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COUNTY NEWS

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

NACo

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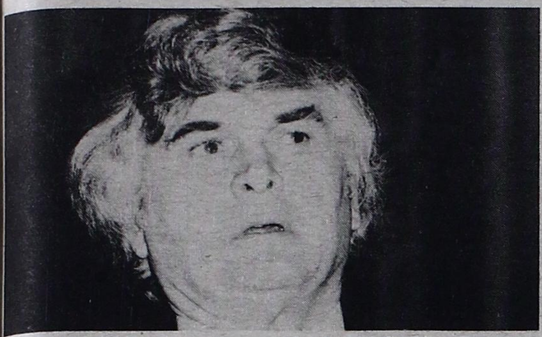

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LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Revenue Sharing Crusade Kicks Off

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The NACo Board of Directors voted to make reenactment of general revenue sharing its number one legislative priority during the coming year.

The board action came during NACo's best-attended Legislative Conference March 11-14. Nearly 1,200 county officials came from across the country to learn what they could expect from Congress at a time of inflation fighting and pressures for a balanced budget.

Delegates were warned by House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes of Arizona that the general revenue sharing program was "under attack" in Congress.

And, as if to underscore that point, Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Texas) called revenue sharing a fraud and voiced his opposition to "a program that uses borrowed money to pay for the basic services local officials are elected to provide."

The general revenue sharing program, which funnels $6.5 billion annually to states and local governments, comes up for reauthorization in the 96th Congress.

SAYING THAT county officials will strongly resist any move to cut or eliminate revenue sharing, NACo President Charlotte Williams, commissioner, Genesee County, Mich., announced the creation of a special Task Force for Renewal of Revenue Sharing which will coordinate lobbying efforts of the nation's 3,104 county governments.

W.W. Dumas, mayor of East Baton Rouge Parish, La., was appointed to chair the task force. Lois Parke, chairman of NACo's Taxation and Finance Steering Committee and councilman of New Castle County, Del., was named vice chair. All members of the NACo board will serve on the task force.

In reaction to Brooks who said he opposes reenactment of revenue sharing because federal borrowing power

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House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes Warns Delegates that Revenue Sharing Is "Under Attack," page 3.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Seated Beside NACo President Charlotte Williams, Says Support for Welfare Reform Is Waning, page 4.

NACo Testifies on Countercyclical Reenactment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Three county officials testified in support of a countercyclical assistance program last week before Sen. Bill Bradley's subcommittee on unemployment compensation, revenue sharing and economic problems.

Representing NACo were Lois Parke, councilman, New Castle County, Del.; Charles Worthington, county executive, Atlantic County, N.J. and Emil Stanislawski, supervisor, Milwaukee County, Wis.

"This program is a unique and necessary tool in the nation's ability to react to and minimize the effects of an economic recession," noted Parke, who is chairman of the NACo Taxation and Finance Steering Committee. "We need this legislation as an insurance policy against future increases in unemployment."

Worthington emphasized the strong need of county governments with high unemployment for immediate assistance.

"When this program was terminated, Atlantic County abruptly lost $700,000," he said. "We used these funds to provide necessary county services, and were therefore forced to use funds earmarked for other purposes in order to avoid employee layoffs."

Stanislawski stressed the need to have the countercyclical mechanism on the books.

"Milwaukee County's unemployment, which exceeded 8 percent two years ago has now declined. It is vital that counties in similar positions know that this mechanism is available should our economy deteriorate."

The Finance subcommittee was holding hearings on two proposals to authorize countercyclical aid. Sens. John Danforth (D-Mo.), Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) have introduced S. 200, the Intergovernmental Antirecession and Supplementary Fiscal Assistance Amendments of 1979. Sen. Moynihan has also introduced a bill on behalf of the Administration, S. 566, the Intergovernmental Fiscal Assistance Amendments of 1979.

BOTH PIECES OF legislation are two-titled programs containing a standby mechanism which would become operative when nationwide unemployment rises and would provide immediate aid to the nation's most distressed communities.

Under the Administration-supported bill, approximately 548 counties would receive immediate assistance. Title I of this bill would distribute $250 million in fiscal '80 to local governments where local unemployment is above 6.5 percent. The second title would become operative when the national unemployment rate goes above 6.5 percent. At that point, local and state governments where local unemployment was at least 5 percent would receive funds. At 6.5 percent nationwide unemployment, $125 million would be distributed; an additional $25 million would be added for every one-tenth of 1 percent over 6 percent.

Title I of S. 200 would function as a standby mechanism triggered in at a 6 percent unemployment rate with aid to local and state governments where local unemployment is at least 6 percent. At 6 percent, $125 million would be distributed, with increments of $30 million for every additional one-tenth of 1 percent increase in unemployment. Title II would distribute $85 million only to local governments with unemployment rates above 6 percent so long as the nationwide unemployment rate was between 5 and 6 percent.

Parke noted in her testimony that both proposals are scaled-down versions of the prior countercyclical programs.

—Elliott Alm[illegible]

ATTENTION: Transportation Officials

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has mailed a brochure on the new federal bridge program. You should receive it soon. Please be sure to keep it handy for reference because it contains important information you need to know.

Titled "The Off-System Federal-Aid Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program," the brochure describes provisions of the bridge program that are important to counties.

These provisions cover funding for the repair and replacement of bridges off the federal-aid highway systems—the bridges under your jurisdiction. The brochure is worded in a question and answer format and lists the telephone number of the state highway office you need to contact to implement federally-funded bridge projects.

In addition, the brochure contains a prepaid, preaddressed order form for you to receive a free package of bridge inspection materials and instructions. Please make use of this opportunity to receive these important materials.

FHWA prepared this brochure for local government officials at NACo's urging. Therefore, we ask that you please read it and take advantage of the assistance your state highway agency and FHWA can provide. If you have any questions about the new federal bridge program, please contact me.

—Marlene Glassman
Transportation Project

52 Urban Counties Eligible for Funding to Rehabilitate Parks

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Interior Department last week made public its list of jurisdictions eligible for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program. Fifty-two counties are eligible. (See attached list.)

The legislation, passed last fall, will provide grants for rehabilitation of deteriorating park systems and is to be coordinated with overall urban revitalization. However, no funds have yet been appropriated for the program. Sam Hall, director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS), assured county officials at a Legislative Conference briefing, that "counties have been subjected to the same eligibility standards as cities." The awarding of grants will, however, be conditioned on the extent of county government involvement in providing parks and recreation services to urban residents.

Pass-through of funds and interlocal coordination of programs will be looked on with favor, said Hall. There will be an incentive for cities and counties to submit joint programs because the most important factor HCRS will consider in making grant awards is the total population served.

Money may be passed from cities to counties and vice versa, and from general purpose local governments to regional, special district agencies, and private nonprofit recreation providers.

Although 85 percent of the available money will go to communities on the list of "eligible" jurisdictions, any city or county within a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) may apply for discretionary funds, which will be 15 percent of the total.

Grants for planning, rehabilitation and innovation will then be competitive among applicants, and will be awarded directly from the federal government to localities. The federal share will be at least 70 percent for rehabilitation and innovation.

If states contribute to a project, the federal government will match the state share, bringing the maximum federal share to 85 percent. Potentially, a local government may depend totally on state and federal funding for a rehabilitation or innovation project.

REHABILITATION grants cannot be used for acquisition of park facilities. Innovation grants can be used for recreation programs as well as facilities.

HCRS used six criteria to come up with its list of eligible governments and applied them to all central cities within an SMSA, cities and towns over 40,000 and counties over 250,000.

The program has been authorized at $150 million for fiscal '79-'82 and $125 million for fiscal '83. The President has requested a $37 million supplemental for fiscal '79 and full funding for fiscal '80.

For more information, contact Sam Hall or Sandy Rives, HCRS, Pension Building, 440 G Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243, or Arleen Sh[illegible]man at NACo.

An explanation of the eligibility determination process and full list of cities and counties was published in the March 14 *Federal Register*.

Counties eligible for Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program grants are:

Alabama
Jefferson
Mobile

Arizona
Maricopa

California
Alameda
Fresno
Kern
Los Angeles
Riverside
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Joaquin
Sonoma

Florida
Dade
Hillsborough
Orange
Pinellas
Polk

Georgia
Fulton

Illinois
Cook
St. Clair

Massachusetts
Bristol
Essex
Hampden
Middlesex
Plymouth
Worcester

Michigan
Wayne

Missouri
Jackson

New Jersey
Camden
Essex
Hudson
Passaic

New Mexico
Bernalillo

New York
Erie
Nassau
Oneida
Onondaga
Suffolk

Ohio
Cuyahoga
Franklin
Hamilton
Lucas
Mahoning

Pennsylvania
Allegheny
Luzerne

South Carolina
Charleston

Texas
Bexar
El Paso
Nueces

Tennessee
Hamilton
Shelby

Wisconsin
Milwaukee

ERIE COUNTY GETS GRANT

Clean Air, Growth to Be Reconciled

ERIE COUNTY, N.Y.—Erie County, N.Y. and the city of Buffalo have received a $500,000 grant to reconcile clean air programs with economic growth and development. The other grant winners are Bridgeport and Waterbury, Conn., Boston, Mass., Elizabeth, N.J., Philadelphia, Pa., Chicago, Ill., Metro Council and Minneapolis, Minn., and Portland, Ore.

Four million dollars in funds for this "Air Quality Technical Assistance Demonstration Program" are provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Transportation. The program recognizes that clean air requirements strongly affect local economies and that strategies must be developed to promote development while achieving clean air.

When this grant program was announced in August 1978, only cities were directly eligible for grants. At that time NACo protested that counties and cities must be equal partners in the quest for economic development and clean air. Since then, cities receiving grants have been strongly encouraged to involve the county agencies in the program through delegation of planning tasks and the pass-through of grant funds.

The Erie County/Buffalo project will develop short- and long-range plans for information management, industrial assistance, and new development patterns.

THE BURDEN ON INDUSTRY

Portions (or all) of Erie county are in violation of four of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and must reduce pollutant concentrations of particulates, sulfar dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone. Existing industries will be required to install and operate expensive pollution control technology.

In addition, new industries and companies wishing to expand existing facilities will have to clean up emissions from other sources in order to offset the pollution that their new facilities will produce. Cleanup must exceed new pollution. Financing pollution control technology and identifying and purchasing emissions offsets can place heavy burdens on industry, thus threatening local economic development and prosperity.

THE ERIE COUNTY/ BUFFALO RESPONSE

The Erie County/Buffalo project will develop two new approaches to ease industry's burden and to encourage industrial expansion. First, the program will reduce the financial burden of pollution cleanup. A nonprofit corporation will be set up to make interest-free loans to small firms with financial problems and the Erie County Industrial Development Administration's program will be expanded to include low-interest loans and tax advantages to larger, financially-secure industries.

This financial assistance for pollution control will help existing industries keep from going under or moving and will make Erie County an attractive site for new facilities.

The project's second approach is a central clearinghouse on emissions offsets available to accommodate new industrial operations. An offset bank will also be established, with emissions privileges to be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Offsets can be created by both private and government action. Private offsets are created when a facility cleans up its polluting operations beyond the level required by law. Public offsets are created by requiring cleanup more rapidly than the federal "reasonable further progress" standard calls for.

Readily available offsets will be a powerful bargaining chip in attracting new industry.

The Erie County/Buffalo experience will provide critical guidance to other counties and cities trying to prosper in the face of economic woes and clean air requirements. Areas that work aggressively to make clean air increments available for new development may soon find industries beating down their doors for construction permits.

LOCAL CLEAN AIR PLANNING GRANTS

The first grant under Section 175 of the Clean Air Act, for local clean air planning, was made in February. A $129,050 grant went to the Metropolitan Service District of Portland, Ore. Funds will be used to plan for cleanup of smog (ozone) and carbon monoxide caused primarily by motor vehicles.

Smog and carbon monoxide cleanup plans are being developed by locally designated lead planning agencies, which are eligible for Section 175 grants. In some cases counties have been given the lead; in other cases regional agencies have the lead. In every case, delegation of planning tasks to affected governments and pass-through of grant money are strongly encouraged by the Environmental Protection Agency. "Relevant" county agencies, such as health and planning departments, should insist on an important role in planning, as well as a share of the grant funds.

In all, about 100 grants totaling $25 million are expected in the very near future. A second round of grants, with another $25 million, will begin in several months.

—Ivan J. Tether
NACoR

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INFORMAL MEETING—Sen. Gary Hart chats with, from left, NACo First Vice President Frank Francois, councilman, Prince George's County, Md.; Pete Mirelez, commissioner, Adams County, Colo.; NACo President Charlotte Williams, commissioner, Genesee County, Mich.

AMENDMENT ROUTE RISKY

Federal Deficit Can Be Cut

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) called the idea of amending the Constitution to require a balanced budget both unnecessary and unwise, adding that decisions on the federal budget and whether to incur a deficit are best handled through statute.

"The problem with a Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget is that it doesn't tell us how to do it," he told more than 1,100 county officials during a March 12 luncheon session at the Legislative Conference.

"If the balance-the-budget bandwagon reaches its goal, it is still up to Congress to adjust taxes and spending to achieve it. Wouldn't it be more efficient and productive if we simply dispensed with this symbolic effort and got on with the tough decisions on how to do it?" he asked.

HART ATTRIBUTED the growing demand for a balanced budget to an outpouring of citizen anger against a government viewed as insensitive and unresponsive.

"People have less control over their lives and government has more," he said. "People see their taxes going up and up and there are no noticeable benefits in return."

Polls show that a majority of citizens support a balanced federal budget, added Hart, but signals over where cuts should be made in order to achieve that balance are clearly mixed.

"What people really want is a more effective government," says Hart, "rather than less government services."

Hart predicted that Congress would debate various ways of effecting a balanced budget and that popular ideas would be to limit spending to the rate of inflation or tie the growth of spending to the gross national product (GNP).

He listed three other ways to immediately bring down the deficit: reduce federal grants-in-aid programs to states and local governments; plug tax loopholes; and balance the book the way states and firms do.

Hart told county officials they would need to work closely with Congress in order to trim some of the 500 current grant programs to state and local governments.

"Programs which have missed their mark, outlived their usefulness, or failed to measure up to standards of effectiveness should be terminated so that federal funds can be focused where they will do the most good," he said.

"**YOU NEED TO** tell us those programs that make the difference," he said. "We need to know the programs that could be cut or eliminated and the ones that must be retained."

Another way of trimming the deficit could be to eliminate tax loopholes, he said. "Unlike other government programs, tax expenditures are exempt from budget review. So they live on and on. Placing a greater tax burden on all of us."

Hart's third way to balance the budget relates to establishing a new "capital" budget. Under this approach long-term capital investments would be separated from current outlays. Most states and most businesses, unlike the federal government, routinely balance only their operating budgets.

Hart also called on Congress to further government reforms by adopting "sunset" legislation for programs which have run their course; overhauling the regulatory process to reduce paperwork, combine regulations where possible and allow flexibility; and considering alternatives to regulations.

"My reading of the trends in government and in politics is that people are getting the government back where they want it. They want less federal spending and it will be reduced. They want fewer federal intrusions into their lives, and that is happening.

"This means, however," he noted, "that there will also be less federal aid to states and local governments, fewer programs and other kinds of federal help."

Brooks Opposes Revenue Sharing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Texas) had harsh words for two programs counties have used to blunt the effects of an inflation-ridden economy—general revenue sharing and countercyclical assistance.

The House Government Operations Committee chairman told the opening general session of county officials at the Legislative Conference, "I strenuously oppose a program that takes money raised through the federal borrowing power and uses that borrowed money to pay for the basic services that local officials are elected to provide."

He charged that under the general revenue sharing program, some local officials know little about where the money is coming from and where it is going.

HE CITED A Brookings Institution report which showed that money from Washington was paying for 27 percent of the basic services the city of Tulsa, Okla. provided its citizens.

"Not only the mayor, but other elected officials were unaware of the full extent of Tulsa's reliance on federal aid," noted Brooks. "I don't have to mention how unaware the public was."

Brooks told his audience that while he understood "what a treat it was for a public official to enjoy the pleasure of spending without the pain of raising money, that the pleasure is running out."

Federal borrowing power has reached its limits, he noted.

The Democratic congressman said he found it "particularly galling" that one-third of general revenue sharing money is turned over to the states, 44 of which are running budget surpluses and many of which have called for a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget.

He suggested to the audience that the states might share some of their surplus with their local units of government.

BROOKS ALSO SHOT barbs at the recently expired countercyclical program which was designed to help communities with high rates of unemployment.

"The program is supposed to help only distressed cities," said Brooks, "but no one has yet suggested an allocation formula that measures distress."

Brooks noted that the danger of relying on federal aid was "clearly shown" when "so many local governments went into a panic last year when the countercyclical aid program ended."

Countercyclical was designed as a temporary measure to help cities recover from the effect of the recession of 1974 and 1975, said Brooks. It was supposed to stop when unemployment fell below 6 percent.

No city or county had any right or reason to include money from that program in its budget after the expiration date of Sept. 30, 1978, said Brooks.

Brooks questioned whether either revenue sharing or countercyclical had done anything to stem the decline of communities and cited another Brookings study which showed that cities were worse off in 1975 than in 1960 despite the federal aid received.

Rep. Brooks

Modest Welfare Gain Predicted

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House Ways and Means Chairman Al Ullman (D-Ore.) told nearly 1,200 delegates gathered for the opening general session not to expect a grandiose—once and for all—welfare reform measure to be passed this year.

Ullman said legislative efforts aimed at welfare reform this year would concentrate on tightening administration, a better restructuring, and standardization of programs. He said the Administration would announce its scaled-down welfare reform bill shortly.

Ullman also predicted that the Administration would support an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit Program—part of the tax law—which helps to bridge the gap between welfare and jobs.

GOOD NEWS for county officials was that Ullman would support a restoration of the Title XX social services ceiling to $2.9 billion—and a possible increase to $3.1 billion—authorization to raise federal funding for child welfare services to $266 million up from its current level of $56 million, and improvements in the child support enforcement program.

Ullman also said that he would support the "cashing out" of food stamps for persons enrolled in the supplemental security income (SSI) program. Such a move would simplify administration and encourage more persons to take advantage of the assistance.

While Ullman did not close all hope on interim welfare fiscal relief until the President's bill would take effect (in fiscal '82) he said "budget tightening would be necessary if we are to move toward the real possibility of a balanced budget by 1981."

Ullman said he supported a balanced federal budget as a "sound road to fiscal discipline" but did not support a constitutional amendment to attain this end.

Rhodes Claims Energy Policies Boost Inflation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—While House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes of Arizona predicted that the need to balance the federal budget would put the brakes on "growth as usual" for local governments, he assured county officials he would continue to support the general revenue sharing program, a major source of federal aid to counties.

"Revenue sharing is under attack," Rhodes told delegates at the March 13 opening general session, noting that some in Congress would argue against renewing the program "to teach the states a lesson."

"Much is made of alleged budget surpluses in the states, although the latest figures show the amount has shrunk drastically under the assault of inflation—and the distribution is quite uneven.

"I believe revenue sharing performs a valuable job," Rhodes noted. "It puts some of the tax dollars back where they were collected. It allows local decisions on spending to be made by local governments—who know what their needs are."

RHODES EMPLOYED a series of "battle" metaphors to address the conference theme, "Inflation and the 96th Congress." He noted that public demand for frugality has created a growing siege mentality in Congress—that has been increasing spending over the past decade—and that county officials could get caught in the cross-fire.

The minority leader reaffirmed his support for a balanced federal budget, but he rejected the idea of a Constitutional amendment as a good way of going about it.

"The budget and spending are not even the same thing," said Rhodes. He described the budget as a proposal—based on estimates of expenditures and revenues. Changing economic conditions affect both, he said.

"The true test of whether Uncle Sam will play his part in helping curb inflation," said Rhodes, "will come if the oft-predicted recession actually arrives. There will be almost irresistable pressure to spend our way out—to take the inflationary road."

While Rhodes criticized President Carter for putting "too little pressure on the anti-inflation brakes for fear of causing high unemployment," he aimed his sharpest blast at the Administration's energy policies.

"No amount of artificial price jiggering can avoid the simple fact that the days of cheap energy are over," he said.

Rhodes charged that the Administration's energy management policies "are mired in paperwork and drowning in a pool of regulation."

"**UTILITIES TAKE** the heat, but government deserves much of the blame," he said. "Strip mining has been cramped by restrictive legislation. The EPA slaps rigid air and water standards on whole areas. Antipollution devices cost a bundle. And regulatory agencies then try to avoid rate increases to pay for federally-mandated boosts in generating costs."

Rhodes called on Congress to exercise its legislative oversight role by weeding out regulatory agencies that have outlived their usefulness and reducing the paperwork burden through simplified and consolidated regulations.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Board Adopts Resolutions, Appoints Members

Continued from page 1
has reached its limit and the federal deficit must be reduced, Williams said that inflation has eaten away at the dollars county government have to spend.

"When it was first passed in 1972, revenue sharing was intended to supplement local budgets—to help cities and counties attack problems they were previously unable to address.

"But as it has turned out, inflation has hit local governments so hard that many have been forced to use revenue sharing dollars just to maintain existing services. If revenue sharing were eliminated, county officials would either have to raise property taxes—a move citizens would surely oppose—or curtail many services," she said.

Williams pointed out that revenue sharing is "the most cost effective" federal aid program. She noted that most federal grants impose lengthy paperwork and reporting requirements on local governments.

"That's the kind of wasteful spending taxpayers want eliminated. But revenue sharing is different. Because the money is automatically channeled to cities and counties, there are few administrative costs. Thus the dollars go where they're intended—directly to services for citizens," she said.

THE CONCERN of the 96th Congress with the effects of inflation was evident in the remarks of other conference speakers. Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) discussed the use of a constitutional amendment to achieve a balanced budget. Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.) and Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.) talked about the outlook for welfare reform in a Congress where fiscal restraint is the watchword.

After hearing from congressional and Administration spokesmen, the NACo Board of Directors met to plan its activities during the coming months, especially in its dealings with Congress and the federal agencies.

In addition to reaffirming its commitment to revenue sharing, the board adopted resolutions and one change in the American County Platform which will serve as interim policy until the annual conference in Jackson County (Kansas City) Mo. in July.

Final action will be taken by the membership at that time. The resolutions dealt with:

- **Disposition of Federal Lands in Alaska.** Reaffirms NACo position on multiple use of federal lands in Alaska, balancing local, social and economic goals. Includes support for H.R. 39 as reported by the House Interior Committee, providing for reservation or protection of 100 million acres of these lands.
- **Opposing Transfer of the Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service from the Department of Agriculture.** Supports the present location of these agencies on the grounds that the Agriculture Department has more experience in multiple use of public lands and that 90 percent of U.S. land area is affected by USDA programs and policies for conservation and use of renewable resources.
- **Mine Safety and Health Act and Regulations.** Asks Congress to exempt counties and other state and local governments from the Federal Mine Safety and Health Amendments Act of 1977 on the grounds that this is an unconstitutional intrusion by the federal government into the affairs of states and their political subdivisions, and that the accompanying burden of paperwork and expenditures is not warranted by any safety considerations.
- **Nuclear Waste Site Selection and Management.** Combines two present resolutions and spells out site selection and development procedures which will involve local government officials at all stages and take local land use plans and policies into consideration. Urges that all costs associated with site development and management be borne by the federal government.
- **Solid and Hazardous Waste Management.** Calls for federal financial and technical assistance to help local governments meet dump closing mandates and sanitary landfill regulations, for a federal fund to mitigate pollution problems caused by hazardous waste disposal, for federal inspection, maintenance and liability insurance for permitted hazardous waste sites, for federal research to reduce the need for hazardous waste landfill disposal, and support for county resource recovery projects.
- **Platform Change in Federal-State Water Resources Policy (Section 5.9).** Adds support for federal assistance for coordinated planning and technical assistance and a pass-through of a substantial portion of such funds to local government. Asks that Congress review and fund projects, including rehabilitation of urban water systems, which are identified as state and local priorities.

On another policy matter, the Executive Committee will be developing a set of NACo action priorities for presentation to the Board of Directors before the annual meeting.

In other action:

- **New Aging Affiliate.** The Board made the proposed Aging Affiliate a permanent affiliate of NACo. Nancy Van Vuuren, director of Allegheny County (Pa.) Adult Services/Area Agency on Aging, has been serving as president of the group.
- **New Board Members.** Three members were appointed to the Board of Directors: Jeff LaCaze, public information officer, East Baton Rouge Parish, La. and president of the National Association of County Information Officers; William N. Morris, mayor, Shelby County, Tenn.; and John Murphy, commissioner, Foster County, N.D.
- **Nominations /Credentials Appointments.** In preparation for the annual conference in July, President Williams announced appointment of the Nominations and Credentials Committees. Former NACo president William O. Beach, Montgomery County, Tenn. will serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee with Gil Barrett, Dougherty County, Ga.; Jack Simmers, Polk County, Fla.; Terrance Pitts, Milwaukee County, Wis.; and Louise Descheeny, Apache County, Ariz. The Credentials Committee will be chaired by Pete Mirelez, Adams County, Colo., with Rosemary Ahmann, Olmsted County, Minn. and Elizabeth Cofield, Wake County, N.C.
- **Annual Conference Fee.** Williams also announced that, in an effort to fight inflation, the Executive Committee had kept the $95 fee for member participation in the annual conference.
- **U.S. Savings Bond Appeal.** Herman Geist, Westchester County, N.Y. delivered an appeal from Westchester County Executive Alfred B. DelBello who was recently appointed to the 1979 U.S. Savings Bonds Industrial Payroll Savings Committee. Board members were asked to increase their counties' participation in the purchase of U.S. savings bonds through payroll savings plans by appointing a county representative to spearhead the effort locally.

LIVELY DEBATE—Members are eager to have their say as NACo's board met at the Legislative Conference.

DEEP IN THOUGHT—Listening attentively to the NACo board proceedings are, from left, Third Vice President John Spellman, Second Vice President Roy Orr and Fourth Vice President J. Richard Conder.

Moynihan Faults Carter's Commitment to Welfare

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) charged the Administration with "seemingly abandoning" the goal shared by every presidency since Kennedy—a guaranteed income for every American.

"If the President has abandoned the idea of welfare reform," he said, "we deserve greater candor." He called on the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) to offer an explanation.

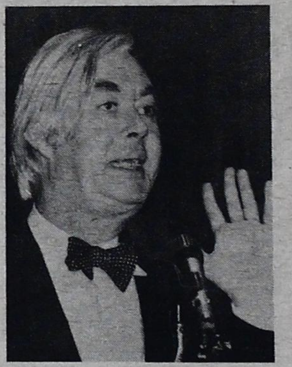
Moynihan told a luncheon session of delegates to the Legislative Conference that what the Administration plans to offer as welfare reform legislation this year is known as "tireless tinkering."

"We will not be asked to assure a minimum standard of cash to every citizen," he noted. "Rather we will be asked to make a few modest changes in the earned income tax credit and the program of aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) and to expand the number of federally subsidized jobs that are available for welfare recipients."

He said that requiring states to make intact families eligible for AFDC benefits and requiring states to set their own welfare benefits at not less than 65 percent of the poverty line "amounts simply to mandating provisions that are already permitted and encouraged by the existing program."

MOYNIHAN CHARGED that incremental welfare changes tend to siphon more resources out of states such as New York, with relatively high welfare benefits and high tax efforts, and into places such as the South and Southwest that choose to keep welfare benefits low.

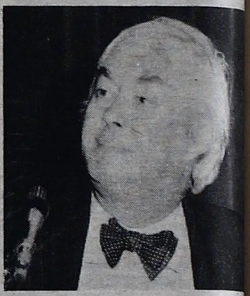
In fact, he claimed in 22 of the 24 states where the poor would benefit most from the President's proposals, tax capacity presently exceeds tax efforts, sometimes by billions of dollars.

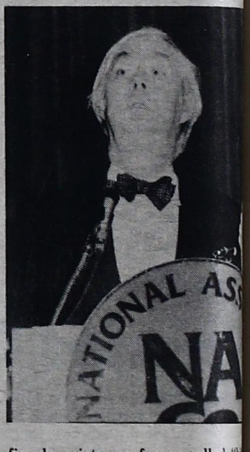


Moynihan, who served in four administrations before becoming a U.S. senator, said that while much progress has been made toward eliminating poverty, efforts are still incomplete.

- "First, the manner in which we provide for the poor is absurdly—and unnecessarily—complicated.
- "Second, vexing and inequitable differences remain from one state or locality to the next, because ending poverty has not yet been adequately recognized as a national responsibility.
- "Third, we have not achieved the single most important objective of national social welfare policy: the assurance of a minimum level of cash income for every American, regardless of location, individual circumstance and family condition," he said.

In his prepared text, Moynihan traced recent legislative developments regarding welfare reform, ending with the recent vote by the full House Ways and Means Committee to reject a reduced $200 million in fiscal assistance for so-called "high benefit" states.



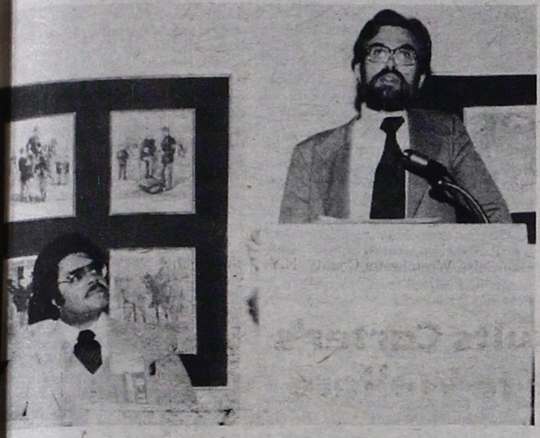


He said the chance of the action being reversed in the Budget Committee was "slim."

"I would be less than candid with you if I did not share my impression that some element of this reluctance to set aside even the smallest of sums for purposes of profound importance to state and local governments (and their taxpayers) arises from a curious sort of vindictiveness toward those who are pressing for a forcibly balanced budget," noted Moynihan.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—The need for legislation to help counties curb violence within the home and respond to the needs of the victims was the focus of a workshop. Shown, from left, are Jack Wickes, Senate Human Resources Committee; Nancie Crabb, councilwoman, Duval County, Fla.; and Mimi Griffith, office of Rep. Lindy Boggs (D-La.).



COUNTIES AND THE ARTS—Johnnie Smith, left, chairman, NACo Task Force on the Arts and councilman, Greenville County, S.C., listens as Yankee Johnson, executive director, King County (Wash.) Arts Commission describes his county program.

AFFILIATE MEETING—The Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators met with NACo President Charlotte Williams and First Vice President Frank Francois to discuss the role of affiliates and the staff resources available in the association. From left are Gwen Baskett, CIC president and federal aid coordinator, Cuyahoga County Ohio; President Williams; Vice President Francois; Cliff Tuck, director of intergovernmental coordination, Shelby County, Tenn.

SLASHING RED TAPE—Carl Stenberg, associate director, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations discusses grants reform. Also on the panel were, from left, Link Hoewing, Senate subcommittee on intergovernmental relations; Suzanne Muncy, grants coordinator, Montgomery County, Md.; and Michael Mitchell, ACIR.

INFLATION PLANS—NACo leaders met at the White House with the President's chief inflation adviser Alfred Kahn. From left are Gil Barrett, Dougherty County, Ga.; Lois Parke, New Castle County, Del.; NACo Second Vice President Roy Orr; NACo President Charlotte Williams; Kahn; NACo First Vice President Frank Francois; NACo Fourth Vice President J. Richard Conder; William Beach, Montgomery County, Tenn.; and Guy Millard, Somerset County, N.J.

NACo Leaders Talk with Inflation Chief

WASHINGTON, D.C.—NACo representatives met with Alfred Kahn, the President's anti-inflation adviser, during NACo's Legislative Conference last week.

The White House meeting was another in a series of meetings between the anti-inflation group and NACo. The discussion reviewed actions which local governments can take to ease inflationary pressures as well as additional actions the federal government should consider.

In addition to President Charlotte Williams, NACo officers attending the meeting were First Vice President, Francis B. Francois, councilman, Prince George's County, Md.; Second Vice President Roy Orr, commissioner, Dallas County, Texas; Third Vice President John Spellman, county executive, King County, Wash.; Fourth Vice President J. Richard Conder, chairman, board of commissioners, Richmond County, N.C.; and Fiscal Officer Guy Millard, administrator, Somerset County, N.J.

Also present were past NACo presidents William O. Beach, judge, Montgomery County, Tenn. and Gil Barrett, commissioner, Dougherty County, Ga.; Lois Parke, councilman, New Castle County, Del. and chairman, NACo Taxation and Finance Steering Committee; and Bernard F. Hillenbrand, NACo executive director.

NACo's leadership was asked to enlist county government support for the President's anti-inflation program by suggesting they do the following:

Pass a resolution supporting the President's anti-inflation program (see model resolution).

Pledge compliance with the voluntary wage and price standards; write a letter to the Council on Wage and Price Stability expressing this intention and release the letter to the local press.

Encourage local businesses and labor groups to comply with the standards by:

- Resolution;
- Contacting the 50 largest businesses and labor organizations in your jurisdiction directly and asking that a letter stating their intention to comply be sent to the county and to CWPS;
- Involving citizen and community groups in this effort;
- Distribute and make available the Wage and Price Standards to all appropriate groups and all interested citizens (i.e., guide for small businesses).

Establish an anti-inflation task force, committee or subcommittee to examine and recommend possible anti-inflation activities and review the suggested policies in the President's Anti-Inflation Program. This task force should be composed of representatives of all segments of the community (government, business, labor, consumers, etc.).

Adopt procurement policies that support the wage and price standards. These policies should direct that the county will purchase goods and services, above a certain dollar amount, only from companies in compliance with the standards. Some jurisdictions may find it impossible to do so through changes in regulations; others will need legislative action.

MODEL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The most urgent problem now facing our country is the control of inflation; and

WHEREAS, each citizen of this country is directly affected by inflationary pressures; and

WHEREAS, every citizen and all government bodies must do their part to help fight inflation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the (county/city) pledges to make the control of inflation its number one priority. Furthermore, the (county/city) pledges to implement and adhere to the policies of the President's Anti-Inflation Program and to encourage other government entities, businesses and private citizens to do the same.

As part of this resolve, we pledge to:

- Comply with the voluntary wage and price standards and to encourage local businesses and labor groups to do the same;
- Establish an Anti-Inflation Task Force made up of representatives from all segments of the community to examine and review policy suggestions of the President's State and Local Anti-Inflation Program, and make recommendations as to the applicability of these and other anti-inflation initiatives;
- Make the consideration of the potential inflationary impact a part of the decision-making process on all matters coming before this body, with particular emphasis on spending and tax policy.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Workshops Cover Crucial Issues

Rural Policy On the Way

The Administration's new rural policy will be announced in a few months, according to Larry Gilson of the White House domestic staff. It will deal with fundamental problems of overcoming isolation and building economic vitality in rural areas while preserving the unique quality of rural life.

Speaking to a rural development workshop, Gilson said the policy aims at a "clear sense of mission and clear direction," and will be used as programs are developed to see that these principles are incorporated in legislation.

At the same session Rep. Wes Watkins (D-Okla.), chairman of the Congressional Rural Caucus, expressed distrust of a policy which is not backed by dollars. He said citizens of communities of less than 50,000 are "second class citizens," subject to "red lining" in federal programs.

He said his experience had been that programs offered to both urban and rural areas usually ran out of funds before rural needs could be taken care of and that the delivery mechanisms are based on urban realities. For example, he said, mortgage loan guarantees are of no value when there is not a mortgage banker within several hours drive of a rural community.

GILSON POINTED out that the President's plans include more than policy. Improvements are already planned in the areas of rural health, housing, water and sewer, transportation and development. Within the next four years, he said, 300 primary health care clinics will be established, with a manpower component which will train 100 paraprofessionals for rural areas.

Through the cooperation of six cabinet level departments, there will be immediate improvements in red tape and crosscutting requirements, he said, and in early April, a program will be announced to improve rural transportation systems including small commuter rail and branch lines.

Jim Gilmeier, professional staff of the Senate Agriculture Committee, expressed the view that, despite budget constraints, there was a good chance that the Rural Development Bank, first introduced in 1971, would come into existence.

NACo's TOP PRIORITY—Lois Parke, councilman, New Castle County, Del. and chairman of NACo's Taxation and Finance Steering Committee plans for the reenactment of revenue sharing with John Duncan, House Government Operations Committee.

Jobs May Shrink

Fear that funding for public service jobs may be in jeopardy dominated a March 12 workshop on the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

John V.N. Klein, executive of Suffolk County, N.Y. pointed out that the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Labor-HEW appropriations voted by a mere 13-11 not to cut $465 million in CETA '79 funds. "This indicates the cliff-hanging nature of the program," said Klein.

That view was backed by James Sourwine of that Senate subcommittee who told county officials, because there were funds to be carried over into 1980, it would be easy for Congress to recommend budget cuts. He added that since funding has been authorized for the last two years through a last-minute continuing resolution, it has been difficult to plan ahead for the required funding.

Peggy Taylor of the House Budget Committee pointed out that CETA is a highly controllable program since 75 percent of its funds are spent in the year they are appropriated. This makes CETA more vulnerable than entitlement programs or programs with forward funding, she said.

County officials were concerned that the number of public service jobs in the community was falling because local governments were hesitant to fill jobs in the face of uncertain funding. This, in turn, they feared, might make it easier for Congress to recommend lower funding in the future.

Cuts Hurting Youth

The proposed $50 million cut in juvenile justice funds for fiscal '80 would severely hamper the efforts of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to undertake new initiatives and would cause many states to withdraw from participation in the formula grants program, according to spokesmen at the Legislative Conference.

John Rector, administrator of OJJDP, indicated his agency would have to review all its current discretionary and special emphasis activ ties for reductions in funding as we as grant terminations. One progra in danger would be a new "viole juvenile offender" program propos for next year.

House human resources subcom mittee staff director Gordon Rale stated that the formula grant pr gram would be particularly affect if the cuts took place. He note that the number of states receivi the minimum $225,000 allocati would rise from three to 17 under th Administration's proposed budg He said that the budget reduces th act's emphasis on state and loc programs.

"PEOPLE DON'T seem to unde stand what they're talking abo obligation, expenditure, or outl when testifying before Congress added Senate administrative pra tices subcommittee staffer Kathle Keest. Discussing the Administr tion's rationale that too much mon remains unspent in the juvenile ju tice program, Keest pointed out th Senate Appropriations Committ staff members are uncertain wh funds remain in the pipeline and ha asked for more information befo making final decisions.

Both Raley and Keest had fav able news to report to county offici on preliminary figures for the Juve ile Justice Act. Keest announced th the Senate Appropriations subco mittee on State, Commerce and Ju tice had recommended an appropri tion of $75 million for fiscal '8 and the Judiciary Committee w considering a $110 million appropri tion.

Raley also stated that the Hou Education and Labor Committee h forwarded a $100 million figure the House Budget Committee la week.

All three panelists discussed authorization of the Juvenile Justi Act next year. Rector indicated th a Department of Justice task force reauthorization has completed work and a copy of its report wo be available soon. The Administrati must send its proposal to Congre by May 15.

Counties to Aid Census

Delegates at the Legislative Conference heard Ann Liddle, demographic program coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau, explain an important innovation for the 1980 census called the Local Review Program.

Liddle noted that the program is intended to give local government officials in 39,000 counties, cities and towns an opportunity to review detailed counts of population and housing, and to inform the bureau of potential errors.

"The program is being undertaken by the Census Bureau in the belief that the input of local officials will contribute significantly to the accuracy and success of the census," she said.

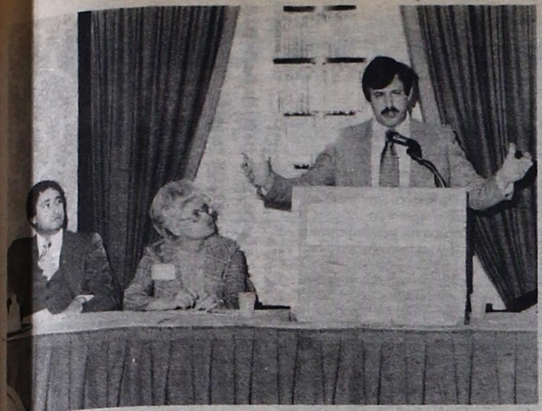
Last month 39,000 local governments were notified of the Local Review Program. The letters, sent to the highest elected official of each jurisdiction, also requested that a liaison be appointed to work with the Bureau of the Census.

Liddle reported that so far, 24,000 jurisdictions have responded to the letter, and asked if any counties have not responded, to do so as soon as possible.

She also mentioned that if a county executive, or chairman of the board or council has not received the notification, he or she should write to Earle Gerson, Chief of the Decennial Census Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

WISE USE OF FEDERAL GRANTS—A workshop on grants management heard from several experienced grants coordinators. From left are Gwen Baskett, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, president, NACo Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators; Laura Muckenfuss, Greenville County, S.C.; William Gaskell, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, president, National Association of County Administrators; Clifford Tuck, Shelby County, Tenn; Richard Bartholomew, Suffolk County, N.Y.; and Eileen Maloney, Dade County, Fla.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—Shown here discussing Economic Devel ment legislation are, from left, Vernon Martin, President, National As ciation of Development Organizations; Richard Green, staff, Senate s committee on regional development; and Robert Hall, Assistant Secret of Commerce for Economic Development.



COUNTY AIRPORTS—Panelists outline airport legislation. From left are Chip Barkley, Senate Commerce Committee; Katie Dusenberry, supervisor, Pima County, Ariz.; Robert Aaronson, acting associate administrator for airports, Federal Aviation Administration.

LIABILITY CRISIS—A workshop on county liability drew a large audience to hear, from left, Michael Klipper, legislative assistant to Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.) and county attorneys Donald L. Clark, San Diego County, Calif.; Francis Patrick McQuade, Essex County, N.J.; Howard E. Pachman, Suffolk County, N.Y.; and William E. Ready, Lauderdale County, Miss.

PRESERVING AGRICULTURAL LANDS—Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) discusses the effect of federal actions on the loss of agricultural lands.

Panel Eyes LEAA Bills

The administrator-designate for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Henry Dogin said his experience working in state and local government in New York taught him that, "if you understand everything about county government, you can understand everything about government in this nation."

Dogin told a workshop session of county officials attending the Legislative Conference that, in the past, LEAA has been perceived as an agency involved in funding mainly hardware programs and enmeshed in red tape. He asked for help from local elected officials in cutting administrative regulations and in better targeting the program to local needs.

AT THE SAME workshop session, Kenneth Feinberg of Sen. Edward Kennedy's staff said the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979 benefits counties more than any other group. He said that the senator's bill, S. 241, offers local governments direct assistance in the form of entitlements and a fund distribution formula that recognizes county expenditures for all aspects of criminal justice—especially for courts, corrections, prosecution, and public defense services.

Hayden Gregory, a staffer for the House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, offered as an alternative, H.R. 2108, which was introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), chairman of the subcommittee. Gregory proposed that the population criteria for eligible counties be lowered from 250,000 (as in the Kennedy bill) to 100,000. The criteria for city entitlement is 100,000 population.

Gregory also advocated a focusing of formula funds into four broad areas—community anti-crime, juvenile justice, white collar crime, and programs to develop alternatives to the traditional criminal justice process.

SUBCOMMITTEE hearings on the reauthorization bills will be concluded by the end of March. County officials were urged to contact their congressmen and senators and ask them to support reauthorization of the LEAA program with direct entitlement provisions to reduce red tape but with incentives for cities and counties to plan together in preparing applications.

The President's budget request included a $110 million cut in the LEAA program. NACo and other public interest groups have asked Congress to restore the funds.

Rationing Said Last Resort

Spokesmen for the Department of Energy's Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA) warned that if voluntary energy conservation measures fail, Americans may be faced with mandatory gas rationing.

The voluntary measures include carpooling, obeying the 55-miles-per-hour speed limit and turning down home and office thermostats. The DOE spokesmen claimed that the United States could reduce its oil consumption by 600 thousand barrels per day, more than enough to offset the Iranian cutbacks.

In addition, DOE will consider suspending sulphur standards and ask the Environmental Protection Agency to lower its lead level requirements to allow greater use of heavy fuel oil and other energy sources.

At a Legislative Conference workshop session an ERA spokesman described rationing as a "painful, complex action we want to avoid." He said that the rationing plan sent to Congress March 1 is a request for an "addition to the nation's emergency preparedness ability." The proposal parallels U.S. oil shortages of nearly 500 thousand barrels per day due to Iranian cutbacks.

MANDATORY CONSERVATION measures if put into effect, would include strict controls on building thermostats, weekend gas sale restrictions for all except essential vehicles (ambulances, fire trucks, etc.) and advertising lighting prohibition on all nonessential signs.

Each of the proposed mandatory conservation plans allows states to request exemption from implementation if they implement an alternative plan that saves as much or more energy in the same sector.

DOE's standby gas rationing plan would allocate ration checks redeemable for coupons good for 5 gallons of gas. Allotments would be based on the type of vehicle, with all passenger cars receiving the same allotment. Trucks would receive larger allotments.

States and counties would receive supplementary allotment checks for public services. Farmers would also receive additional checks for running tractors and other equipment needed for food production, he noted.

The spokesman said that the biggest role state and local governments could play is in the transmittal of state vehicle registration files which will be the prime source for the number of ration checks dispersed. He estimated that it will cost nearly $6.5 million to get these files in order.

County exemption requests under the rationing program would have to be processed through the state and sent to the ERA. State refusal to process these claims would allow the county to appeal directly to the ERA through its office of hearings and appeals.

The DOE panelists: Andy Fang, ERA; Jim Mackey, ERA; Bob Price, policy and evaluation; and Carl Guston, public affairs stated that they will be working closely with state and local governments and their representatives to ensure that the concerns of all levels are considered in the development of these emergency measures.

Expect Public Pension Bill

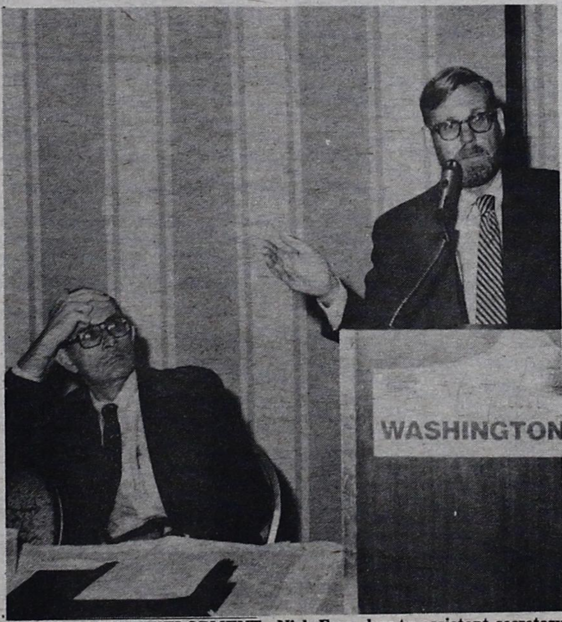
Legislation is expected to be introduced within the next month along the lines of last year's Public Employees Retirement Income Security Act (PERISA).

Speaking at a Legislative Conference workshop, Russell Mueller of the House subcommittee on labor standards Task Force on Welfare and Pension Plans, predicted that legislation would not be delayed until the newly appointed presidential commission on retirement security reports. The 11-member commission will be examining the related issues of universal Social Security coverage, coordination of Social Security with private sector retirement plans, and federal regulation of state and local retirement plans.

Last year's PERISA bill was introduced by Reps. John Dent (D-Pa.) and John Erlenborn (D-Ill.) and would have imposed federal standards for state and local government pension plans in the areas of reporting and disclosure, fiduciary responsibility and plan administration. It would also have clarified Internal Revenue Code provisions as they relate to public pension plans.

Michael Mett, supervisor, Milwaukee County, Wis. and former chairman of NACo's Task Force on Pensions, made it clear that counties could voluntarily make changes in their plans which would meet actuarial and auditing requirements and place the plans on a sound footing. NACo opposes federal regulation of state and local government pension systems.

Mett said that a major problem facing county officials is uncertainty in the interpretation of present laws and conflicting court decisions. One issue of vital importance, he said, was the extent of elected officials' liability if such officials vote in favor of a retirement plan which is underfunded and therefore not actuarially sound. He pointed out that the proposed law explicitly relieves elected officials from liability and thus raises a question of their current responsibility.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT—Nick Farr, deputy assistant secretary for community planning and development, HUD, discusses issues relating to reauthorization of the community development block grant program. Seated is Jim Scott, supervisor, Fairfax County, Va. and chairman of NACo's Community Development Steering Committee.

UMTA Unveils Urban Program

Charles Bingman, deputy administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, predicted that a reorganization plan to combine highway and transit operations in a new Surface Transportation Administration would be ready by late spring.

Speaking at a March 13 workshop at the Legislative Conference, Bingman said that such a coordinated approach would mirror the way state and local governments already combine such operations on a day-to-day basis.

Bingman disclosed that, as a result of the Surface Transportation Act of 1978, UMTA will be moving in several policy directions. A new urban initiatives program would use transportation funds to help revitalize "distressed" urban areas and stimulate economic development around transportation centers. Criteria will soon be announced, he said, for local governments wanting to take advantage of this opportunity.

UMTA will also be giving final form within the next two months to its regulations making transportation more accessible to the handicapped, Bingman said. It will also develop a policy statement on the funding of small, flexible paratransit operations in cooperation with the private sector.

Prop 13 Sparks Initiative Process

By Neal R. Peirce

Commentary

NEW YORK—The route of direct people's lawmaking—the initiative process which bypasses legislatures and forces issues onto ballots for popular decision—has returned to the national political agenda in the biggest way since the floodtides of the Progressive movement 70 years ago.

Led by California's now (in)famous Proposition 13, there were close to 350 citizen-generated initiatives and referendums on already-passed laws on state ballots last year, a record for off-year elections. Twenty-one of the 27 states which don't have an initiative process for new legislation in their constitutions, including New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Georgia, Texas and Illinois, will consider the idea this year.

Leaders of Initiative America, a Washington-based group pressing for expansion of the initiative across the country, predict at least 50 cosponsors in this Congress for the proposed constitutional amendment to permit nationwide initiatives, petitions and votes.

BEFORE 1978 the most visible proponents of initiatives were liberals anxious to bypass special-interest controlled legislatures and get direct people's votes on consumer laws, nuclear power plants and "clean" government reforms. Proposition 13, however, created a dramatic opening to the right for the initiative idea. Tax-cutting proposals were on 15 state ballots last fall and 10 passed. Now conservative leaders and columnists want the initiative broadened to let the people express their naturally conservative feelings on taxes and other issues from coast to coast.

But, warns Austin Ranney, co-editor of the American Enterprise Institute's new book, "Referendums," the "overarching conclusion" of this review of many years' experience is that the initiative "is not intrinsically either a conservative or a liberal device—it's neither." While conservatives often win on anti-tax, anti-busing or pro-death penalty votes, liberals have frequently claimed dramatic advances on environmental, consumer and government ethics measures.

The classic arguments for the initiative have changed little since the device was first introduced during the Progressive era to curb legislatures notorious for chicanery and unsavory lobby control. The successful argument in 1911 in California, notes University of California Prof. Eugene Less, was that the initiative "would neutralize special-interest groups, curtail corruption, provide a vehicle for civic education, create pressure on state officials to act in the public interest, and ultimately make "every man his own legislature."

CRITICS FIND the initiative a mischievous device that undercuts representative government by taking lawmaking out of the hands of legislators elected to do the job. Complex issues are reduced to fast "yes" or "no" decisions by voters all too often swayed by misleading television commercials financed by well-heeled special-interest groups.

Initiative campaigns, critics say, often center on "hate and fear" social issues, emphasizing emotion over reason. Minority rights can be endangered by mindless majorities. Initiatives are often crudely drafted. They leave no room for the give and take of legislative debate, for the kind of compromise that makes laws more workable.

No state that once instituted the initiative has ever repealed it. Initiatives seem likely to spread in this day of weakened political parties and drastically diminished faith in government. The question now is: How can we have the "safety valve" of occasional initiatives when legislatures are paralyzed in action, yet discourage cluttering the ballot with emotional and sloppily written initiatives that systematically undercut representative government?

Last month in New York, the National Municipal League convened its special initiatives committee to thrash out that question. The League, a citizens' group founded in 1894 by such leaders as Theodore Roosevelt and Louis Brandeis, can claim an illustrious history in pushing such reforms as the council-manager form of local government, the short ballot, state constitutional revision and model ethics laws. During the progressive era it supported the direct initiative and even published a book on the subject; later it backed off the idea. At last month's meeting, the problem was: What to do now?

THE NEW PROPOSAL: that states should opt for the indirect, rather than the direct initiative. The difference is simple enough: under direct initiative, a measure automatically goes on the ballot when enough petition signatures are obtained. With a majority vote, it becomes law. Under the indirect initiative, petition signatures are also required. But when enough are filed, the proposal first goes to the legislature, which may appro[ve,] modify or reject the measure. If rejected or sharply amended, sponsors may force it to a vote of [the] people.

The indirect initiative is [no] panacea, but there are power[ful] arguments in its favor. It streng[th]ens, rather than weakens represe[nt]ative democracy by forcing le[gis]lators to come to grips with [an] idea they may have sought to av[oid] before. It brings into play the fo[rces] of moderation, compromise, comm[on] sense so often lacking in di[rect] initiatives.

Neither fervent pro- or a[nti-] initiative zealots will quickly [em]brace the indirect initiative and [it's] unlikely to go far in the 18 sta[tes] that now have direct initiat[ives.] (While proposed in California, [it] hasn't even been able to clear c[om]mittee.) But to legislators in sta[tes] considering initiatives for the f[irst] time, it could have strong appeal.

It cuts lawmakers into, rat[her] than out of, the action. Austin R[an]ney calls it a "tolerable co[m]promise." And "tolerable co[m]promises" are the social glue wh[ich] binds this nation of infinitely var[ied] ethnicities and value syste[ms] together.

Third Urban County Congress

May 24-25
Washington Hilton Hotel

Co-sponsored by: The National Council of Elected County Executives and NACo's Urban Affairs Committee

NACo's Urban County Congress will set its sights on the urban county of the '80s. The vision of a modern, responsive, efficiently run urban county offering a spectrum of services to its citizens can be reality. Learn how you can help build the county of the future.

Purpose: To convey the key role urban counties play in the federal system and why that role must be strengthened.

Who should participate? Urban county elected and appointed officials, federal officials, members of congress and their staffs and the national news media.

Program sessions will focus on the role of urban counties in solving problems and the developments that can be expected in the '80s.

Key issues to be discussed include jobs, housing, community development, energy, transportation, social services, local government modernization and an agenda for the 1980s.

Delegates at NACo's Third Urban County Congress can both preregister for the conference and reserve hotel space by completing this form and returning it to: **NACo Conference Registration Center, 1735 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006, Attn. Urban County Congress Coordinator.**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Conference registration fees must accompany this form before hotel reservations will be processed. Enclose check, official county purchase order or equivalent. No conference registration will be made by phone. **Refunds of the registration fee will be made if cancellation is necessary provided that written notice is postmarked no later than May 10, 1979.**

Conference registration fees: $95 Delegate, $50 Spouse (Make payable to NACo Urban County Congress)

Name______________________
(Last) (First) (Initial)

County______________________ Title______________________

Address______________________

City______________ State______________ Zip______________

Telephone (________)______________

Name of Registered Spouse______________________

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Check Number______________ Check Amount______________

Date Received______________ Date Postmarked______________

HOTEL RESERVATIONS (Washington Hilton Hotel)

Special conference rates will be guaranteed to all delegates whose reservations are postmarked by April 27, 1979. After that da[te] available housing will be assigned on a first come basis. Delegates must register for the conference in order to receive hotel accommodations in NACo's block of rooms and receive the conference rate.

Indicate preference by circling the type of room (lowest rate available will be reserved unless otherwise requested):

Single $40-$56 Double $54-$70

Note: Suite information from Conference Registration Center 703/471-5761.

Name of individual______________________

Co-occupant if Double______________________

*Arrival Date/Time______________ Departure Date/Time______________

Special Hotel Requests______________________

Credit Card Name______________ Card Number______________ Expiration Date______________

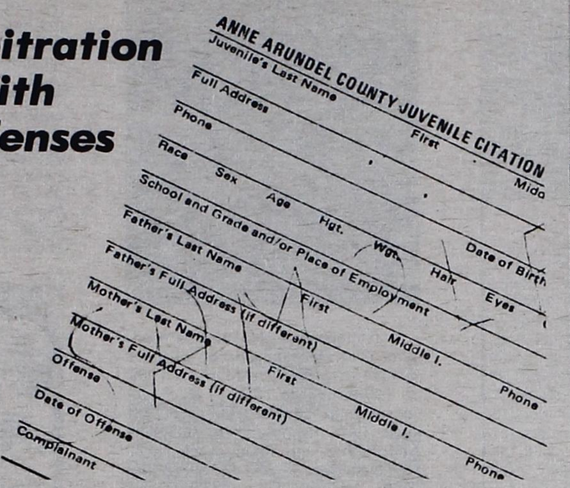
( ) Check here if you have a housing related disability.

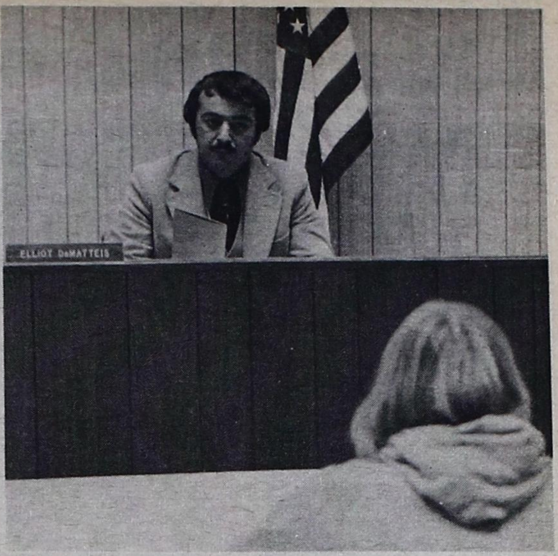
*Hotel reservations are only held until 6 p.m. on the arrival day. If you anticipate arriving near or after that time, list a credit card n[umber] and number to guarantee your first night reservation.

For further housing information call NACo Conference Registration Center: 703/471-6180

Youth in Trouble

Using Arbitration to Deal With Minor Offenses





ARBITRATION HEARING—A court-like setting is used to stress the importance of the arbitration hearing.

It is estimated that approximately 3 million youths come in contact with law enforcement agencies across the country each year. Another 2 million are processed by these various agencies and over one half of them are released without formal charge or referral to juvenile authorities.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, Md.—A Community Arbitration Program here is working to bring swift justice to juveniles who commit minor offenses and to give caseworkers and patrolmen more time to devote to serious juvenile crime.

Anne Arundel youth accused of committing a misdemeanor are issued a citation by a police officer who notes the offense and schedules an appearance before an arbitrator within seven working days.

THIS WAY OF handling minor juvenile offenses is in marked contrast to the lengthy and involved procedures of previous years.

Over a decade ago the Maryland State Legislature passed a law requiring that county departments of youth screen every complaint filed against a juvenile. Consequently a series of "intake units" were established to handle the complaints, assess the needs of the young person accused and the community, and make arrangements for those children whose cases would go to court.

By 1973 Anne Arundel County's Intake Unit was suffering from a massive backlog of cases. The average time required to process a case was four to six weeks. This lengthy delay created a number of problems:

- Youths were committing additional offenses between the time they were charged for the first offense and the time the case was reviewed by intake unit staff;
- Arresting a juvenile, booking him and appearing in court consumed a great deal of police officers' time;
- Parents were only minimally involved in the cases, and the victim had few recourses.

Most importantly, however, after these lengthy delays the juvenile was either sent to formal adjudication or, in the majority of cases, was given minimal attention and dismissed without a warning. This created public frustration with the juvenile justice system because, as many citizens saw it, the youths were merely receiving a "slap on the wrist" and sent on their way.

RESPONDING TO these growing problems, the Anne Arundel County Office of Juvenile Services Administration designed a Community Arbitration Program with the idea of providing a quick and positive response to the offenders' behavior and to the community.

One of the first ideas tried was issuing a traffic-ticket-type citation to the youthful offender. Copies are given to the juvenile, his/her parents, and the complainant. The idea of the citation is two-fold: first, it shows the juvenile that the system holds him/her accountable for the action, and second, it informs the victim that some action is being taken by the system against the offender.

A side benefit of the citation is that it has reduced the time police spend in travel and doing paperwork. The arbitration program frees the patrolman from having to book the juvenile, file lengthy paperwork following the arrest and appear in court to testify about the alleged offense, and allows him to spend more time on patrol. Police also note that as a result of the citations, they are receiving fewer complaints and inquiries from victims and they are able to remove themselves from certain high-tension situations more easily.

THE ARBITRATION hearing is held in a court-like setting which visually emphasizes to the juvenile his/her involvement in the system. The hearing is conducted by an arbitrator/lawyer who reviews the case for sufficient evidence for the state. He also determines whether the juvenile's behavior constitutes an offense. The youth may be represented by counsel at the hearing; if he cannot afford a lawyer but requests one a public defender is appointed. Every effort is made during the hearing to protect the juvenile's legal rights.

If the youth is found guilty at the hearing, he is placed in a 90-day volunteer community work assignment. A field supervisor talks with the youth and together they choose a community work project. The supervisor monitors the assignments to ensure that the youth is not being taken advantage of; acts as a buffer between the youth and the organization if any problems arise; and provides transportation, counseling or back-up services the youth may need to complete the program. When the youth has successfully completed the work assignment the case is closed.

The Community Arbitration Program has resulted in several benefits for the community. Removing the misdemeanants, the largest group of youths referred by police, from the purview of the regular intake staff has allowed them more time to devote to more serious delinquent offenders and intensive family casework. Estimated savings in travel time and man-hours for police is equivalent to six full-time patrolmen per year.

The Anne Arundel County Community Arbitration Program is an innovative idea that has received exemplary status from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration for its work. For further information about the program contact Wendy Gressman, Juvenile Justice Program, NACoR.

"WORKING OFF" OFFENSE—A CAP youth works in a volunteer community project as social restitution for his offense.

MICHIGAN TRI-COUNTY STUDY

CETA Means New Start for Welfare Mothers

INGHAM COUNTY, Mich.—Participation in CETA tends to reduce financial dependency of welfare recipients and increase their earning power, according to a two-year study conducted by the Lansing Tri-County Regional Manpower Consortium. In addition, the findings indicate that the welfare savings exceed the dollar investment in CETA.

These two significant findings add more fuel to the ongoing debate over whether the federal government should direct its efforts to help the needy by increasing cash benefits or providing employment and training opportunities.

The Lansing Tri-County Regional Manpower Consortium designed a program to provide vocational counseling and job skill training for female heads of households (FHOH) receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). From Oct. 1, 1976 to Sept. 30, 1978, this CETA-funded program aided over 246 female heads of household on welfare, with a total program cost of $270,270.

The manpower consortium cooperated with three other agencies to operate the program. Participants were recruited by the Ingham County Social Services Department, provided vocational counseling by the Ingham County vocational-technical institution, and offered classroom training by Lansing Community College. The participants explored a variety of careers with emphasis on nontraditional jobs for women, including electrical and carpentry careers.

After classroom training, participants were either given unsubsidized employment or were referred to other agencies for job placement. Of the 246 women participating, 125 completed the program. Of those who finished, 45 successfully found jobs, a 36 percent placement rate. An additional 13 women left the program for other positive reasons such as returning to school or entering another subsidized employment program.

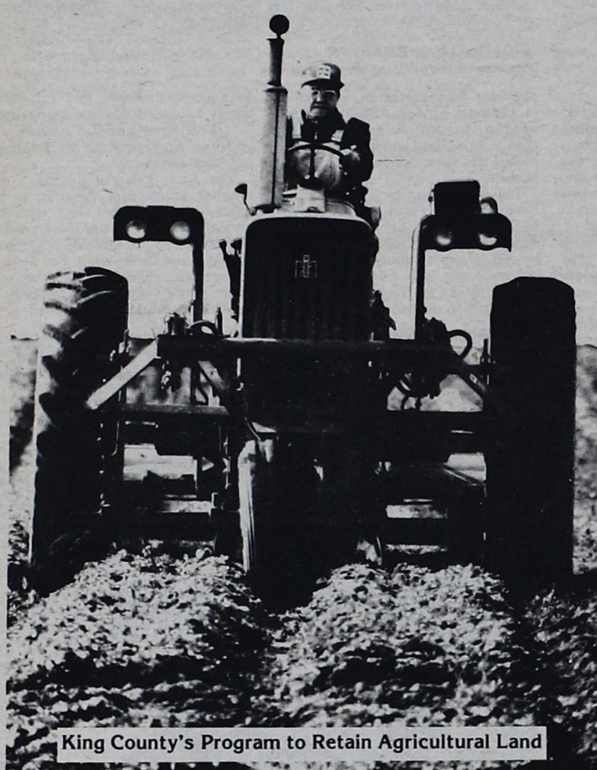
THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE of the study was to estimate the amount of welfare savings attributable to enrollee participation in the CETA-FHOH program by comparing the welfare savings to the CETA costs.

The study involved a "control group" of 27 welfare recipients (randomly chosen) who had not enrolled in the CETA-FHOH program and a "treatment group" of 45 women who had left the program for a positive or nonpositive reason. The design involved calculating the amount of the welfare grants before and after CETA-FHOH training. The differences between the two groups were then compared.

The data clearly shows a positive correlation between CETA-FHOH program participation and welfare savings:

- Women in the treatment group had an average welfare cost reduction of $97 per month more than women in the central group.
- Women who left the program for positive reasons had an average welfare grant reduction of $228 per month compared to $69 per month for those who did not participate in the program at all.
- Women who left the program for nonpositive reasons had a greater reduction in welfare grants ($92 per month) than those who did not participate at all. This implies that even expenditures for nonpositive terminations in CETA-FHOH training produced greater welfare savings than were experienced by nonparticipants in CETA training.
- A five-year CETA-FHOH cost/welfare saving ratio is estimated at 4.46, that is, one dollar expended in a CETA program would reduce welfare costs by $4.50.
- Within one year after training, the welfare savings resulting from this program would offset the cost of this program.

Old MacDonald still ~~had~~ was a farm



King County's Program to Retain Agricultural Land

Office of Agriculture
Rm. 300 Administration Bldg.
500 4th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
344-7541

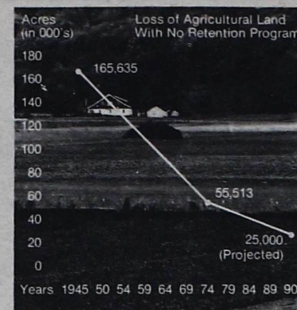
King County's Program To Retain Agricultural Land

Farming has always been a part of King County. As the county has become increasingly urban in character, agriculture has declined in importance and now faces serious threats to its survival. Over the past three years, the County Executive and County Council have taken steps designed to halt the disappearance of farmland and to protect the county's agricultural industry and heritage.

Farming In King County

Farming is dependent on fertile land — a scarce and finite natural resource. In King County it is located in the river valleys of the Sammamish, Green and Snoqualmie Rivers and on the Enumclaw Plateau and Vashon Island. Land in agricultural production today represents 3% of the land base.

From 1945 to 1975, land in farms in King County declined from 165,000 to 55,000 acres, and the number of active farms declined from 6,500 to 1,300. (Between 1954 and 1959, some 1,074 farms and up to 10,740 acres were "lost" through a definition change by the Bureau of the Census.) The combination of processing, marketing and financing services which make up the "infrastructure" for a viable agricultural economy was weakened.



Nonetheless, the value of products sold by King County farmers doubled from $20 million in 1959 to $40 million in 1974 — an actual increase in constant dollars. Full time farm employment of 3,800 people has remained stable over the past decade and farm productivity has gone up. Businesses supply farmers with seed, feed and equipment worth $10 million.

Recent County Efforts To Protect Farmland

Beginning with the County Comprehensive Plan in 1964, plans and policies were adopted protecting agriculture. In spite of this, the erosion of the agricultural land base continued. In December 1975, the County adopted a one-year moratorium on development of farmland until a comprehensive action program could be established. In February 1977 the County Council passed Ordinance 3064, which set into motion a means for protecting agriculture by establishing eight agricultural districts, representing the areas of the county where agricultural activity is concentrated. It designated 32,500 acres of prime farmland as Lands of County Significance and set up a Citizens' District Advisory Committee for each agricultural district.

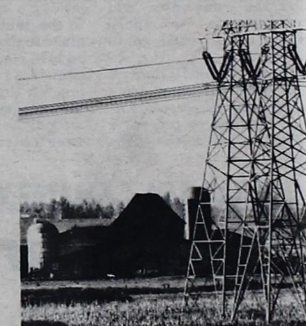
The Ordinance, in effect until August 1978, limits the subdivision of agricultural land designated as "significant," protects these lands from higher intensity use, and prohibits sewer and water construction. It creates an Office of Agriculture to analyze and recommend agricultural land programs to protect prime farmland and agricultural support programs for the farming industry.

The Agricultural Land Retention Program

The proposal would permanently protect lands of agricultural significance by purchasing the development rights to the land from the farmer-owner on a voluntary basis. A "development right," one of a bundle of rights which comes with ownership of land (like mineral, water and air rights), is the right to develop the land to a more intensive use, such as residential, commercial or industrial. If a farmer chooses to sell his development rights, he will receive compensation for the difference between the market value and the agricultural value of the land. In this way, the farmer continues to own title to the land while the public is assured that the land will be used for agricultural purposes for now and for the future. The land can be bought and sold as farmland but never developed more intensively. The sale of $25 million of general obligation bonds would raise funds to retain lands in the agricultural districts shown on the accompanying map.

Why does the County want to save farmland?

Local agriculture provides a ready source of fresh and nutritious food. It provides jobs in our community and insures continued diversity in our local economy. Productive agricultural land provides a hedge in an unsure world where energy crises, floods, droughts, biological and other hazards threaten the availability of food products. It allows a mixture of urban and rural lifestyles to exist in the county, emphasizes the physical beauty of the surrounding lands, and enhances the quality of life. Retaining this land reduces pressure to finance costly urban services from tax dollars, limits urban sprawl and minimizes the storm-drainage problems related to urban development.



Why do we have to spend money to save farms?

There are three general ways to retain farmland through public action: regulation, incentives and ownership.

1. The County presently regulates the use of agricultural land through zoning. However, because it can always be changed through the political process, zoning has not proven effective against the intense pressures of urban development and

has not prevented annexation of farmland. This is verified by the loss of 60,000 acres of farmland in the county over the past 15 years while zoning was in effect.

2. The County also provides tax incentives for farmers who enroll in the current use taxation program, rewarding those staying in production and penalizing those developing for urban uses. However, incentive programs are not strong enough to counteract the speculative and development pressures of urban population centers. Farmers can make much more money by speculating with their own land near urban areas than they could ever save in reduced taxes.

3. The county can purchase title to farm property and control its destiny. This is a most direct way of insuring agricultural use of the land. It is also the most costly and takes private ownership from the farmer.

What would happen if there were no Agricultural Retention Program?

If urban development continues in its present pattern, studies show that 20% of designated agricultural lands will be lost by 1990. That percentage shows little change for the Snoqualmie and Lower Green Valleys but serious losses of 90% of the farmland in the Upper Green and 30-50% in the Sammamish Valley and 25% in the Enumclaw Plateau. By 1990 total farm acreage will be less than 25,000 acres, or 30,000 acres less than existed in 1974.

With the Agricultural Land Retention Program, approximately 20,000 acres of farmland will be kept in production that would otherwise be lost to urban development. Gross farm sales will increase twice as much with the Retention Program. Consumers in the county can expect to save between $300-$400,000 if local farm produce is available. Studies conclude that the program would have no serious impact on the availability of land to meet urban development requirements as agricultural designated lands represent only 3.4% of the vacant lands in King County. (Much of this information is condensed from "Economic Impacts of Agricultural Land Preservation in King County: Development Rights Purchase," prepared by John M. Sanger, Inc. and available for review at the Office of Agriculture, 300 King County Administration Building, Seattle, Washington 98104.

Who will benefit from this program?

Small farm owners will be the direct beneficiaries of the program along with the general public. Farming in King County is a family business. Over 80% of the farms are owned fully or in part by the operator, and less than 3% are corporately owned. The farms are also small in size: the average farm is 42 acres and nearly 75% are under 50 acres. County studies and farmers themselves indicate that money received from the sale of development rights will be reinvested in the farming operations.

Urban residents also have much to gain from the program in the quality of their lives, their food and their budgets. Seattle voters committed themselves to save and protect the Pike Place Market as a source of local produce in 1970. Today they can strengthen that commitment by ensuring that local produce is still available at the Market. Local produce, aside from its freshness and taste, is in most cases less costly than imported produce and can result in yearly savings to consumers equal to or greater than the cost of retaining the farmlands. As an added benefit, the urban dweller gains green space around the city as a source of recreation, refreshment and education.

Who will farm the land once it has been saved?

With few exceptions, farming in King County is a profitable, increasingly productive enterprise. The near-urban location and ideal climate make King County a desirable area in which to farm. The greatest threat to keeping farmers on the land is the prevailing uncertainty about the future of farming. With no assurance that urban development of farmland will be curbed, farmers cannot reasonably invest the money it takes in new facilities and machinery to start a dairy farm, nor will new farmers invest the four years it takes to start a new raspberry farm prior to the first crop.

Farming, like other sectors of the economy, needs support systems to keep functioning in a vigorous way. The County is instituting support programs in marketing, labor and training to aid the future of farming. It has established the Bulk Commodities Exchange, a wholesale outlet for locally grown produce which assures vegetable farmers of a larger, steadier market. It has arranged for a larger, more stable supply of labor for berry operations. And most importantly for the future, it is assisting in establishing a training program in agriculture with Green River Community College to prepare future generations for farming in King County.

How much will this program cost me in new taxes?

Increased property taxes to retain farmland will amount to less than $4.00 per year for a $40,000 house. The bonds would be repaid in forty years.

How much land will $25 million retain?

A total of 43,700 acres of farmland is eligible for the program.

Sixty per cent of county farmers have indicated to the Office of Agriculture that they will take part in this voluntary program.

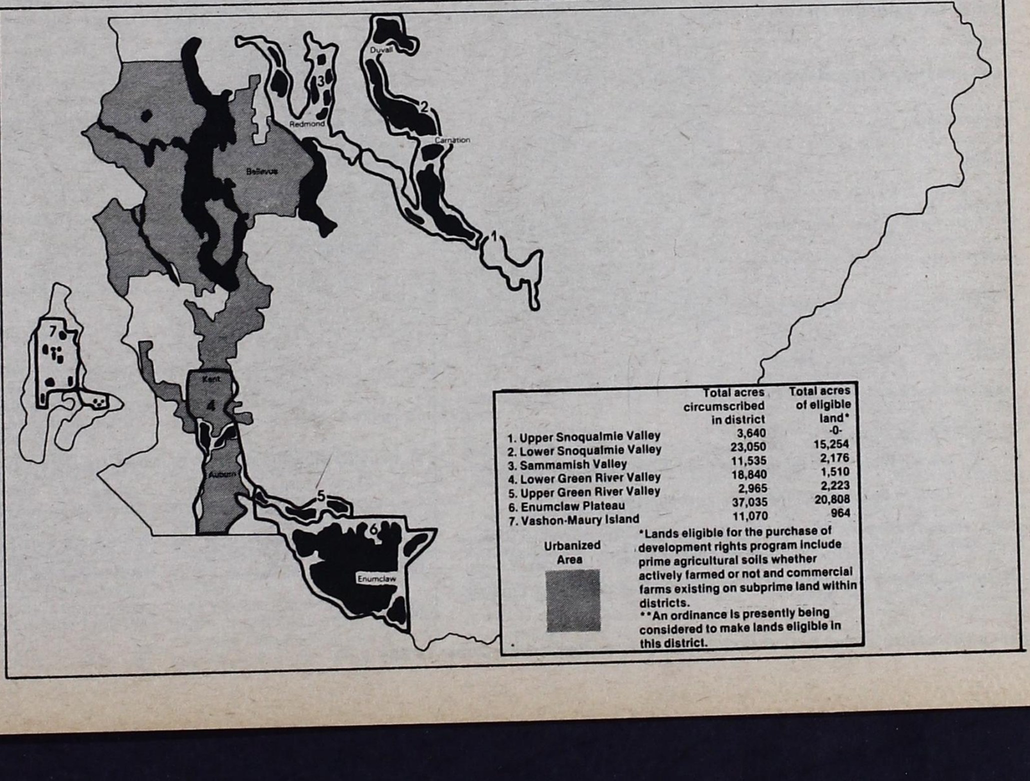
The money from the bond issue is enough to purchase development rights to 60% of the land in the major agricultural river valleys and a significant amount of land in other areas. It is not enough money to retain all farmlands. Other sources of funds are expected, including money from the Army Corps of Engineers and new national legislation introduced by Senator Magnuson.

A draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Agricultural Land Retention Program has been prepared by the Office of Agriculture. It is available for review from: Office of Agriculture, 300 King County Administration Building, Seattle, Washington 98104. Telephone: 344-7541

King County Fresh

This label identifies locally grown produce

Editor's Note: The information that appears on these two pages comes from a brochure which explains why the retention and protection of agricultural land in King County, Wash., is important and the method proposed to the King County electorate for its retention. This brochure was used during a nearly successful bond issue campaign during the fall of 1978. The ballot proposition will go before the voters again later this year with strong support from a citizens' group organized to promote the proposal.



	Total acres circumscribed in district	Total acres of eligible land*
1. Upper Snoqualmie Valley	3,640	-0-
2. Lower Snoqualmie Valley	23,050	15,254
3. Sammamish Valley	11,535	2,176
4. Lower Green River Valley	18,840	1,510
5. Upper Green River Valley	2,965	2,223
6. Enumclaw Plateau	37,035	20,808
7. Vashon-Maury Island	11,070	964

*Lands eligible for the purchase of development rights program include prime agricultural soils whether actively farmed or not and commercial farms existing on subprime land within districts.

**An ordinance is presently being considered to make lands eligible in this district.

GATEWAY TO THE BAY—San Francisco is the site for NACo's Labor Management Relations Conference, April 29-May 1. Delegates will be housed at the St. Francis Hotel on Union Square, the center of fine shops, restaurants and the theater district.

LABOR RELATIONS CONFERENCE

Price Controls Spokesman to Present Monitoring Plan

WASHINGTON, D.C—The President's wage and price standards and what they mean for counties, and other local governments will be a key item on the agenda of NACo's Fifth Annual Labor Relations Conference to be held at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco April 29 to May 1.

Sean Sullivan, acting assistant director for pay monitoring of the Council on Wage and Price Stability (CWPS), the key agency charged with monitoring employer compliance with the standards, will brief conference delegates on recent developments regarding the standards and will be available to answer questions concerning their practical meaning for counties.

CWPS released on Dec. 13 revised wage and price standards implementing the Administration's anti-inflation program. Since that date, it has issued several modifications or clarifications of the standards. Only two weeks ago CWPS issued an announcement in the *Federal Register* clarifying which government enterprises are covered by the pricing standards.

"We are very pleased that Sean Sullivan, a top-level official with the Council on Wage and Price Stability, will be on hand at our San Francisco meeting to answer the many questions which county officials have on the wage and price standards," John Franke, chairman of NACo's Labor/Management Steering Committee, said.

"We hope his participation [w]ill help dispel the considerable c[on]fusion which remains concerning [in]terpretation and enforcement of [the] standards."

THE THEME FOR this year's c[on]ference is Labor Relations and [the] New Fiscal Restraint. In addition [to] examining the practical implicati[ons] of the President's wage and pr[ice] standards for counties, gene[ral] sessions will be held on 1979 coll[ec]tive bargaining prospects, curr[ent] legal relations, recent equal [em]ployment and affirmative act[ion] developments affecting local gove[rn]ments and new trends in public [em]ployee pensions and benefits.

Among the other general sess[ion] speakers are Alan K. Campb[ell], director of the U.S. Office of Pers[on]nel Management, Daniel Leach, v[ice] chair of the U.S. Equal Employm[ent] Opportunity Commission, Charles Mulcahy and Charles Goldste[in] noted public sector labor law att[orn]eys and Robert Kalman, assista[nt] director of public policy analysis [of] the American Federation of Sta[te] County and Municipal Employ[ees] (AFSCME).

The conference will also feat[ure] skills-building workshops which [are] organized into two separate trac[ks:] "What to Do Before (And Even [Af]ter) the Union Arrives" and "Deal[ing] with the Union Environment." T[he] sessions are designed for both ele[ct]ed officials and staff involved in [di]recting county labor and employee [re]lations programs.

Advance registration fee for [the] conference is $115 which inclu[des] admission to all program sessions[,] welcome to California wine a[nd] cheese reception, a conference l[un]cheon and the annual labor relati[ons] banquet. All advance registrati[on] fees must be postmarked no la[ter] than April 7. After April 7, delega[tes] must register on-site at the hotel a[nd] there will be an additional $10 cha[rge] per registrant. Refunds of [the] registration fee will be made if ca[n]cellation is necessary, provided th[at] written notice is postmarked no la[ter] than April 16.

For further information cont[act] Chuck Loveless or Geraldine Cr[aw]ford of the NACo/CELRS staff[,] 202/785-9577.

Workshop on Computers Set

A seminar, specifically desig[ned] for county and city governme[nts] looking to purchase a computer [or] expand a present system, is plan[ned] for Oklahoma City in early May.

A "Computers for Local Gove[rn]ments" program will help prep[are] jurisdictions for writing "reque[sts] for proposals" and analyzing p[ro]posals which are submitted to th[em]. The principal speaker will be J[...] Scoggins, nationally known advi[sor] to local governments in the area [of] data processing.

The seminar, which is being co[or]dinated by the Center for L[ocal] Government Technology [at] Oklahoma State University, will t[ake] place May 1-3. A fee of $85 inclu[des] registration for the Southwest Co[m]puter Conference being conducted [on] the same dates at a nearby loca[tion] so that attendees may visit b[oth] meetings. The conference will feat[ure] a number of speakers knowledgea[ble] in computers and their applicati[ons] and the acquisition of appropr[iate] hardware and software.

For further information, cont[act] Charles Maule at the Center [for] Local Government Technology, [Ok]lahoma State University, Stillwa[ter,] Okla. 74074 or call (405) 624-6049.