

COUNTY NEWS

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

Vol. 6 No. 11

March 18, 1974

Washington, D.C.

NACo Coalitions Swing Into Action

As a result of recent action of the NACo Board of Directors, President Gil Barrett sent letters last week to about 1500 counties urging them to join a national effort to get Congressional action on four major county issues.

The NACo Board urged counties to join County Action Coalitions to concentrate their efforts on community development legislation, funding for the Rural Development Act, manpower and public service employment funds, and new money for public transportation.

In the letter to the chairmen of county governing boards, President Barrett stated: "The Board is calling for a revolutionary approach to insure continuous grassroots support to focus attention of Congress and the Administration on a select number of

problems that are of deep concern to our citizens. The effort is called 'County Action Coalitions.'

"It will work this way. Each county which has a strong interest in the subject areas and which is willing to commit the time of some of its county elected and staff officials over the next few months is being invited to become a member of one or more of these informal coalitions.

"Your county's elected policy-making officials will be asked to help by coming to Washington in the next few weeks to attend a County Action Coalition rally, to meet with Administration and Congressional leaders, and to participate in a variety of other activities to publicize county government's views.

"County staff people will be asked to

come to Washington periodically to help with the continuous staff work and technical assistance needed by the policy-makers for a sustained national effort."

Representatives of counties participating in the County Action Coalitions will meet in Washington, D.C. this week to plan a detailed strategy for reaching the county goals. The emphasis will be on what can be accomplished in the remaining months of this Congressional session.

The strategy plan will include a schedule of meetings with Congressional and Administration leadership, monitoring the views of Congressmen and key Congressional committees, developing press and public information

programs, further analysis and research on county needs and capabilities, and coordinating action plans with other organizations interested in the legislation.

Elected representatives and county staff will rally in Washington, D.C. early in April to start putting the strategy plan into action, meet with Congressmen and Administration officials, and make assignments for further political and public information programs.

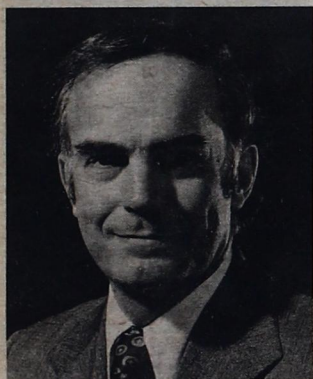
President Gil Barrett appointed four outstanding county officials to provide political leadership to each of the County Action Coalitions. Each of the coalitions also will be staffed by at least one full-time coordinator who will work in the NACo offices during the next several months.

A review of the issues, Action Coalition goals and Action Coalition leadership is on page 2.

If your county is interested in one or more of these County Action Coalitions, contact the Chairman of your county governing board who received President Barrett's letter of invitation. Then call NACo (collect) for further details.

Governor Evans to Address Western District Conference

Washington Governor Daniel Evans, chairman of the National Governors' Conference will be one of the major speakers at NACo's Western Region District Conference in King County, Wash., April 28-30.



Governor Dan Evans

Evans and other speakers will address the conference theme: "Energy and the Environment: A Delicate Balance." With the nation's energy shortage continuing into spring, and with continuing pressure to ease environmental restrictions to produce more energy, the conference theme provides a timely topic for speakers and workshops.

The Western Region Conference officially opens Sunday, April 28, with a general session at 5 p.m. and the president's reception at 6:30 p.m. The Western Region Board of Directors,

NACo's Board of Directors, and some Steering Committees will also meet Sunday.

Monday morning, a workshop on future energy production and the environment is scheduled. Other workshops centering on energy and environment are scheduled Tuesday morning; one on national land use policy and the environment, and one on solid waste and the energy shortage.

Workshops on other subjects of importance to counties include policy powers on public lands, comprehensive manpower reform, human services delivery, payments-in-lieu of taxes, and community development, all on Monday morning. Tuesday afternoon workshops will be on criminal justice and corrections; and rural development programs and funding.

Energy Wrap-up

Bill Sent to Conference

by Harry Johnson
County Liaison, FEO

The House of Representatives has finally approved legislation (H.R. 11793) that would provide for establishment of a Federal Energy Administration. The Senate passed a similar bill last year.

The next move will probably be the formation of a House-Senate conference committee to iron out any differences between the two bills. The Administration has strongly supported passage of this legislation to provide a statutory Federal Energy Administration replacing the Federal Energy Office

Lance Marston, Director of the Office of Land Use and Water Planning in the Department of Interior; and Robert Ryan, Director of the Office of Legislation in the Environmental Protection Agency, will speak about land use and the environment at a general session Tuesday morning. Land use is a particularly important issue for western region states, and several of the workshops will deal with land use problems.

For entertainment at the conference, a ferryboat cruise on Puget Sound and a salmon feed are scheduled Monday afternoon and evening. The conference will close Tuesday evening, April 30, with a reception and banquet.

See Page 7 for a room reservation form.

Land Use Bill Still Delayed

The National Land Use Policy Act of 1974 is still bogged down in the House Rules Committee. (But NACo and other public interest groups have urged reconsideration of the vote, and representatives of both the Administration and House leadership have indicated that they also want the legislation to be reconsidered by the Rules Committee.)

As reported in *County News* last week, the land use legislation was "postponed indefinitely" Feb. 27 by the Rules Committee.

At press time, it was unclear when the committee would receive a formal request for reconsideration of its vote. But Congressman Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), one of the chief sponsors of the Land Use Act, has indicated that Speaker of the House Carl Albert has assured him of his support for reconsideration by the Rules Committee.

The National Land Use Policy Act (H.R.10294), would have provided \$800 million during the next eight years for states to develop comprehensive plans for regulating the use of land, particularly for projects such as power plants and airports which have a severe environmental impact. The measure is similar to one passed by the Senate last June.

Since the Rules Committee's action to indefinitely postpone the bill, NACo and other public interest groups have intensified their efforts to get the legislation out of the committee to the House floor for a fair and open debate.

Conference

(FEO) which was created by Executive Order.

The Federal Energy Administration (FEA) would manage all federal emergency energy programs now carried out by the FEO, plus additional programs that may be created through congressional action on the Administration's proposed Special Energy Act (See below). The Senate version of the FEA bill would provide for immediate transfer to FEA of the Department of Interior Offices of Petroleum Allocation, Energy Conservation, Oil and Gas, and Energy

Continued on Page 3

Coalitions Act on Four Major Issues

Community Development

One of the most important issues in Congress is the proposed consolidation of the various community development categorical programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Last April, the Administration proposed the "Better Communities Act" which would consolidate the HUD categorical programs and distribute \$2.3 billion annually to metropolitan cities and urban counties based on population — needs formula with a 35 percent state discretionary pot. Urban counties would be defined as those with more than 200,000 population excluding the population of metropolitan cities, and which have the legal capacity to carry out community development activities. Metropolitan cities are defined as those of 50,000 or more population.

Last week the Senate passed the Community Development Assistance Act of 1974, and rejected the administration bill and the formula funding for metropolitan cities and urban counties.

According to the Senate bill, a \$2.8 billion first year authorization for block grants would be distributed to communities on the basis of past participation (hold harmless). A discretionary fund amount is to be distributed by the Secretary of HUD.

Grants made under the Community Development Assistance Act would be 90 percent federal and 10 percent local cash.

Currently, the House Subcommittee on Housing is considering two community development bills. The Housing and Urban Development Act would distribute block grant funds directly to metropolitan cities, but not to urban counties, as proposed in the other bill, the Better Communities Act. Instead, urban counties would receive priority in the distribution of discretionary funds.

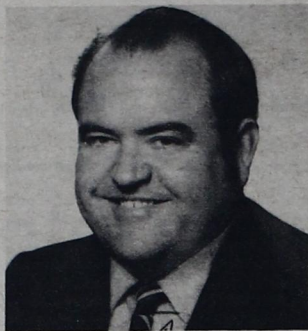
Manpower Funding

The enactment of the "Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973" (CETA) culminates a four-year effort to consolidate the many federal manpower programs: the Manpower Development and Training Act, Title I of the Economic Opportunity Act, and the Emergency Employment Act. Funding under the "manpower revenue sharing" title of CETA begins July 1, with funds provided under the old acts until then.

Several legislative issues remain. Supplemental funds are needed for summer youth programs and public service employment this year. Adequate funding is needed for CETA in FY 1975. In addition, an effective legislative response is needed to meet growing unemployment resulting from the energy crisis.

The triggered public service employment aspect of the Administration's manpower budget includes \$250 million for FY 1974, and \$350 million as part of the FY 1975 budget.

The Administration will request \$458,584,000 in a supplemental FY 1974 appropriation from the Congress. This includes the \$250 million for triggered public service employment and \$208,584,000 for summer youth



Frank Francois

The House Subcommittee is currently considering the urban county issue. Congressman William Widnall (R-N.J.) has offered an amendment of NACo's behalf to provide urban counties with a formula share of community development funds. As *County News* goes to press, the chances appear increasingly better that the subcommittee will agree to a formula share of funds for urban counties.

Coalition Goals

NACo urges Congress to promptly enact community development block grant legislation with funding necessary to meet the nation's needs. Urban counties should be included in that legislation to receive a direct formula share of the block grant funds.

NACo policy also calls for financial incentives to encourage multi jurisdictional community development programs.

County Action

Prince Georges County (Md.) Commissioner Frank Francois will lead the Community Development County Action Coalition. The coalition staff will meet in Washington March 18 to plan legislative strategy, and county elected representatives will rally April 4 to begin coalition action.



John Klein

activities. In addition to this amount for summer youth, \$91,416,000 is available from unobligated 1973 funds, giving states and localities an opportunity to provide 709,200 jobs for youth this summer.

Rural Development

The Rural Development Act of 1972 is designed to bring new life to the rural areas of America. It is composed of various grant and loan authorities, intended to assist business and industrial development, together with the provision of essential community facilities.

The authorizations include: unlimited loan authority for rural development programs; \$300 million for water and waste disposal grants; \$30 million for water and waste disposal planning grants; \$50 million for industrial park development; \$10 million for comprehensive rural development planning grants; and \$7 million for rural fire protection grants.

Like the Fiscal 1974 budget, the Administration's Fiscal 1975 budget proposes that for the most part only the loan authorizations in the Act be funded. The total amount of rural development loans is proposed to increase to \$1 billion over the \$720 million requested for Fiscal 1974.

The budget proposed spending \$20 million for water and waste disposal grants, down from \$30 million in fiscal 1974. Also requested is \$10 million in grants to local governments to facilitate development of private business facilities such as industrial parks, the same amount as appropriated in Fiscal 1974.

Coalition Goals

NACo Rural Development Act policy was adopted in July, 1973. It recommends:

That the act, insofar as possible, be fully funded. Recognizing, however, that



Donald Cleveland

this may not be possible in view of limited federal funds, priority should be given in appropriating the full amounts for the following programs: an annual appropriation of \$300 million for rural water and waste disposal grants; an annual appropriation of \$30 million for rural water and waste disposal planning grants; an annual appropriation of \$10 million for rural comprehensive planning grants; and a total of \$45 million through Fiscal 1976 for rural development research.

County Action

Don Cleveland, Executive Director of the Iowa State Association of Counties, will head the Rural Development Funding County Action Coalition. The staff members of the coalition will meet in Washington, D.C. March 25 to plan their action strategy; and county elected representatives will work with state associations of counties to implement that strategy.

All counties, both urban and rural, should pass resolutions supporting full funding of the Rural Development Act, and specifying how the programs could help in the development of their county.

Public Transit

Federal assistance to meet emergency conditions of deficit-ridden mass transit systems was derailed by the House Rules Committee March 6, when the committee blocked floor action on a House-Senate Conference Committee bill that would provide \$800 million in transit operating assistance through June 30, 1975.

Opponents of the Conference Committee Bill want to postpone action until Congress considers a long-range Administration plan for mass transit assistance.

The Administration submitted new legislation to Congress Feb. 13 for a six-year transit improvement program. The proposal would allocate \$11.7 billion to states on a population formula to be used for capital projects or operating expenses. In addition, \$4.2 billion would be provided for capital projects approved by the Department of Transportation (a continuation of the existing grant program).

The \$16 billion proposal includes at least \$6 billion in funds already authorized for urban highway programs (FY 1975 and 1976), and unused contract authority for transit programs.

Essentially, the Administration is proposing a "two-pot" program for transit. One pot would be categorical grants for funding capital projects approved by the Department of Transportation Secretary. This is a continuation of the current transit grant program. The other pot would be funds allocated to each state by a formula. The



Ralph Caso

states and local governments could use the funds for capital projects or operating costs, according to their own discretion. Proposed authorizations for both programs would be about the same during the first three years of the legislation (FY 1975, 1976 and 1977). During the remaining period (FY 1978, 1979 and 1980), funding for local roads in metropolitan areas would be merged with transit dollars and the formula funds (the optional pot) would increase to \$2 billion a year.

Coalition Goals

NACo continues to support the Conference Committee emergency aid bill

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Energy Wrap-up

Continued from Page 1

Data and Analysis. The Energy Division of the Cost of Living Council would also be included in the newly established FEA.

In related developments, the Administration is submitting a new emergency energy bill to the Congress. It will be called the Special Energy Act and will provide specific authority for mandatory conservation actions and rationing. The Act will be a severely pared-down version of the Emergency Energy Act which the President vetoed two weeks ago. The submission of the Administration bill does not signify any change in the President's determination to avoid rationing, but it provides clear authority for rationing should it become necessary.

The House Ways and Means Committee is considering alternatives to the oil price rollback provisions of the defeated Emergency Energy Act. (The President vetoed the bill because of the rollback provisions.) The Committee has already indicated a favorable response to the Administration's windfall profits tax. However, some Ways and Means members have also proposed elimination of the oil depletion allowance, which the President opposes.

Last week, Energy Chief William Simon proposed a Federal Energy Office budget of \$118.3 million for FY 1975. It included funding for 3,367 positions.

Appearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, Simon and key members of his staff presented a FY 1975 budget, emphasizing the continued need for the petroleum allocation program. The Operation and Compliance Office of FEO, responsible for the administration of the allocation program, accounted for \$75.2 million and 2,659 positions of the total request. The second largest amount was requested for the Office of Energy

Conservation, \$23 million. The remaining \$20.1 million is requested for economic and data analysis, policy planning, international programs, energy resource development, and administration.

FEO has tentatively set June 3 as the date for imposing its rationing plan if it appears that summer supply/demand ratios for gasoline will exceed FEO's ability to manage the shortage within the limitations of the mandatory allocation program. FEO has asked several research and consulting firms to submit bids on a final survey project to ascertain gasoline needs and consumption patterns throughout the commercial sector of the economy before finalizing its rationing program.

If you have any questions on Federal Energy Office regulations, difficulty in determining which federal office to contact, or complaints regarding FEO decisions, write or call:

Harry Johnson
Federal Energy Office
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1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 254-8550

Ohio Counties Join to Build Juvenile Center

by David J. D'Aquila
Ohio Dept. of Economic
& Community Development
Administration of Justice Division

The new Sargus Juvenile Center, serving Belmont and Harrison counties, is the first multi-county juvenile facility in Ohio. It is also one of fewer than ten juvenile facilities in the nation that have been designed by and for more than a single county.

The Center staff will work to divert young people from further contact with the criminal justice system by providing medical, psychiatric, legal, and educational assistance to its juvenile population. Through individual and group counseling, testing and evaluation, it will offer comprehensive rehabilitational services for its clients, as well as supply the county courts with the information needed to make the best possible disposition of each case.

According to Dr. David C. Sweet, Director of the Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development, the development department "considers the Sargus Juvenile Center to be one of our outstanding accomplishments of 1973. The commissioners of both Harrison and Belmont counties should be proud to have the first multi-county juvenile rehabilitation facility in the state. It is more than just another building. It is an example of what can be done through cooperation between counties and state government."

The development department has furnished nearly \$500,000 to the Sargus Juvenile Center project. Planning and implementation of plans for the new facility have been carried on by Belmont County Commissioners Charles Linch (chairman); A. J. Sargus (brother of the late Judge Sargus, for whom the center is named); and James Giffen; and Harrison County Commissioners Edward Stringer (chairman); Dwain Smith; and Paul Dunfee.

New Directions

Edited by Karen Frey
Human Resources Center

New Services

Montgomery County, Pa. has officially opened a 24-hour mental health, drug and alcohol emergency service on the grounds of the Norristown State Hospital. This is the only facility of this type in this section of Pennsylvania, outside Philadelphia. It will offer emergency services through evaluation, referrals, and treatment services, as well as answering questions from those residents who phone the facility.

Bergen County, (N.J.) Board of School Estimate of the County Special Services School District has approved a \$3.2 million budget for the 1974-75 school year to continue and expand existing programs, as well as to initiate others for severely handicapped children. The special services school board, the first of its kind in the state, and probably among the very few in other states, provides programs for multiply handicapped, the severely emotionally disturbed, and those with impaired hearing. The board plans to initiate sheltered workshops, programs for unwed mothers, and weekend care as a part-time residential program.

Alamance County, (N.C.) Commissioners have reestablished a Youth Services Advisory Board that once had been dissolved. Serving on the board will be the county directors of mental health and health, school superintendents, a director of youth services, and representatives of courts, churches, and youth and civic groups. One of the projects planned is a \$250,000 Emergency and Diagnostic Center for delinquent youth.

Training Sessions

The Wayne County, Mich. Volunteer Programs Coordinator Program, established by the county commissioners last year to maximize the use of volunteers in augmenting services to the poor, recently conducted a seminar on volunteer programs. This is one of many efforts within the county to improve its wide-ranging use of volunteer services in expediting direct service delivery — especially within the county jail, health department, general hospital, juvenile facility network, and aging services programs.

The Westchester County, N.Y. Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation is sponsoring a new 20-week course for individuals working with the elderly. The course is designed to introduce recreation leaders to new and practical techniques in crafts for the aging.

Skill Development Project

Chautauqua County, (N.Y.) has decided to do more than plan for Manpower Revenue Sharing; they will put local money into testing out innovative manpower ideas so that in June, the county will have the best possible manpower plan to submit to the federal government. The county has joined with local educational institutions, as well as a unique labor-management committee in conducting an experimental project.

These groups negotiate with area firms to identify the skill shortages within a particular industry. A skill development program is then designed to upgrade already established employees through training. As regular employees move up the job ladder, many entry level positions open up for less skilled workers. These will, in turn, receive their chance at on-the-job skill development.

Rehabilitative Project Expanded

Plans have been announced by Maricopa County, Ariz. officials to expand a rehabilitative pilot project which offers work as an alternative to fines, jail sentences, or probation. Placements have been made in the community services department, the highway and mechanical equipment departments, and the county veterinary center. Volunteers assist with screening, placement, and on-the-job supervision. The average work sentence for those who have participated in the project since November is 60 hours.

Ambulance Service

Lexington County (S.C.) began its county-owned ambulance service Jan. 1. The service covers all of Lexington County with ambulances stationed at various strategic points. The ambulances are all staffed by personnel continuously engaged in emergency care training. They responded to approximately 300 calls during the first month of service.

New Nursing Home

After years of debate, Arlington County (Va.) has approved the construction and location of a 200-bed nursing home. Although the county has the highest percentage of elderly people in the metropolitan area the construction had been held up largely because of resident disagreement about the location of the nursing home.

Judicial Commission Survey

The Jefferson County, Ky. Board of Supervisors has appointed an 11-member Judicial Commission to survey the county's criminal justice system. This pilot organization is the first rural commission in the nation to survey a criminal justice system. Its activities will include evaluations of the sheriff's road patrol; the possibility of a regional detention center; the need for an expanded pre-release program; the condition of the county jail; and the possibility of converting to a countywide police force. In addition, the Commission will evaluate the possibility of making the positions of district attorney and county attorney full time.

Equal Employment

Harris County, (Tex.) has taken a tough new stand on equal employment opportunities for women and minorities in county jobs. In response to charges by the Women's Equity Action League that female employees are stuck in "low-salaried, dead-end jobs," County Judge Bill Elliott said the county is "guilty as charged." He then announced that unless discriminatory hiring practices by the 13 appointed department heads end, the Commissioners Court will take action.

Manpower

Continued from Page 2

The energy crisis seems certain to add a new dimension to the nation's manpower and employment problems. Projections of unemployment in 1974 cluster between 6 percent and 8 percent. In addition to the aggregate national impact, the energy crisis will likely produce far more severe unemployment in certain areas.

Coalition Goals

NACO supports appropriations of \$3.5 billion to finance the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 in FY 1975, with additional funds to be appropriated in response to increasing national unemployment which may be caused by the energy crisis.

NACO also urges Congress to appropriate funds necessary to allow \$300 million to be spent for summer youth programs. Monies for public service employment in FY 1974 should be increased to deal with anticipated increasing unemployment rates due, in part to the energy crisis.

County Action

Headed by Suffolk County (N.Y.) Executive John Klein, the Manpower Funding County Action Coalition swings into action this week. March 21, the staff members of the coalition will meet in Washington to plan an action strategy, and April 17, elected county representatives will meet for a rally in Washington.

County News

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Counties Clean Up Water But Need Federal Help

By an overwhelming margin, Congress overrode the President's veto of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in October 1972. Counties viewed this action as a decisive commitment of federal money and effort to the urgent national priority of cleaning up our nation's waters.

Congress emphasized its commitment to the program by providing almost \$25 billion of federal funds, including \$18 billion in grants for construction of sewage treatment facilities. Buoyed by the prospect of 75 percent federal matching funds, many counties committed themselves to major water pollution control efforts. Some jurisdictions have even gone to public referenda for bonded indebtedness.

Nearly 18 months after undertaking this massive clean water effort — the largest public works program ever undertaken by the federal government — county governments are frustrated in their efforts to clean up their waters, and feel betrayed by a lack of federal support for local programs.

Less than \$2 billion of the appropriated \$18 billion of federal funds have actually reached local governments. The number of actual construction starts on needed treatment plants has lagged far behind congressional expectations, and the hoped-for steady flow of federal funds has turned out to be only a trickle.

There have been several problems with implementing the Water Pollution Control Act. The major problem is Presidential impoundment of half of the promised \$18 billion for sewage treatment construction. The impoundment seems to have led Environmental Protection Agency officials to feel much less urgency about speedy implementation of the act.

The Presidential impoundments and the slowness of EPA's funding, have placed extreme hardships on county governments which have accepted responsibility and initiated water pollution control projects.

In recent oversight hearings on the Water Pollution Control Act, Congressman Jim Wright (D-Texas), Chairman of the House Public Works Subcommittee on Investigations and Review, said, "The stern and unpleasant reality seems to be that the 1972 act, for all its big dollar figures, its grand promise and its ecological exhilaration, simply has not produced the dramatic results we sought. Results cannot be measured in the number of applications filed, or in the number of reports written, or in the number of studies completed, or in the millions of pages of paperwork generated. Results can be measured only in the number of waste treatment plants constructed and in the number of streams cleansed of pollution."

NACo and its member counties have had a long and sincere commitment to cleaning up our country's waters in partnership with state and federal governments. We think it is time for the federal government to live up to its part of the partnership by providing full and prompt funding for construction of water pollution control facilities.

When EPA's own survey of needs shows that \$60 billion must be invested to construct sewage treatment facilities to meet the needs of the nation's population by 1990, there can be no justification for White House impoundment of half of the \$18 billion provided by Congress, and EPA's slow handling of available funds.

Say "No" to Heavier Trucks

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar has proposed legislation which would increase allowable truck weights on interstate highways to compensate for loss of productivity due to the national 55 per mile hour speed limit.

NACo has been fighting the trucking industry's effort to raise the front axle loading from 18,000 to 20,000 pounds, for quite a few years. It is obvious that the trucking industry is only using the new lower speed limit as an excuse. Their need to increase loading to recover lost productivity caused by driving at lower speeds, is only a new argument for an old proposal.

Although the interstate highway system is designed to handle these heavier axle loadings, trucks must

enter and leave the interstate, usually over local roads. Most of our local roads are not designed to handle this increased loading. Heavier truck weights will cause county and city roads to deteriorate at a more rapid rate.

We are going to have enough difficulty maintaining our roads with the forthcoming reduction in asphalt supplies, decreased revenues resulting from reduction in gasoline usage, and higher prices for all of our road material and equipment. We cannot afford to allow action which will cause our highways to deteriorate at a faster rate.

County officials must vigorously protest Brinegar's proposed legislation to increase allowable truck weights.

Alcohol—A Dangerous Drug

A recent issue of *Editorial Research Reports* pointed out that only 39 percent of the adult population and 34 percent of the youth population properly classified alcohol as a drug, in a nationwide survey.

Some nine million Americans are presently alcoholics; the cost of the misuse of the drug alcohol is enormous. One of every two traffic fatalities and a third of all suicides are alcohol-related. Alcoholism is also involved in five and a half million arrests, and costs society about \$15 billion per year.

Morris E. Chafetz, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, (NIAAA) notes: "While we agonize over the possibility that our children might

join the ranks of our nation's quarter of a million hard drug addicts, we pay scant attention to the possibility that they stand a far better chance of joining the nation's nine million alcoholics and problem drinkers. Non-alcoholic drugs are somehow foreign and frightening because their use, except as medicine, is not yet accepted as part of the mainstream of American culture. Alcohol, on the other hand, is so common a drug that we tend to ignore it — and its victims — as we have done for far too long."

We in the National Association of Counties strongly support the NIAAA in its effort to develop a really effective national program to combat the problems of alcoholism.

Letters to NACo

Dear Bernie:

I just finished reading the February 11 issue of *County News*. The format and content of the publication has progressed nicely, but this issue has to be the best one you have ever put out. Keep up the good work.

County News is the one continuing source of information we can rely on about what the feds are doing to, for and with us. Thanks for the help.

Larry J. Brown
County Administrator
Rock County, Wis.

Dear Bernie:

We have utilized the NACo "Hotline" for the first time today, and I was thoroughly impressed.

I see this as an excellent service for we county officers, and it could become an excellent basis for staff briefing sessions. Not only is the communication factor absent in many cases that involve the federal-county relationship, but I feel response time in those instances where time is a real consideration can be updated.

Again, I thank you and the NACo Board and staff for this assistance.

John J. Franke, Jr., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Johnson County, Kansas

Hillenbrand's Washington Report
202/785-9591

EPA to Disburse Sewage Treatment Funds

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expects to begin reimbursing counties and cities within the next few weeks for some of the local costs of sewage treatment plants constructed between June 30, 1966 and July 1, 1972.

Under the amended Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1973, localities which constructed treatment plants between 1966 and 1972 and had applied for reimbursement by Jan. 31, 1974 are eligible to receive reimbursement for publicly owned treatment works which met the requirements of the law at the time of initiation of the project but did not receive the full federal share of the cost.

EPA regional offices are scheduled to inform all counties and cities with approved reimbursable projects that they will receive 50 percent of the amount to

which they are entitled in a few weeks. However, counties whose projects have not been previously approved by EPA as eligible, will probably not receive their share of reimbursement funds until this summer.

It is estimated that each eligible project will eventually receive 68 percent of the total reimbursable amount. Therefore, counties which receive 50 percent in the next weeks will probably receive approximately 18 percent more this summer.

Originally EPA regulations would have apportioned \$1.2 billion of the total \$1.9 billion available to New York state. But, following Congressional action on the allocation regulations, EPA revised its guidelines to provide a pro rata share of the project costs to be given to all eligible projects. Congress also increased

the federal funds to \$2.6 billion, but EPA is planning to allocate only \$1.9 billion.

Counties with questions about water pollution control funds should contact their EPA regional offices.

Growth Management is Topic Of City-County Conference

Congressman Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), sponsor of the National Land Use Policy legislation in the House of Representatives, and Professor Robert Freilich of the University of Missouri Law School and a leading growth management consultant, will speak at the National Conference on Growth Management in Reston, Va. May 22-24.

The conference is sponsored by NACo and the International City Management Association (ICMA) and will be hosted by Fairfax County, Va.

Through a series of small workshops, individual growth techniques such as moratoria, public facilities ordinances, land banking and zoning controls will be presented by various city and county officials, consultants and other experts who have been directly involved in the planning or implementation of such techniques. Participants will be able to analyze the obstacles and successes which local communities have experienced in attempting to manage their growth.

Leading city and county officials who have experienced rapid growth and urban sprawl will serve as panelists and present case histories of how problems were handled locally.

Conference Agenda

May 22 — Briefing on Fairfax County PLUS (Planned Land Use System) program
— Welcome Reception

May 23 — Opening General Session on Growth Management

— Four morning concurrent workshops:

- 1) Moratoria and Interim Controls
- 2) Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances
- 3) Assessing Economic and Fiscal Impact
- 4) Environmental Impact Statements

— Luncheon Session on National Land Use Legislation

— Four afternoon concurrent workshops:

- 5) Land Banking
- 6) Housing Policies and Growth Management
- 7) Zoning: New Developments and Alternatives
- 8) New Communities and Growth Management

— Tour of the Reston, Va. New Community

— Evening Panel Discussion of Local Builders, Citizens and Elected Officials

May 24 — Breakfast Discussions

- Four morning concurrent workshops repeating May 23 workshops
- One open workshop to discuss individual problems with the speakers
- Luncheon and Wrapup on Growth Management
- Optional Tour of Fairfax County

Because of the limitations of space and the necessity to make this a learning conference, registration is limited to 250 people who must be either city or county elected officials, administrators/managers, planners or attorneys. No more than two individuals from a jurisdiction will be accepted. Admission will be limited to those who pre-register.

The conference fee of \$75 includes extensive growth management materials, three meals and a Reston tour. County officials who have questions may direct them to Peggy Seeley or Bruce Talley at NACo, 202/785-9577.

Those who wish to register may use the attached form and send it with the \$75 fee to: Claire Rubin, International City Management Association, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Make checks payable to ICMA/NACo Growth Management Conference.

ICMA/NACo GROWTH MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Sheraton International Hotel
Reston, Virginia
May 22-24, 1974

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Remittance enclosed

Title: _____ Bill me

Local Government: _____ Please send me room reservation material

Address: _____ at the Sheraton in

City: _____ State: _____ Reston, Virginia

Zip: _____
Send to: Claire Rubin, ICMA, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

House Debates Education Bill

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (H.R. 69) will be debated on the floor of the House of Representatives this week.

After a year of hearings and amendments, the House Committee on Education and Labor reported the bill to the House, and the Rules Committee set March 18 as the beginning of floor debate for the Education Act.

The act includes a three-year extension of educational aid to schools in poverty areas and to handicapped, migrant, neglected and delinquent children (Title I). But the provisions of the education act make some drastic changes in the amounts of Title I funds many urban areas will receive.

Major provisions of this part of the act are: a three-year funding plan for schools, required Parental Advisory Councils, a bypass to private school children, use of these funds for teacher training, and a repeal of special incentive grants for rural and urban schools.

A variety of grant programs have been consolidated in three areas: libraries and instructional resources; supports and innovation (Title 5); and adult education. The total authorization level for all consolidated programs remains the same.

General education provisions which are amended include: state authority to

carry over funds from one year to another; automatic extension of authorization authority; a five year statute of limitations on audit exceptions, requiring that final notice demanding payment be issued within five years of the actual violation; an appeal procedure for local educational agencies with ultimate appeal to the Commissioner.

Additional general education provisions are: impact aid is continued and all children who live on federal property are counted for the aid but impact aid is authorized only until June 30, 1975; education of the handicapped is extended but at a reduced level with a new HEW Bureau of the Handicapped established; the Bilingual Educational Act (Title VII) was extended for three years; Titles II, III, V and VIII are extended for three years at the same authorization levels; Puerto Rico is considered a state for the purposes of the act; and a study on crime and violence in schools is authorized.

In the Senate, the Labor and Public Welfare Committee is marking up S. 1539, a general education bill which is significantly different from H.R. 69. It will probably be early summer before a House-Senate conference bill is considered.

Federal Regulations Published

Proposed federal regulations about environmental quality and estuarine sanctuaries have been received by NACo for review and comment. These regulations are currently being analyzed by county officials and NACo staff to determine their impact on counties. For copies, please write to: Carol Shaskan of NACo.

74-14 HUD — Proposed Rule Making—Department Policies, Responsibilities, and Procedures for Protections and Enhancement of Environmental Quality — The proposed regulations set forth responsibilities within the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the protection and enhancement of environmental quality in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality. HUD has established a three-phase environmental clearance process for determining which HUD actions are major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the

human environment: normal environmental clearance; special environmental clearance; and environmental impact statement clearance. Limited copies are available.

74-15 NOAA — Estuarine Sanctuary Grants — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has proposed these guidelines to establish policy and procedures for the nomination, selection and management of estuarine sanctuaries as authorized under Section 312 and Section 314 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Copies are available.

Final Regulations

The following final regulations have been issued: *Cost Sharing in Medicaid* (ACIR Ref. No. 73-15), and *Sterilization Procedures* (ACIR Ref. No. 73-111 and 73-112). Copies of these regulations can be obtained by writing to: Administrator, Social Rehabilitation Services — Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Policy Coordination, 330 C Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

Regulations Set for Manpower Consortia

Counties involved in consortia for manpower programs should study carefully the Federal Regulations scheduled to be published March 15 as this *County News* goes to press. Two key provisions of these regulations can be presented here.

First, all the units of government which make up a consortium constitute the prime sponsor for manpower programs. It is not true that they must pick one unit to be the prime sponsor. They may pick one unit to be the administrative arm of the consortium.

Second, the formal agreement to be submitted by the consortium by March 31, should contain the following twelve items:

- Either an agreement is written establishing a multijurisdictional arrangement for the express purpose of conducting a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program for an existing joint powers agreement, such as in the case of a Council of Governments, must be amended to include reference to the CETA as part of the agreement;
- Identification of the units of government which are parties signatory to the agreement (i.e., the name and address of each governmental unit which is a member of the consortium);
- Identification of any governmental unit which would normally be within the jurisdiction of the agreement, but has informed the members of the agreement of its desire not to have services provided through the agreement. That means that if a city within a county which is participating in the consortium, opts to join another consortium, that city should be named as not receiving services by the consortium established by the agreement;
- Geographical areas which will be served by the agreement;
- Population to be served;
- Certification that state and local law permits services under the

multijurisdictional agreement to be provided within the entire geographical area covered by the agreement, including within the jurisdiction of any local government located within the geographical area covered by the agreement (i.e., that the agreement is not prevented by state or local law from taking effect in the entire geographical area which it intends to serve);

- An attached letter from each unit's chief legal officer assuring that each party signatory has the legal authority, under state or local law, to enter into a multijurisdictional agreement (these letters are made part of the agreement);
- Certification that at least one of the units of local government is an independent eligible prime sponsor (i.e., has a population of at least 100,000 persons) or that "exceptional circumstances" exist;
- A statement that grant agreements with the Department of Labor shall be signed by the chief elected official or chief administrative officer of each party to the multijurisdictional agreement;
- Certification that to the extent consistent with state or local law, each party signatory to the agreement accepts responsibility for the operation of the program (i.e., each member of the consortium, rather than any administrative arm, has ultimate responsibility for the program's operation and success);
- A description of the powers, functions and responsibilities maintained by the parties to the agreement, with a statement of the procedure by which chief elected officials will participate in the planning and operation of the program, if they so desire; and
- A statement of the powers, functions and responsibilities which will be delegated to an administrative entity to operate the program and the name and organizational structure of that entity.

enforce because other types of spending are not as visible as media spending."

Staats favored a limitation on contributions instead. Noting that the American Civil Liberties Union won a case in a U. S. District Court which declared unconstitutional the basic procedure provided in the present law for enforcement of the media limitation as applied to newspapers, Staats commented that a first amendment constitutional argument may be made against any contribution limitation.

Nevertheless, Staats said, "I would hope that a reasonable limitation, say \$3,000, would be supported in the courts when weighted against the public's interest in protecting elections and elective offices against corruption."

Many states are now considering legislation which would place strict limitations on the money that could be spent to finance political campaigns. Such an approach would be most difficult to administer, according to Elmer B. Staats, the Comptroller General of the United States.

Speaking recently at a seminar sponsored by the National Association of County Recorders and Clerks and American University's Institute of Election Administration, Staats observed that existing federal law prescribes limits on what can be spent for media. The experience of the Office of Federal Elections indicates the practical difficulty of enforcing spending limitations even in this restricted area. Staats said, "An overall limitation would be even harder to

NACE "Matter and Measure"

National Association of County Engineers

Gasoline Use Reports

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released a tabulation of motor gasoline consumed during the first 11 months of 1973. The data is derived from state taxation reports.

Cumulative figures for the first 11 months of 1973 (based on reports from 42 states) show a 4.6 percent increase in gasoline usage over 1972. The largest monthly increase was in January, with an 8.9 percent increase over January, 1972. Based on figures from 22 states, the December, 1973 increase is only 5.1 percent over December, 1972.

Cumulative data for 1973, through November, shows that 40 states increased their gasoline usage, while 2 states show decreases. Reports were not available from other states.

States with the greatest increases for the 11-month period were Florida, 11.6 percent; Arizona, 8.3 percent; and Tennessee, 8.0 percent. The states indicating decreases were Alaska, 11.7 percent; and Indiana, 0.8 percent.

Traffic Volume Trends

The energy crisis and gasoline shortages have significantly affected travel on U.S. roads and streets, according to a report by the Federal Highway Administration.

The report compares total travel on U.S. roads and streets (including main rural roads only) each month, with the traffic volume of the previous year.

Total travel during October, 1973, was up 3 percent over October, 1972. November travel was up 2.2 percent, but in December, total travel decreased by 2.5 percent.

On main rural roads, travel increased 3.9 percent in October and 3.6 percent in November, but decreased 3.6 percent in December. In the western states, main rural road travel was up 2.3 percent in October, down 0.5 percent in November, and down 1.9 percent in December. In the central states, traffic volume was up 4.1 percent in October and 5.4 percent in November, and down 3.7 percent in December. In the eastern states, the statistics indicate that traffic volume was up 4.3 percent in October and 3.0 percent in November, but down 4.2 percent in December.

Translated into total vehicle miles of travel on main rural roads, traffic went down from 45.06 billion in October to 36.72 billion vehicle miles in December, 1973.

No Matching Required

Until February 22, it had been required that federal highway planning and research (HPR) funds be matched by the state. Now, because of the nationwide benefit from the research conducted under the AASHTO National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), states are no longer required to match the 4 1/2 percent of the 1 1/2 percent funds for NCHRP.

This determination applies to 1973 and 1974 as well as 1975 HPR funds. A

future determination will be made regarding 1976 funds. If any state desires to use state matching funds in conjunction with the highway planning and research federal funds for NCHRP, it may do so.

Financial Federal-Aid Highways

The Federal Highway Administration has released a very useful report: "Financing Federal-Aid Highways," Highway Planning Technical Report Number 34. The report defines financial steps in the federal-aid highway program, tracing the flow of authority from authorizing legislation through voucher reimbursement. Topics covered include contract authority, impoundment and highway trust fund operation. The report's glossary distinguishes between such terms as apportionment, appropriation, authorization and obligation.

Free copies of "Financing Federal-Aid Highways" are available from the Program Coordination Division, Office of Program and Policy Planning, Federal Highway Administration, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Report on Curb Ramps

A new Oregon report outlines standard plans and specifications for curb ramps.

Oregon law requires cities to install curb ramps at or near crosswalks along blocks with curbs and sidewalks to allow access to crosswalks for the physically handicapped. These curb ramps also serve bicyclists, and cities and counties are installing them on existing curbs which are on bicycle routes.

The report was prepared under the Urban Services Program of the League of Oregon Cities, and the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service at the University of Oregon, with assistance from the Specifications Committee of the Oregon Chapter, APWA.

Policy and Practice No. 30, *Curb Ramps at Crosswalks: An Example of Construction Standards* sells for \$1. It is available from the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service, P.O. Box 3317, School of Community Service and Public Affairs, University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. 97403.

1973 Construction Contracts

The Federal Highway Administration reports a total of 4,311 federal-aid highway and bridge construction contracts awarded by state highway departments during 1973, costing approximately \$4.7 billion.

This is a 16.2 percent decrease in the number of contracts and a 3.2 percent decrease in the total dollar amount of contracts from contracts awarded in 1972.

Correction

In last week's *County News*, an article describing a meeting between Russell Train, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and several county officials, contained an error.

Part of the article was about a Washington Post report that the White

House had proposed major changes in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). *County News* said the Post reported that Train had proposed the changes; the sentence should have read "The Post reports that Train opposed this suggestion."

County News regrets the error.



the Ballot Box by Richard G. Smolka

National Association of County Recorders and Clerks
American University Institute of
Election Administration

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Energy Questions?

Harry Johnson is the county government liaison with the Federal Energy Office. Call him at (202) 254-8550, or write to him in care of NACo, 1735 New York Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

Health Care Developments

NACo Group Studies National Health Insurance

by Mike Gemmell, Director
Human Resources Center

National health insurance is rapidly becoming one of the hottest issues facing counties today. The idea that the federal government must finance comprehensive health care coverage to all people is gaining popularity. This issue was discussed in detail by members of NACo's Health and Education Steering Committee at the legislative conference two weeks ago.

The impact of national health insurance on counties both as primary deliverers of health services and as employers of over two million people is unclear. Seeking answers to this dilemma, Supervisor Terry Pitts, of Milwaukee County, Wis., acting in behalf of Steering Committee Chairman Ernest Debs of Los Angeles County, Calif., appointed a subcommittee to study national health insurance and give staff direction in drafting policy positions on the issue.

Supervisor Pitts appointed the following to the working group: Supervisor Jack Walsh, San Diego County, Calif., Chairman; Dr. Julian Keith, Commissioner, Forsyth County, N.C.; Dr. Bernard Berman, Commissioner, Oakland County, Mich.; Bob Horton, Assistant to the County Mayor, Nashville-Davidson County, Tenn.; Jim Curren, Director of Program Development, Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Mich.; Yoshi Honkawa, Director Fiscal and Legislative Services, Department of Health Services, County of Los Angeles, Calif.; Dr. William Mosher, Health Commissioner, Erie County, N.Y.; and Commissioner Kathleen Fojtik, Washtenaw County, Mich.

The group was charged to come up with a specific work plan on national health insurance before the Steering Committee meets again. The Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in Seattle, Wash. April 28, in conjunction with NACo's annual Western Region District Conference.

PSRO

NACo has received requested clarification of the relationship between county health officers and Professional Standards Review Organizations (PSRO's).

PSRO Chief Dr. Henry Simmons wrote NACo saying that membership in a PSRO "will be open to any doctor of medicine or osteopath who holds a current and unrestricted license in the jurisdiction where the PSRO is located. Any member

of a PSRO will be eligible for service as a director of the governing body or officer of the organization. The only restriction upon the PSRO activity of a physician employed as a county health officer related to the review functions of a PSRO. Physicians assigned responsibility for the review of hospital care must have active hospital staff privileges. Thus, if a county health officer is not actively engaged in hospital practice, he will be precluded from reviewing the hospital care of other physicians."

Nursing Homes

A common set of standards and procedures by which skilled nursing facilities will be inspected and certified

for participation in both Medicaid and Medicare are included in final regulations issued last month. The new regulations will provide a streamlined mechanism for inspecting and certifying nursing homes receiving federal funds. They place particular emphasis on the health and safety of patients while enabling government agencies to enforce standards more efficiently.

Emergency Services Workshops

The ACT Foundation, a non-profit organization providing information and assistance to local communities in establishing and improving emergency medical services is sponsoring a series of regional workshops on emergency

medical services. There is a \$7 registration fee.

The workshops will be held: March 25 in Rochester, N.Y. at Flagship Rochester; April 16 in Cherry Hill, N.J. at the Cherry Hill Inn; April 18 in Research Triangle Park, N.C. at the Burroughs Wellcome Co.; April 22 in Detroit, Mich., at the Sheraton Motor Inn; April 24 in Minneapolis, Minn. at the Sheraton Motor Inn; April 26 in Denver, Colo. at the Hilton Inn; May 7 in Birmingham, Ala. at the Kahler Plaza; May 9 in Dallas, Texas at the North Park Inn; May 20 in Portland, Ore. at the Portland Hilton; May 22 in San Francisco, Calif. at the Hilton Inn (Burlington); and May 24 in Phoenix, Ariz. at the Arizona Biltmore.

Make Your Room Reservations Now For

NACo's 1974 Western Region Conference

April 28-30, 1974

Washington Plaza Hotel

King County (Seattle), Washington

This Year's Theme Is

"ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A DELICATE BALANCE"

◆ KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS ◆

Energy Topics:
*Energy Sources
*Energy Conservation
*Fuel Allocation & Rationing
*Energy Needs & Environmental Considerations

Other Topics:
*Comprehensive Manpower Services
*Public & Private Land Use Program
*Planning Our National Forests
*Urban & Rural Community Development
*Solid Waste Management
*Human Services
*Criminal Justice

◆ CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ◆

*Registration at hotel on April 28 & 29
*No pre-registration
*Make room reservations directly with Washington Plaza Hotel on form below
*Fees: \$75 for delegates; \$40 for spouses and children

CLIP & MAIL TO: Room Reservations
Washington Plaza Hotel
5th at Westlake
Seattle, Washington 98101

◆ PROGRAM OUTLINE ◆

Sunday, April 28

12:00 noon Registration
5:00 p.m. Opening Session
6:30 p.m. President's Reception

Monday, April 29

9:00 a.m. Workshops
2:00-8:00 p.m. Boat Cruise on
Puget Sound & Salmon Feed

Tuesday, April 30

9:00 a.m. General Session
10:45 a.m. Workshops
12:30 p.m. Reception & Lunch
2:45 p.m. Workshops
6:00 p.m. Annual Reception & Banquet

Public Transit

Continued from Page 2

to assist local government public transit programs. Once this bill is through Congress, we intend to work with the Administration and Congress to enact a balanced transportation energy funding program that recognizes the future needs of both urban and rural areas.

County Action

Nassau County (N.Y.) Executive Ralph Caso will head the Public Transit Funding County Action Coalition. The coalition staff will meet March 20 in Washington to plan an action strategy, and elected county representatives will rally April 3 to begin their action to implement NACo's public transportation policy.

National Association of Counties WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE April 28-30, 1974			
NAME _____			
TITLE _____			
ADDRESS _____			
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____			
ARRIVAL DATE _____	TIME _____	a.m.	p.m. GTD
LENGTH OF STAY _____		NIGHTS _____	
PLEASE CIRCLE DESIRED ACCOMMODATION			
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SECTION		TOWER SECTION	
ACCOMMODATIONS			
SINGLE ONE PERSON	\$19	\$27	
DOUBLE (One Bed) TWO PEOPLE	\$25	\$33	
TWIN (Two Beds) TWO PEOPLE	\$25	\$33	
SUITE		\$75 - \$100	
PLEASE NOTE:			
1. Reservations held until 6:00 p.m. unless guaranteed for later arrival.			
2. Reservations should be received 3 weeks prior to arrival.			
3. Check-out time is 2:00 p.m. Date _____			
WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL		PHONE: 206/MA-4-7400	

AMERICAN COUNTIES TODAY

Dear County Official:

The National Association of Counties is launching the most ambitious campaign in its history with our new County Action Coalitions.

We are attempting to mobilize, in selected subject areas, county elected policy-making officials, professional and technical employees in a concentrated national effort to focus the attention of the Congress and the Administration on key policy positions adapted by our membership.

What is really involved is a sustained daily effort to maintain the commitment, enthusiasm and participation that we receive from county officials meetings here in Washington.

This effort, which was recommended by the NACo Committee on the Future and strongly supported by the NACo Board, is well under way and the initial results are most encouraging. For more detail see pages 1 and 2.

We have already written to all chairmen of county boards and/or elected county executives explaining our approach and asking for support.

Even at this early date, it does seem that we have perhaps discovered a method of operation that will help us to educate key Administration and Congressional leaders on the nature and operations of county government. It is astounding how often we find the Congress and/or the Administration acting in program areas in such a manner as to betray any understanding of how a county functions or the impact of these national actions on county governments and the citizens that we serve.

We urge you to give this new approach very careful consideration at your next board meeting and we hope to have your support for this effort.

National Study

Supervisor Jack Walsh, San Diego County, (Calif.) has come up with an excellent idea. He wants a national study group to be appointed to study and report on the anticipated availability of raw materials. While the nation is in the throes of the energy crisis and a rising wave of scarce items, he suggests that someone in authority make some sensible long range projections.

How adequate, for example, are our reserves of material for all the atomic reactors we are planning?

To use another example, if a metal like copper is going to be in short supply shouldn't we be finding substitutes and amending our county building codes to allow use of the substitute?

Fairbanks Leaving

Richard Fairbanks, associate director of the White House Domestic Council, is leaving. NACo has worked with him in his previous assignment as special assistant to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as in his recent White House assignment.

A Long Termer

A few weeks ago, we started a series in this column about people who have served for a long long time in county government.

This week we'd like to honor Peter Gerig of Lassen County, Calif. He's an octogenarian now, with nearly 54 years of service to Lassen County.

Gerig was first elected to the County Board of Supervisors in 1920. He attended Board of Supervisors meetings by riding horseback 75 miles from his home to the county seat — a two day trip each way. He was continuously re-elected to the County Board until he retired in 1948.

But his county service did not end then. He was appointed to the County Water Commission, and two years later was appointed to the County Planning Commission. He still serves in both those capacities today.

Gerig has also served as foreman of the County Grand Jury on two occasions, and has been a school trustee. In 1973, he was chosen county senior citizen of the year at the Lassen County Fair. Gerig has a large cattle ranch, and operates it now with his son and grandson.

Our hats are off to this commissioner, a truly energetic young man with years of impressive services to the citizens of Lassen County.

Food for Thought

Today's best quote from Supervisor Frank Raflo of Loudoun County, Va.: "Only bureaucratic inadequacies, totally implemented in accordance with the misdirections, dictated by irrational federal guidelines, funded by impaired monies withheld, and aimed at objectives, yet undefined, can achieve the ultimate in regional confusion."

Good News

Floyd H. Hyde, former undersecretary of Housing and Urban Development and a longtime friend of NACo, is joining the firm of McManis Associates, Inc. as Senior Vice-President for Urban Affairs. Floyd will also be a visiting lecturer at a number of universities and will stay active in the local and state government field.

Important Election

NACo Vice-President Stanley Smoot of Davis County, Utah has been elected Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Community Affairs. The Council is made up of locally elected officials and provides a direct pipeline of communication between the state and local governments of Utah.

Sincerely yours,

Bernie Hillenbrand

Bernard F. Hillenbrand
Executive Director

Coming Events

MARCH

20	NACo Region IV Federal Aid Briefing	Atlanta, Georgia Sheraton Biltmore	DeWayne Little 305/377-5311
21 - 22	GSA-GAO-OMB Region IV Workshop on Federal Grant Financial Management	Atlanta, Georgia Sheraton Biltmore	Phillip M. Dearborn 202/343-8821
23 - 24	National Association of County Recorders and Clerks Meeting	Little Rock, Arkansas	Irma Shoffner 501/523-3826
28 - 29	NACo Disaster Preparedness Conference	St. Louis, Missouri	Charlie Wall 202/785-9577
31 - Apr. 3	County Officers Association of State of New York Annual Meeting	Grossinger, New York	Herb Smith 518/465-1473

APRIL

28 - 30	NACo Western Region District Conference	Seattle, Washington	Jim Evans 202/785-9577
	Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Annual Convention	Atlanta, Georgia	Hill Healan 404/522-5022

MAY

1 - 3	Utah Association of Counties Annual Convention	Salt Lake City, Utah Travel Lodge	Jack E. Christensen 801/359-3332
2 - 4	New Mexico Association of Counties Annual Convention	Albuquerque, New Mexico	P. Larragoite 505/983-2101
5 - 8	American Society for Public Administration Annual Convention	Syracuse, New York Hotel Syracuse	Richard Legon 202/785-3255
15 - 16	Region III Federal Aid Briefing	Baltimore, Maryland Hunt Valley Inn	Stephen Collins 301/494-3317

JULY

14 - 17	NACo National Convention	Miami Beach, Florida	Rod Kendig 202/785-9577
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Hillenbrand's
Washington Report
(202) 785-9591

Change of Address

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

Name _____
Title _____
Address _____

Attach old label here