ourselves, and the whole system is going to break down early in the next century. Or we're going to have a tough-minded, very honest, very heart-wrenching debate and rethrust the system right now and get ahead of the crisis."

CLINTON *from page 1*

"You have to educate and train people. You've got to make sure that their kids aren't punished once they go to work by losing their health care or their child care. But, after two years, they should be required to take a job and get a paycheck, not a welfare check, if there's a job available. There should not be an option. If you can go to work, you must."

Clinton said he believes this is really the position of most Republicans in Congress. Last year, 162 of 175 House Republicans, including Speaker Gingrich, cosponsored a bill that was similar to the administration's plan on work in many ways. But the president argued that the plan currently being considered by the House would actually make it harder for many recipients to make it in the workplace.

"Now, they [House Republicans] have completely abandoned an earlier provision which basically allowed a welfare recipient to get around the work requirement literally by submitting a resume," he told delegates. "But their new plan gives the states a perverse incentive to cut people off welfare. It allows them to count people as working if they were simply cut off the welfare rolls for any reason and whether or not they have moved into a job."

"Now, when people just get cut off without going to work, we know where they're likely to end up, don't we?" he continued. "On your doorstep. That's not welfare reform."

That's just shifting the problem from one place to another."

Clinton shared his concern about provisions in the Republican plan that would cut child care both for people trying to leave welfare and for working people who are working at low incomes, and went on to accuse the GOP plan of effectively repealing the Family Support Act of 1988.

"Why?" "Because basically the new provisions are designed to allow the federal government to send less money to the states over time, and in return for saving budget money, they're willing to walk away from the standards necessary to move people from welfare to work," he argued. "It's like a lot of things you can do around here — it may feel good for a year or two, but five years from now, we'll be hitting ourselves upside the head, saying, Why have we got a bigger welfare problem than we had five years ago?"

Because three-quarters of the unwed teen mothers in this country end up on welfare within five years, addressing the problem of teen pregnancy was also high on the list of the president's concerns about welfare reform. "We clearly need a national campaign against teen pregnancy that sends a clear message: It is wrong to have a child outside marriage," he said. "Nobody should get pregnant or father a child who isn't prepared to raise the child, love the child, and take responsibility for the child's future."

"Let's reform welfare. Let's cut the deficit. But let's don't mix up the two and pretend that one is the other. Let's put our children first."

President Bill Clinton

Clinton says his plan sends a clear message to young men and women that mistakes have consequences, that they have to turn their lives around, and that they have to give their children a better chance.

The Republican plan, he says, sends a different message to young people that's "both tougher and weaker. It says, even if you make a mistake, you're out on your own, even it means you're likely to end up on welfare for life. It costs us even more money down the road."

"Their bill still denies — now listen to this — their bill still denies any assistance to teen mothers under the age of 18 and their children until they turn 18, and then leaves the states the option of denying those benefits permanently to anybody who was under 18 when they had a child."

"Now, I just believe it's a mistake to cut people off because they're young and unmarried and they make a mistake. The younger you are, the more likely you are to make mistakes, although I haven't noticed any

absence of errors from those of us who get older."

Clinton called it "wrong," "counterproductive," and "not in the nation's interest" to make small children pay the price for their parents' mistakes. "It's bound to lead to more dependency, not less; to more broken families, not fewer; to more burdens on the taxpayers over the long run, not less," he said.

He says his plan is different, but it is tougher in some ways. "Our plan says, if you want this check and you're a teenager, you've got to live at home. And if you're in an abusive home, you must live in another appropriate supervised setting. You must stay in school. You must identify the father of the child."

"We also want a national campaign against teen pregnancy rooted in our local communities that sends a clear message about abstinence and responsible parenting," Clinton told delegates. "That is the clue, folks — if we could get rid of that, we wouldn't have a welfare problem, and we'd be talking about something else in the

next couple of years."

Clinton also criticized the Republican plan for being "really tough on disabled children and children in foster homes" and for reducing future payments to states in ways "that make states and children very vulnerable in times of recession," or if their population is growing more than other states.

"I don't think we should let budget-cutting be wrapped in a cloak of welfare reform," he said. "We have a national interest in the welfare of our children. Let's reform welfare. Let's cut the deficit. But let's don't mix up the two and pretend that one is the other. Let's put our children first."

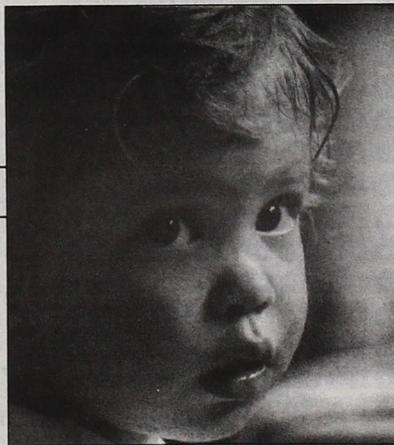
The president concluded his remarks by saying the current debate is about more than just welfare reform. "It's about who we are as a people and what kind of country we'll want to pass along to our children," he said. "It's about the dignity of work, the bond of family, the virtue of responsibility, the strength of our communities, the strength of our democratic values."

"This is a great American issue. And I still believe that all of us working together can advance those values and secure the future of our children, and make sure that no child in this country ever has to grow up without those values and the great hope that has made us, all of us, what we are."

Participate in NACo's Satellite Broadcast

April 6, 1995

1:00-2:30 p.m. EST



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Applications now available for county programs serving disabled

J.C. Penney sponsors cash prize of \$1,000 for Award for Excellence winner

Applications for the 1995 Award for Excellence Program, which honors counties serving disabled Americans, are now available from NACo's Research Department. Deadline for submission is May 15.

The two-year-old program is sponsored by NACo and the National Organization on Disabilities (NOD), in conjunction with the J.C. Penney Co. The \$1,000 cash award is given to a NACo member county with the most outstanding program or project targeted at improving the quality of life for disabled Americans.

Eligibility

To be eligible, both ongoing and one-time programs must have been initiated since January 1992. Additionally, county officials or staff, as a part of their official duties, must have played a significant role in the program's development and implementation. Only county government programs are eligible and encouraged to apply for the award.

Application procedures

Applicants for the 1995 Award for Excellence must provide a short, but detailed description of the program or project, including a discussion of its objectives, the costs (including manpower) of planning and implementing the program, and the sources of funding for conducting the program.

In addition, applicants must provide information on the circumstances which motivated the county to undertake their program, an explanation of how the program addresses each of the four criteria for selection outlined below, and relevant contact information.

Criteria for selection

Nominated programs will be evaluated according to their tangible results, transferability, innovation and community involvement. The program should have proven, measurable results, and qualities that enable it to be implemented by other counties.

In addition, the program

should be innovative and creative in its addressing the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including opportunities for interested parties and organizations to participate in the planning and implementation of the program.

Call the NACo Research Department at 202/942-4246 to obtain the award application form and guidelines.

Prince George's County, Md. (1994 winner)

Last year, "Community Harmony: Voices from the Community" received the 1994 Award for Excellence.

Community Harmony is a community education effort that promotes the goals of Prince George's County's Community Integration Program, which is housed in the Individuals with Disabilities Division of the county's Department of Family Services.

The program is an hour-long event that includes several songs performed by the Community Unity Chorus; a formal presenta-

tion about community residential programs, individuals with disabilities and the need for joint collaboration; and presentations from the different perspectives of program clients, staff members, neighbors and families.

Following the presentation, participants are given the opportunity for informal social interaction between people with disabilities and other members of the community.

Background and objectives

The Prince George's County executive and county council established the Community Integration Program in 1989 to help the integration of individuals with disabilities into Prince George's County communities.

The program creates and conducts community education activities and develops opportunities for people with disabilities and other county citizens to interact, share talents and gifts, and celebrate their differences.

Before the department, there was limited access to integrative community activities. As a result, there were few social interactions between individuals with and without identified disabilities. The Community Unity Chorus began in 1990 to provide a non-stigmatizing, integrative opportunity for people with and without identified disabilities to participate together in a mutually enjoyable activity. The chorus is co-sponsored by several human services agencies in the county, and organizes people around a love for singing, rather than around a disability.

A year after the chorus was established, the Community Harmony program was conceived to further promote the goals and objectives of the program.

Through this community education effort, the county is also decreasing social distance between people with and without identified disabilities by creating an opportunity for them to get to know one another personally, and providing an opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in a "normal," non-disability-focused community activity.

Administration and costs

All activities concerning Community Harmony are coordinated within the Community Integration Program. The primary cost for this program is staff salary. Prince George's County government supports the staff time for this community education program, and limited fundraising is conducted to pay for a chorus director, instruments and music, bows for chorus members, and various get-togethers and awards celebrations throughout the year.

Approximately \$150 per month is involved in putting on education programs.

The Department of Family Services, in addition to providing staff support for planning, coordinating and implementing Community Harmony Program, provides administrative support (e.g., use of computer, photocopier, stationery, postage). The department also pays for the services of an interpreter who signs for the deaf and blind, and for the salaries of the interpreters of the programs. Volunteers are also active in implementing the program.

Although fundraising has been limited, in the fall of 1992, a variety show was organized to involve the human services community in the acknowledgment and celebration of the wealth of talents and abilities available to the citizens of Prince George's County. More than ten agencies or departments, representing the private and public sectors, sponsored acts for the show. More than 100 people were involved in the preparation and other efforts of the show, and more than 1,000 people attended. The funds raised almost \$3,000, money used to support the Community Unity Chorus and the Community Harmony education program.

Tangible results

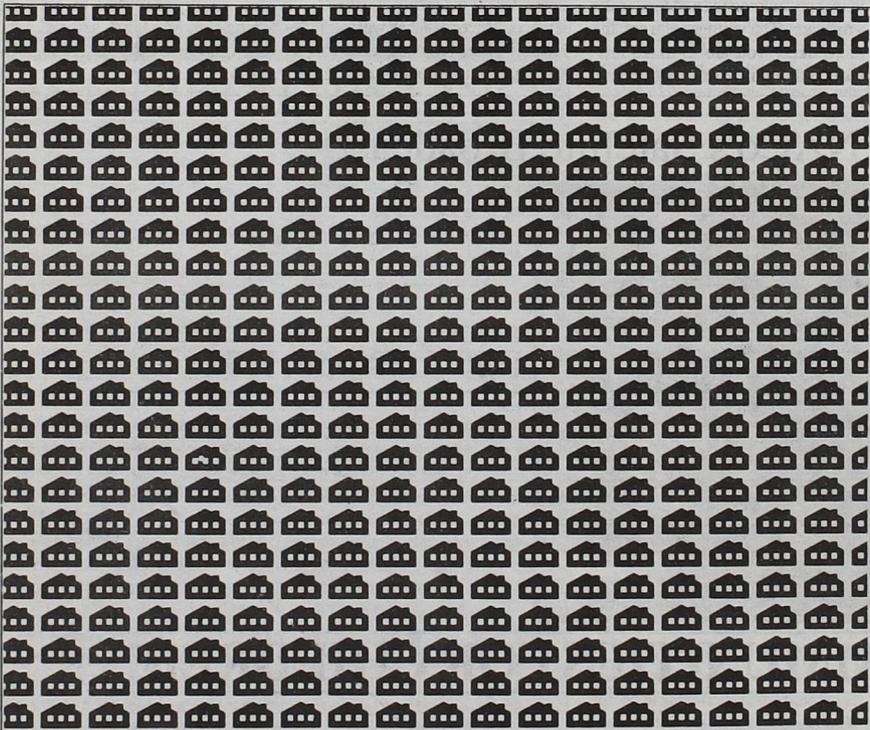
Three years ago, many citizens expressed concerns about the quality of life of individuals with disabilities in their neighborhoods. Issues such as personal safety and security were frequently stated as reasons to oppose the development of community residential programs.

Research and experience have indicated that the best way to decrease the fears and discomfort associated with individuals with disabilities is to provide information and opportunities for people to get to know those who are different. Community Harmony provides this opportunity.

Transferability

Community Harmony requires minimal staff — a coordinator to develop, schedule, plan, organize and implement the program; a chorus director; and a few volunteers to assist the coordinator with chorus activities. The program also requires minimal cost. If staff and administrative support are supplied by an agency or organization, operating expenses are significantly decreased.

Although program costs include salary for a chorus director, this position could possibly be filled by someone willing to volunteer their services. To make this program work, however, community involvement is essential.



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National summit solidifies children's coalition

By Sandra Reinsel Markwood
Human services programs director

Promoting national collaboration with children was the focus of a three-day summit of local government and education leaders held at the Winghead conference facility in Racine, Wis., earlier this month.

The summit was cosponsored by NACo, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the International City/County Management Association, the National Association of Towns and Townships, the National School Boards Association, and the American Association of School Administrators, with the support of the Johnson Foundation.

Out of the summit came a plan to develop strategies to implement national, and encourage local, activities to reverse the plight of the nation's children.

Summit participants targeted their efforts to:

Build community capacity

There is a concern across the country that America has lost its sense of community. The formal and informal

RESCISSIONS

from page 4

...nd to the quickly changing health care market.

DBG

Rescinding \$350 million of FY95 funds from the CDBG Program would have an adverse impact on the rural, urban and suburban counties. All counties spend CDBG funds for critical social services, housing and community facility needs. This cut would affect child care centers; other neighborhood facilities; and housing for low- and moderate-income families, including transitional housing for homeless families with children.

WIC

WIC is widely recognized as an effective program ensuring that preg-

CONFERENCE

from page 3

...s because we have, for too long, operated in isolation," said NACo Second Vice President and Fulton County (Ga.) Commissioner Michael Hightower. "We have developed our laws, our programs and our services without talking to each other. It is time that we start working together and talking to each other so that we can get the maximum use out of taxpayer dollars at the federal, state and local levels," he said.

USCM President Victor Ashe, Mayor, Knoxville, Tenn., and Salt Lake City (Utah) Mayor Deedee Corradini, also joined Franke and Hightower at the news conference.

In conjunction with its approval of the resolution establishing the national conference, the NACo Board also adopted a set of principles that should be followed in developing



Photo by Sandra Reinsel Markwood

(l-r) Fort Worth (Texas) Mayor Kay Granger, NACo President Randy Franke and Rockford (Ill.) Mayor Charles Box discuss ways to intensify collaboration on behalf of children and families during meeting of public interest group leadership.

mal support systems in communities can provide a vital role in assisting children and their families. Counties, cities and school systems need to work together to renew communities to support the efforts of parents to address children's needs.

Increase public awareness

Building upon the African proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise

nant women and children receive proper nutrition. Often administered by local health departments, the \$25 million reduction could cut the number of individuals served by as much as 100,000. NACo supports investing in children now rather than paying later for problems that could have been prevented.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools

This program, proposed for elimination, provides a wide variety of drug prevention services for nearly all of the nation's school districts and their students. This program helps to reduce the numbers of youth who may later get involved in the county justice system or need treatment in county health care facilities.

recommendations on restructuring the federal system.

When restructuring, the federal government must:

- continue as a partner in the inter-governmental partnership in addressing national problems such as the needs of the poor and the disadvantaged
- consider the affects of any changes on the diverse makeup of state and local governments, which vary greatly in fiscal capacity, resources and authority
- be cognizant of direct federal relationships in different programmatic areas and carefully consider the rationale for the creation of such partnerships, and
- not shift federal or state responsibilities to local governments without the necessary resources to pay for implementing them.

ation systems need to rally children and families, community leaders, businesses, religious organizations, non-profit groups, and the media to build collaborative partnerships that focus on the developmental needs of all of our children.

Develop flexible legislation and policies

The political changes happening in this country pose challenges for children and families. But, in change there is also opportunity. There is general agreement on both sides of the political aisle that, in general, this nation's programs and services for children and families are not working.

The existing maze of children's services are fragmented and focus on back-end rather than front-end investments. Local governance orga-

nizations need to identify existing barriers to local collaboration for children and propose legislative changes that provide local flexibility to meet children's needs.

NACo's Executive Committee and executive director led the county delegation. Summit speakers included Peter Edelman, counselor to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Judy Wurtzel, special assistant to the Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education; Diane Walton, executive director of the Oregon Commission on Children and Families; Karen Pittman, director of the President's Crime Prevention Council; Richard Murphy, vice president of the Academy for Educational Leadership; and Kathy Bonk, co-director of the Communication Consortium.

a child," local governments and edu-

1995 WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION CONFERENCE

Washington County-St. George, Utah • May 10-13, 1995

In southwestern Utah's Washington County, you will experience a renewal of body and spirit as you absorb the scenic wonders as well as the natural and human history of this incredible place! St. George is the hub of this excit-

ing region, with peaks over 10,000 feet, national parks, ghost towns, deserts, golf courses, horseback riding and hiking — the possibilities are endless. Discover for yourself the unique opportunity to join the Western Interstate Region in exploring the

hospitality of Southwestern Utah!

Golf Tournament

Sunbrook Golf Course will host a golf tournament on Saturday, May 13. For more information or to register, call 800/869-6635. **Hurry, space is limited!**

a • g • e • n • d • a

Wednesday, May 10

- 9 a.m. - Noon Western Interstate Region Board of Directors
- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Affiliate Meetings
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Public Lands Steering Committee
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Agriculture Steering Committee
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Energy, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee

Thursday, May 11

- 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Opening General Session
- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Affiliate Meetings
- 10:30 a.m. - Noon Workshops
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. WIR/NACo Board Luncheon

- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. General Session on Ecosystem Management
- 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Delegate Reception

Friday, May 12

- 8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. General Session on Endangered Species and Election of Officers
- 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Workshops
- 12:45 p.m. - 2 p.m. Delegate Luncheon
- 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Workshops
- 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Annual WIR Banquet

Saturday, May 13

- Tour of Zion National Park and Surrounding Area
- Golf Tournament

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Name _____ Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____
 Title _____
 County _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Nickname _____
 Telephone _____ FAX _____

To register your spouse or youth, please complete the following:
 Spouse's Name _____
 Youth's Name _____

REGISTRATION FEES

	Postmarked by April 7	Postmarked After April 7 & On Site
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325
Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325	<input type="checkbox"/> \$375
Other Govt. Attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400
Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75
Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50

PAYMENT METHOD

Conference registration fee must accompany this form and must be received before registration can be processed. You may reserve your registration with a voucher or county purchase order made payable to the National Association of Counties. However, purchase order only holds registration; payment must be made before a badge can be issued.

Select One: Check MasterCard Visa P.O. or Voucher
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Cardholder's Name _____
 Signature _____

Cancellation Policy: Refund of conference registration fee, less an administrative fee of \$50 (or one-half of spouse/youth fee) will be made if written notice of conference registration cancellation is postmarked no later than April 14, 1995. Cancellation requests postmarked after April 14 will be subject to an administrative fee equal to one-half of the registration fee.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DESIRED HOTEL

Indicate first choice with 1. If first choice is unavailable, reservation will be made at the next available hotel. Each reservation requires a one-night's deposit.

HOTEL	SGL	DBL	HOTEL	SGL	DBL
Holiday Inn (Hdq.)	\$75	\$75	Comfort Suites	\$65	\$65
Hilton Inn	\$68	\$68	Hampton Inn	\$59	\$59
Ramada Inn	\$70	\$70			

Please check one of the following: _____ 1 person, 1 bed _____ 2 persons, 1 bed _____ 2 persons, 2 beds

HOUSING DEPOSIT - Your room reservation can be guaranteed by either of the following methods:

1. Complete Credit Card Authorization below. This is fast and easy; your room will be reserved and guaranteed.
2. Send no payment now. We will reserve your room and send you an acknowledgement of your room reservation that will instruct you to pay the hotel directly in order to guarantee your room. Your room will not be guaranteed until the hotel receives your payment.

NOTE: The NACo Conference Registration Center will send you an acknowledgement within two weeks of receipt of this form. The hotel will also send you an acknowledgement after your credit card is confirmed or payment is received. Do not send payments for hotel reservations to NACo Registration; send them to the hotel indicated on your acknowledgement.

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION MC Visa AMEX

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Cardholder's Name _____

The NACo Housing Center is authorized to use the above card to guarantee my hotel reservation. I understand that one night's room charge will be billed through this card if I fail to arrive for my assigned housing at the confirmed date or if I depart earlier than I have confirmed, unless I have canceled my reservation with the hotel at least 48 hours in advance.

News from the nation's counties

North

NEW JERSEY

• Welfare cheats may want to think twice about setting up shop in ATLANTIC COUNTY, now that the county has a 24-hour, toll-free hotline to take reports of suspected welfare fraud. It draws upon the success of an earlier illegal dumping hotline operated by the county.

Begun late last fall, the hotline has been ringing off the hook since then. During its first week of operation, 53 tips were left on the system. County personnel staff the hotline during business hours. At other times, messages may be left in a voice mailbox. All allegations are investigated by staff of the Department of Law and the county's welfare fraud investigation unit.

To date, most of the allegations

made by callers (who may remain anonymous) are substantive. Many identify welfare recipients with unreported income or employment. (Source: "County Executive Summary," published by the National Council of Elected County Executives, December 1994.)

South

FLORIDA

• PINELLAS COUNTY recently announced that volunteer rangers will now patrol the Pinellas Trail—a 47-mile bike and walking trail that was built along an abandoned railroad right-of-way.

The volunteer rangers were trained in first aid and CPR and can provide information about any aspect of the trail as well as emer-

gency assistance. The volunteers are recognizable by their khaki shirts, which display a Pinellas County Park Department Volunteer patch on the sleeve, and an official picture I.D. card.

For more information, contact Pam Kinnaman, Pinellas County volunteer services coordinator, at 813/464-3945.

WEST VIRGINIA

• Fed up with deadbeats who refuse to pay their bills, MORGAN COUNTY commissioners decided to get tough. When the deadbeat is the federal government, however, that action makes news.

Frustrated because the federal government would not compensate the county (population 12,128) for the expenses it incurred in cleaning up after a National Guard plane

crash, the county board voted to close its airspace to the federal government. Federal planes may fly over the county's 231 square miles when the county receives the \$10,900 it requested.

According to Lt. Col. Linda Leong, an Air Force spokesperson, "It was determined that county government had a legal obligation to provide these services, and the United States government could not reimburse them for the claim." (Source: *Baltimore Sun*, February 21, 1995.)

Midwest

NEBRASKA

• LANCASTER COUNTY Assessor Norm Agena, who faced no opposition in the November election, closed out 1994 with \$1,923 in his campaign fund.

But rather than reward his campaign volunteers with a victory or save it for a future campaign, he opted to donate the money to two Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programs in the county.

"I decided I should find a worthy county charitable project to donate it to, and I have always been impressed with the DARE programs in our county," he said.

The donations will be used to purchase classroom materials for two elementary schools.

West

CALIFORNIA

• State Senator Richard M. Mountjoy has introduced a bill to have the state reimburse LOS ANGELES COUNTY for the million-dollar costs of the Simpson murder trial.

Citing the fact that the county had to provide 250 police officers for security during the jury's stay at the home of the defendant, Nicole Brown Simpson, Mountjoy asked, "How can any county participate or be expected to absorb the costs of such a media circus?"

So far, the county has run the legal and investigation costs roughly \$1.8 million in the first six months, which is expected to last up to more months. Security is expected to cost an additional \$1.6 million, according to Mountjoy, who seeks to reimburse the county all costs associated with the trial.

In the past, the state has picked up the tab for several high-profile trials in rural areas, but, if the bill passed, this would be the first time it would pay for a trial in a rural urban area.

Grappling with guns: how to start

By Neal R. Peirce
Washington Post Writers Group

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

A scourge of guns starts to afflict your county. Homicide — chiefly by gun — becomes your leading source of injury death. State law hems you in. What do you do?

Contra Costa, the big East Bay county across from San Francisco, has begun to develop a practical answer — not to curse the darkness, but to illuminate legal ways to start fighting back.

Fifteen years ago, in a test case from Morton Grove, Ill., the Supreme Court ruled local governments could ban or limit gun sales, unless state laws said they couldn't.

The decision stuck in the craw of the National Rifle Association. The NRA pressured all 50 state legislatures to forbid any local gun laws tougher than the state's own control statutes. Forty states — California included — succumbed.

But when Contra Costa's violent crime started to rise, with guns a special problem, citizens felt helpless and hopeless. The state had no instant check on gun buyers. It didn't require gun permits or registration for gun carriers. Police had no idea who was armed. And there was the pre-emptive state law, tying their hands.

Contra Costa did set up a Violence Prevention Program with mutually related goals — safe homes, safe neighborhoods, safe workplaces, safe schools. The county's health department pulled together the effort which triggered broad white, black, Latino and Asian citizen involvement.

Government players ranged from the police to the recreation department to the schools.

But what to do about guns — especially since officials noted that most of the guns used in crimes were stolen or sold illegally?

The Violence Prevention Program found an ally in your friendly federal government — namely its Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Anyone who wants to import, manufacture or deal in firearms has to register with the ATF. Nationwide, there are more than 220,000 registrants. Many of them sell guns out of their homes. The so-called "kitchen table" dealers are a major source of the guns that end up on murder and shooting scenes.

And their names are no secret. If you'd like a list of all the friendly local gun dealers on your block, in your neighborhood or town, just write the ATF at 650 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20226. Their data is by ZIP code. They'll send you a list, no charge.

Nationwide, the ATF has only 240 inspectors to monitor how firearms are sold — a fraction of what it needs. But by using data and asking the agency's help, localities can do a lot for themselves.

For example, they can check to see if each gun dealer is also licensed locally for retail sales. Is he paying state sales taxes? Is his location zoned for retail sales? Is he registered with state law enforcement authorities?

That information gives county or city officials — even a citizens group, if it wants to take the initiative — the evidence it needs to start weeding out gun dealers who are breaking the law. This is a cleanup that can begin without change in existing state laws.

Contra Costa found that of 661 federally licensed dealers, 71.6 percent were operating in residentially zoned areas, 81.5 percent without a business license.

Now the county's moving to do its own inspection of the gun deal-

ers. It's considering a zoning law to bar gun dealerships — as San Francisco has done — within 1,500 feet of schools, parks or daycare centers.

Other communities have made big breakthroughs in preventing illegal gun sales by working closely with the ATF. Berkeley, Calif. went from 35 gun dealers to one, Boston from 119 to 35, Chicago from 260 to 26.

In last November's election, voters of Contra Costa gave 68.9 percent approval to an advisory referendum asking the state to put a surcharge on the sale of ammunition and guns. By 73.4 percent, they petitioned for stringent state regulation of handguns and assault rifles.

By 78.9 percent, the county's voters in November also endorsed a far-ranging Countywide Action Plan for Violence Protection, written by the action coalition anchored in the county health department.

Efforts to discourage guns in private hands were on the agenda. But so were youth mentorship programs, conflict resolution, crisis response counseling for victims and witnesses of violence, and focusing multiple government and private efforts on the shared goal of reduced violence.

The moral, for counties and cities and concerned citizens groups everywhere, is clear. In every way you can, start focusing your own civic and government forces on problems, such as violence, that are central to your quality of life and economic future. State governments are unlikely to do the job for you.

Indeed, the Republicans may have been more correct than they thought in the 1994 state elections when they argued that the chief way to help localities is to start regulating and controlling them a lot less.

Repealing the gun laws that stop localities from protecting themselves would be a grand way to start.

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We invite readers to submit items for
"News from the nation's counties."

Mail to us: c/o County News, 440 First St.,
N.W., Washington, DC 20001, or FAX to:
202/393-2630.

Notices . . . notices . . .

CONFERENCES

■ The National Housing Conference will hold its Annual Housing Policy Convention in Washington, D.C., June 5-6.

The theme of this year's program will be the role of government in housing and community development.

For more information, contact: National Housing Conference, 815 Fifteenth St., N.W., Suite 711, Washington, DC 20005, phone: 202/393-5772.

■ The 14th Annual Northeast Resource Recovery Conference & Exposition will be held in Burlington, Vt., June 5-6.

"Fostering Creative Solutions" is the theme of this year's meeting, which will feature exhibitors and presenters from all segments of the waste management and recycling fields.

For more information, contact: Northeast Resource Recovery Association, P.O. Box 721, Concord, NH 03302-0721, phone: 603/224-6996, fax: 603/226-4466.

■ "Performance" is the theme of

the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) annual conference in Baltimore, Md., June 11-12.

Sessions topics will include: accounting and Financial Reporting; "Cash Management and Investment"; "Financial Management"; and "Employee Benefits." The cost is \$275 for members and \$380 for non-members.

For more information, contact: Government Finance Officers Association, 180 Michigan Ave., Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60601, phone: 312/970-9700, fax: 312/977-4806.

GRANTS

■ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announces a Notice of Funds Availability for homeless assistance.

Approximately \$900 million will be available to assist state and local governments, non-profit organizations and other homeless providers in working together to develop a continuum of care in the community and fill the gaps within the current system.

For more information, call: 202/401-9999.

Job market

CITY MANAGER — INESVILLE, FLA.: Population: 69 (could increase to 123,000 in 1995 if annexation occurs, as proposed). Cosmopolitan, diverse community with progressive leadership and accreditation. Home of the University of Florida, Santa Fe Community College Shands Medical Complex. Located in North Central Florida in a highly desirable living and working environment. Provide local government (including regional transit) operating under commission/manager Charter adopted 1927. Utilities under separate Charter reporting directly to City Commission. Salary negotiable DOQ. (Most recent salary: \$94,000), plus automobile excellent fringe benefits program. \$1100 full-time employment under direction of City Manager, approximately 1000 of whom are represented by six collective bargaining agreements. Appointed by five member Commission elected two at-large three by district for three-year, staggered terms. Two-term limit. Will go to seven member, three at-large and four districts, when population reaches 100,000. Mayor elected by Commission referendum planned for March on presently-elected Mayor. Requires master's degree in public or business administration or related field. Requires seven years of fiscally-conservative professional management experience and skills, principally as city manager or assistant. Strong finance, budgeting, leadership, decision-making, public and intergovernmental relations and problem-solving skills. Success with grants and economic development. Solid commitment to equal employment opportunity. Ability to hire good people. Excellent communicator, with proven interpersonal skills. Effective facilitation and negotiating skills and commitment to community policing. Resumes should be sent by April 10, 1995 to James L. Mercer, President, The Mercer Group, c/o 990 Hammond Drive, Suite 510, Atlanta, GA 30328. IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA'S OPEN RECORDS LAWS, RESUMES AND ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC INSPECTION. Equal Opportunity Employer.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — MARIN COUNTY, CALIF.: Salary negotiable DOQ. Marin County (Population: 100,000; Sq. Mi.: 521) is located immediately north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Has a sophisticated and well-educated population and excellent schools, cultural and volunteer organizations. As a county, Marin has exhibited a dedication and commitment to providing its citizens with the highest level of services. It combines mountains, coastline, and favorable climate with proximity to San Francisco. Marin is a General Law county governed by a 5-member Board of Supervisors elected by district on a non-partisan basis to 4-year overlapping terms. The County has 1,800 FTE staff and a FY95 budget of \$196 million. Requires BA/BS, graduate degree plus. Requires administrative expertise in managing a budget and prefer senior level county government experience. Send resume by 4/7/95 to Norman Roberts & Associates, Inc., Attn: Norm Roberts, President, 1800 Century Park East, #430, Los Angeles, CA 90067-1507 or FAX to (310) 552-1113. AA/EEO/ADA.

COUNTY MANAGER — FREDERICK COUNTY, MD.: Administer & coordinate operation of Co Govt divisions; executive level mgmt of approx 1400 employees w/annual budget approx \$178 million. Requires Bach degree Public Admin, Busn Mgmt or related field; extensive admin exp in county or municipal govt - must include public budgeting/finance & mgmt (additional closely-related exp may substitute for degree); strong leadership & team-building skill; strong spoken/written English w/public speaking skill; Frederick County resident (or relocate); own transportation. Preference may be given for Master's in Public Admin; also for county/municipal govt work exper in MD. Full description available. Salary \$65K-\$80K + liberal benefits. Deadline to apply 3-27-95. Submit County Employment Application form to Frederick County Dept of Personnel, 12 East Church St, Frederick MD 21701. 301-694-1070 (voice/TDD). EOE.

DIRECTOR OF DETENTION — MIDDLE PENINSULA, VA.: Resumes are being accepted by the regional Middle Peninsula Detention Commission. The Commission is preparing to construct a 32 bed juvenile detention home to serve member localities from the 9th and 15th Judicial Districts of Virginia. Director will report to the Commission and be responsible for planning, organization and supervision of a secure detention facility. Bachelor's degree required, master's degree preferred, from an accredited college or university in sociology, psychology, counseling or related field and at least 5 years of professional experience in juvenile corrections, including a minimum of 3 years in managerial capacity. Resumes will be accepted through May 1, 1995. Salary depends upon experience and qualifications. Interested applicants should send a resume and salary history to: Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission, c/o A.B. Smith, York County Community Services Director, Griffin-Yeates Center, Suite 2, 1490 Government Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. EOE.

Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

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

ENGINEER-MANAGER — EMMET COUNTY, MICH.: Seeking self-motivated Engineer-Manager for the Emmet County Road Commission in Petoskey, Michigan, to fill retirement vacancy. Responsible to three-person Board of County Road Commissioners in a rapidly developing area on Little Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan. County population of 25,000 with 833 miles of County highways administered by forty-six employees with a \$3.7 million budget. Michigan professional registration required with a minimum of five years of progressive responsibility in highway design and construction. Seasoned management skills with a display of strong leadership, professional judgment, decision making, and problem solving necessary. Financial, budgetary, negotiating, and communication abilities combined with modern management techniques are essential. Will also consider qualified applicants for Managing Director. Salary range negotiable depending upon experience. Excellent fringe benefit package. Applications are being ac-

cepted until May 15, 1995. Contact the Emmet County Road Commission, 1000 Charlevoix Avenue, P.O. Box 0, Petoskey, Michigan 49770, at (616) 347-8142. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

FINANCE MANAGER — FREEBORN COUNTY, MINN.: Position responsible for the continuation and development of an effective fiscal management system directed toward analyzing and implementing improved accounting and financial management applications throughout divisions of the County. MBA, MPA or Masters degree in Finance, Accounting, or related field with two or more years of experience in public sector financial management preferred. CPA desirable. Experience with automated fund accounting systems desirable. Combinations of education and experience will be considered. Salary range begins at \$36,175. Submit resumes to the Office of the County Administrator, Freeborn County Courthouse, P.O. Box 1147, Albert Lea, MN 56007-1147. No later than Monday, April 3, 1995.

INSPECTIONS DIRECTOR — NEW HANOVER COUNTY, N.C.: This rapid-growth coastal county seeks

an experienced manager with a degree in engineering or architecture to head its building and zoning code enforcement program. \$41,163 - 62,504, good benefits. Call 24-hr. Job Line 910/341-7163 for essential functions/requirements. Submit application and salary requirements by 4:00 pm, April 28, 1995, to: New Hanover County Department of Human Resources, 414 Chestnut St., Room 305, Wilmington, NC 28401. 910/341-7178, FAX: 910/341-4293. AA/EOE.

MANAGER OF ROAD OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE — WASHOE COUNTY (RENO), NEV.: Salary: \$52,270-\$65,291. Manage Road Division, with a staff of 90 responsible for road repair, maintenance and construction, and snow removal. Requires BS in civil engineering, public or business administration, or a related field, plus three years management experience in public works road operations. Experience with computerized maintenance management and cost accounting systems desired. Apply by March 31, 1995. For application materials, contact Washoe County Personnel Division, P.O. Box 11130, Reno, NV 89520, (702) 328-2080. AA/EOE.

B L U E T H U M B
Water Log

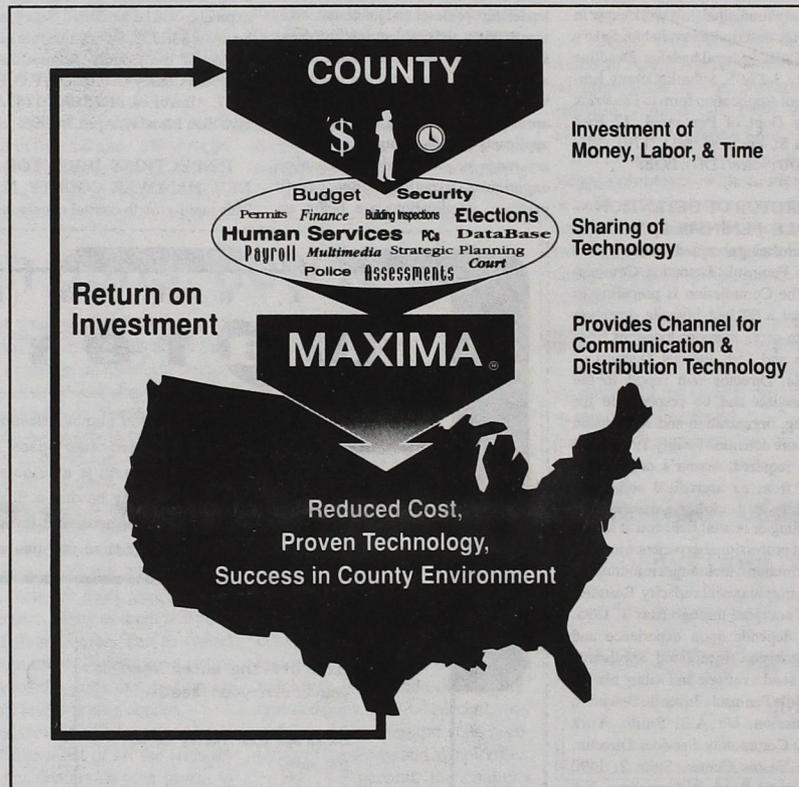
Earth has been called the blue planet. Oceans, clouds, lakes, rivers, and streams make it look blue from outer space. Nevertheless, only about one percent of all the water on Earth is available for drinking, cooking, and a million other uses. That's why having a Blue Thumb comes in handy. It helps you take care of our precious and limited water resources. Post this log and check off a box every time you use your Blue Thumb.

- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth.
Encourage your family to do the same.
- Use less weed killer and lawn and garden fertilizers.
Talk with your neighbors about doing the same.
- Take dead batteries and used motor oil to special collection centers.
Help your friends and neighbors do the same.
- Write a letter to a local official urging more protection of water sources.
Send a copy of the letter to your local newspaper.
- Install a low-flow shower head.
Tell a coworker how much you save on water bills.
- Attend a community water meeting.
Take a friend with you.
- Repair a leaky faucet.
Show a friend how.
- Every time you exercise your Blue Thumb, you give drinking water a hand.

spread the word for water

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