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Vol. 10, No. 31

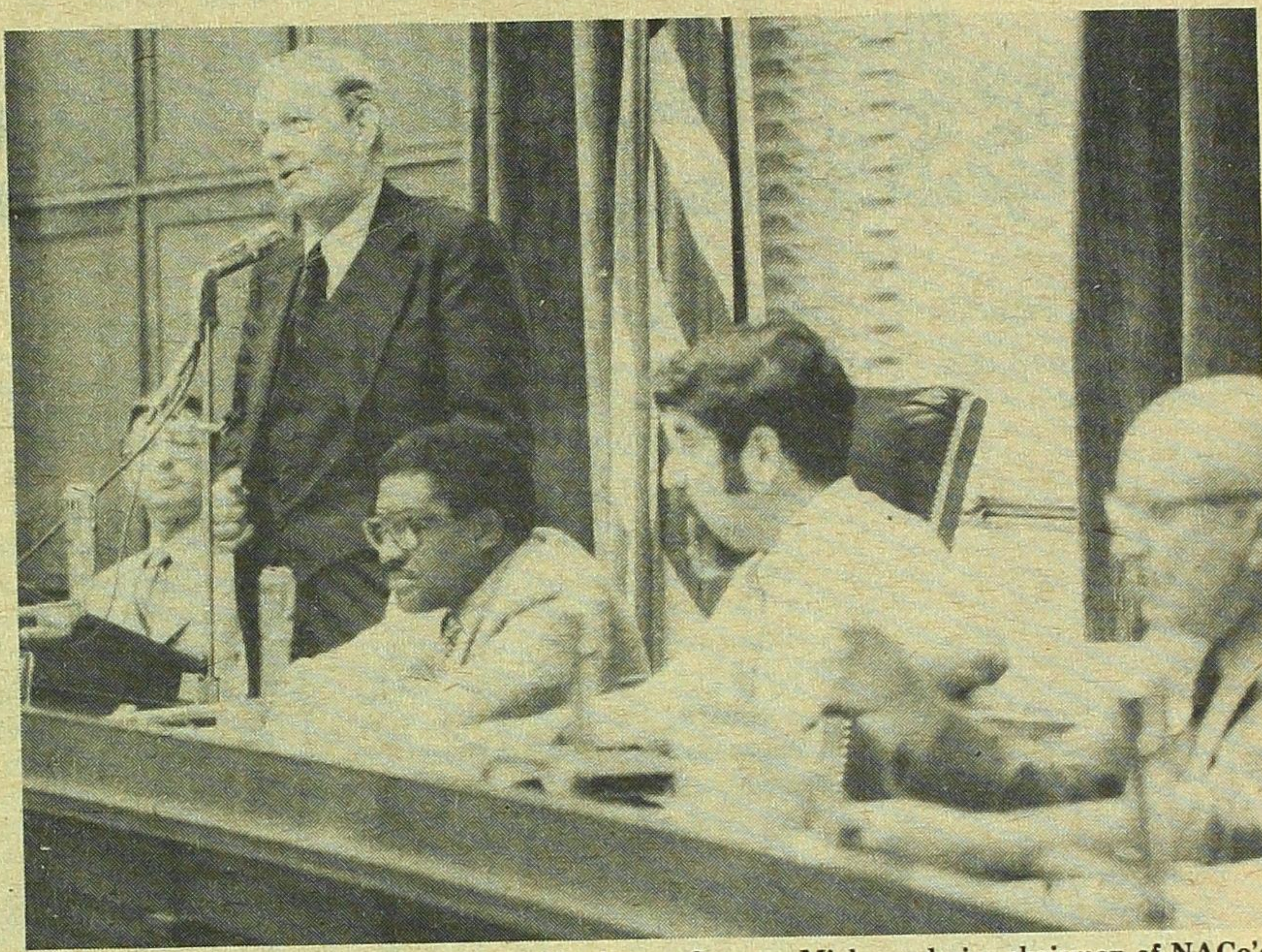
COUNTY NEWS

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

Aug. 7, 1978

NACo
Washington, D.C.

Hundreds Rally: CETA Works



34 STATES REPRESENTED—NACo's rally to support CETA reenactment drew about 300 county officials from 34 states. Seen addressing the crowd in the House Rayburn Building is Rep. Carl Perkins, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, which reported out the CETA reenactment bill. From left are: Harry Hoffman, judge, Montgomery County, Ky.; Rep. Perkins; Herman Ivory, commissioner, Muskegon County, Mich., and vice chairman of NACo's Employment Steering Committee; Jon Weintraub, NACo staff; and Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), chairman of the House subcommittee on employment opportunities. After the rally, county officials visited their congressional delegations to talk about CETA.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Carl Perkins (D-Ky.) warned 300 county officials, rallying Aug. 2 on Capitol Hill in support of CETA reenactment, to join him in resisting any attempt to cripple the bill with amendments. Perkins was introduced by Harry Hoffman, judge, Montgomery County, Ky., and president of the Kentucky Association of Counties.

Perkins, who is chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, urged officials to alert their congressmen against those, in the Administration or elsewhere, who advocate cutting out some of the public service employment (PSE) jobs.

"We may eventually have to agree to some cuts," he added, "but if we agree to cuts before we start, we'll end up with an empty shell. Tell them you're supporting the Hawkins bill all the way."

The Hawkins bill (H.R. 12452) is a four-year bill which would for fiscal '79 authorize the continuance of the current program level of $11 billion and would provide 725,000 public service jobs.

The Administration's support for the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) was conveyed by Bill Spring, associate director of the White House Domestic Policy Staff, who said that CETA is "the backbone of Carter's social program" and is responsible for the creation of 6.4 million new jobs since December 1976 and for a $20 billion saving in income transfer payments like welfare, unemployment insurance, and Medicaid.

Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), chairman of the House subcommittee on employment opportunities, was introduced by Joseph Pollard of Los Angeles County. Hawkins pointed out that CETA is an issue where downtown Los Angeles and rural Kentucky can come together in a common belief in human decency. "That's what this issue is about."

He warned that arguments against the bill are being raised by "demagogues" who exploit to their advantage the rising concern with increased taxes—"slashing budgets, slashing government"—without thought for the consequences. The result is that vital programs are cut and the unemployed end up on the welfare rolls, an alternative which is expensive and leaves "a vast horde of people" unproductive.

CETA, he said, along with other elements of the Administration's stimulus package, has been a factor in the success over the last two years in reducing unemployment by 4 million, from 8 percent to less than 6 percent. Putting the structurally unemployed to work addresses inflation as well as unemployment, he added.

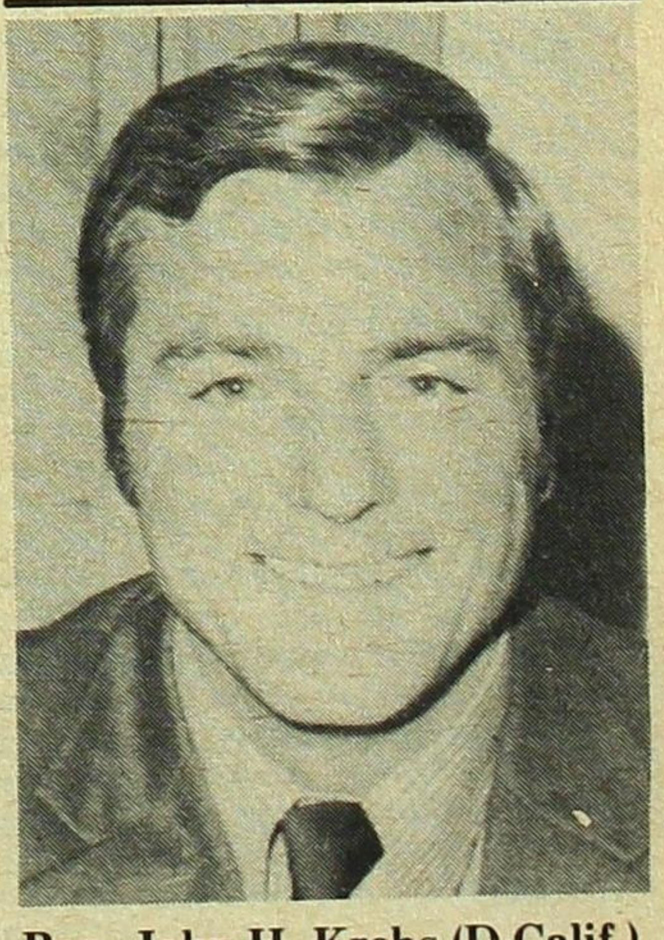
This point was reinforced by NACo Executive Director Bernard F. Hillenbrand, who said that since society is going to pay the price, it's better to do it in a productive way. He offered the example of Portage County, Ohio where CETA jobs decreasd the welfare load from 300 to 100. "We already have a reform bill," he said, "and we have one message: CETA does work."

Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), recently appointed chairman of a House leadership task force on CETA, emphasized that county officials are the ones who must make Congress aware of the impact of CETA jobs in individual counties. He noted that congressmen have not seen the programs which CETA employees make possible, such as senior citizen centers, mental health clinics, etc.

Not only are these services provided at less cost to the county, in some instances they could not have been provided at all, he noted.

The rally was chaired by Herman Ivory, vice chairman, NACo Employment Steering Committee, and commissioner, Muskegon County, Mich. Afterwards, county officials from 34 states and the District of Columbia visited their congressmen to provide eyewitness accounts of the way in which CETA programs are working.

—Joan Amico



Rep. John H. Krebs (D-Calif.), former Fresno County supervisor, will propose key CETA retirement amendment. See story on page 4.

Countercyclical Aid in Jeopardy

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Last week after less than an hour's worth of deliberation, the House subcommittee on intergovernmental relations and human resources voted to table consideration of the Administration's $2 billion supplementary fiscal assistance bill. The setback for the program, a key component of the President's urban initiatives, came on a 7-6 vote.

The status of this new countercyclical fiscal assistance program is uncertain. The Senate Finance Committee, which was awaiting the outcome of the proposal in the House, will consider the Administration bill (H.R. 12293) as well as other proposals to continue assistance to counties, cities, and states affected by high unemployment.

COUNTY OFFICIALS should contact members of the Senate Finance Committee, which is chaired by Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.), and urge their action and approval of legislation to assist distressed local and state governments. The existing program has aided more than 1,750 counties with high unemployment rates to avoid employee layoffs and reductions in levels of public services. Although national unemployment rates have declined, urban and rural county governments continue to experience high unemployment and severe economic distress.

One billion dollars has been targeted in the fiscal '79 federal budget to fund this type of assistance. The current program will expire Sept. 30, unless it is reauthorized or replaced by another program.

The motion to postpone action on the Administration bill in the House subcommittee was made by Rep. Elliott Levitas (D-Ga.) and supported by subcommittee chairman L.H. Fountain (D-N.C.), full committee chairman Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), Glenn English (D-Okla.), Dan Fuqua (D-Fla.), Clarence Brown (R-Ohio), and John Cunningham (R-Wash.).

Supporting consideration of the bill were Les Aspin (D-Wis.), John Jenrette (D-S.C.), Mike Blouin (D-Iowa), John Wydler (R-N.Y.), and Frank Horton (R-N.Y.).

THOSE WHO argued against consideration of the bill charged that it was "fundamentally flawed," with particular criticism addressed to its lack of a national trigger (to shut off the program) and the expanded eligibility with funds being distributed to 25,000 communities, including some affluent areas. Tabling of the bill precluded possible amendments to correct these concerns.

The existing countercyclical program contains a dual funding mechanism with a national unemployment

See COUNTERCYCLICAL, page 8

SOCIAL SERVICES

Bills May Expand County Influence

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Elected county officials may have a greater opportunity to influence social service planning and spending in the near future if current legislation is passed by Congress. The two bills which will cause this involvement are the Older Americans Act and amendments to Title XX of the Social Security Act (social services).

The bills would specify that elected county officials be included in the Title XX planning process (H.R. 12973) and should serve on advisory councils of Area Agencies on Aging (S. 2850). The bill will also increase the federal funding ceiling for social services from the current level of $2.7 billion to $2.9 billion in fiscal year '79; $3.15 billion in fiscal year '80 and $3.45 billion in fiscal year '81. The states will be required to consult with local elected officials to gain their input into planning and financing social services each year.

The amendment to the Older Americans Act (S. 2850), which has passed the Senate and awaits action in the House, calls for local elected officials on advisory boards of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Each state Office on Aging divides the state into AAAs which are usually not counties and are not always responsive to county input or needs. This amendment will put county elected officials in a direct advisory capacity.

—James Koppel

Officers Named to New CD Affiliate

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As a result of a mail ballot conducted during the month of June, the newly formed NACo affiliate, the National Association of County Community Development Directors, elected officers and a board of directors for 1978-79.

Roy Hoover, manager of resource development for Los Angeles County's Department of Community Development, was elected president of the 100-member affiliate. The members chose Jacqueline Rogers, director of community development, Montgomery County, Md., as vice president.

Creation of the affiliate grew out of deliberations by delegates to NACo's Second Urban County Community Development Conference held in Los Angeles last November. Approval was then sought from the NACo Board of Directors last March. A vote of the NACo membership at the recent annual conference in Atlanta gave official status to the affiliate.

The purpose of the National Association of County Community Development Directors is to provide a formal and permanent structure within NACo for sharing information and experiences among counties about community development and assisted housing programs. Plans for the coming year include sponsorship of the Third County Community Development Conference Nov. 15, 16, and 17 in Dade County, Fla. and special workshops on various aspects of community development and housing programs. In addition, the affiliate will have committees on legislation, regulations, and programs and information.

Elected to the affiliate's board of directors were: Sergio Pereira, community development coordinator, Dade County, Fla.; Jim Curran, director of program development, Wayne County, Mich.; Ron Roaks, community development coordinator, Onondaga County, N.Y.; Walt Webdale, director of housing and community development, Fairfax County, Va.; Lester Simon, community development coordinator, Harris County, Tex.; and Jack DiSarno, community development director, Pender County, N.C. The affiliate representative to the NACo board is Jack Lynch, director of planning and community development, King County, Wash.

At its first meeting in Atlanta July 10, the affiliate board made William Dodge of Allegheny County, Pa. an honorary member in recognition of his service to urban counties over the last three years as chairman of NACo's Urban County Community Development Task Force, the predecessor of the affiliate. Dodge, the former director of planning and community development for Allegheny County, is now the director of a consortium of schools of public administration at the University of Pittsburgh.

Historic Site Funds: Senate Lifts Limits

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House-passed restrictions barring use of Historic Preservation Fund money for state and local government buildings were stricken July 31 in the Senate. The Senate Appropriations Interior subcommittee deleted the restrictions in the course of marking up H.R. 12932, the Department of the Interior's fiscal '79 appropriation.

Also deleted was a restriction mandating use of 60 percent of the fund for community restoration projects. In striking the provisions, the subcommittee staff expressed their feeling that the restrictions would needlessly impair the flexibility of the historic preservation program.

The staff report warned, however, that while money should be available from the fund to restore state and local government buildings, no outlays should be made for building maintenance.

In related action, the subcommittee boosted the fund's fiscal '79 allotment from the House-recommended $60 million to $100 million, and authorized Interior to offer a 70-30 match for state planning and survey grants. Previously, all Historic Preservation Fund outlays were allocated on a 50-50 match.

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Highway Bill on the Move

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House ys and Means Committee gave its roval to the highway/transit bill t week after nearly a month of ted debate between supporters of House Public Works Commit- and the Administration over nding authorizations.

Compromise was reached when bill's author, Rep. James How- (D-N.J.), agreed to reduce spending by $5.6 billion over the four years of the bill. The bulk of the original bill (H.R. 11733) remains intact.

Under the Howard cut, it is anticipated that bridge authorizations will be cut by $500 million to $1.5 billion. An additional $200 million would be discretionary. In effect, the program is reduced to $1.3 billion. Included in the House bill is a minimum of 25 percent and a maximum of 35 percent for off-system bridges.

The Administration had sought to reduce authorizations throughout Public Works Committee markup proceedings on the bill and had enlisted the aid of Reps. Sam M. Gibbons (D-Fla.) and Barber B. Conable (R-N.Y.), both members of the House Ways and Means Committee. They developed an amendment which would have limited highway expenditures in any year to the revenues collected.

During Ways and Means Committee action, the Gibbons-Conable amendment was never introduced because of Rep. Howard's promise to cut $5.6 billion from the bill on the House floor.

The bill now must go to the House Rules Committee and, hopefully, to the full House by Aug. 18, before it adjourns for Labor Day recess.

Senate action on its highway bill (S. 3073) has been postponed until around the second week of August. At that time, Sen. John Culver (D-Iowa) will introduce an amendment to increase bridge authorizations by 25 percent from $450 million to $600 million.

SKS COUNTY INPUT—Howard County (Md.) Councilwoman Ruth Kee- talks with Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) about nuclear waste management.

Counties Testify on Nuclear Waste Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A county ficial in central Virginia was ently asked what emergency pre- redness plans he had in the event an accident involving the nuclear stes stored at a nearby nuclear wer plant. After a moment's ughts he responded, "I plan to n like hell."

This and other examples of how e federal government has failed to volve local officials in nuclear ste management were presented Councilwoman Ruth Keeton of ward County, Md. before the Sen- e subcommittee on energy, nuclear oliferation and federal services.

The basis for the hearings was the posed Nuclear Waste Manage- nt Act of 1977, S. 2189, which ks to establish a unified and com- ehensive strategy for the manage- nt and disposal of nuclear wastes.

THE FIRST STEP in this process the establishment of a Nuclear aste Management Authority. The thority would have the responsi- ity for identifying sites, establish- a fund for managing a repository, d for coordinating the activities of er federal agencies involved in ste management.

In addition, the act would require e licensing of all nuclear waste positories and would provide for e collection of fees from the users the repository.

While Keeton supported the gen- l concepts of S. 2189, she also of- ed some specific suggestions for proving county involvement in e selection, management, trans- tation and safety. Specifically she gested that:

- Counties must be involved in ery stage from preliminary site praisal to actual placement of the stes in the repository;
- The federal government must ovide educational and technical information for county officials and citizens, particularly in the area of emergency preparedness;
- The proposed fees to be charged by the federal government for use of the repository must provide for compensating counties for financial impacts and for the costs of the technical assistance.
- More research and funds must be devoted to the development of more efficient and safe techniques for the disposal of nuclear wastes.

Keeton's testimony was well received by the subcommittee, which requested NACo's assistance in devising a structure for involving county governments in the nuclear waste management issue.

—Mark Croke

New Version of Employee Selection Guides Criticized

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A newly proposed final version of the Uniform Guidelines on Employee Selection Procedures was sharply criticized by NACo Labor-Management Relations Steering Committee Chairman John Franke and various other county officials as "unacceptable technically and practically."

The new July 13 version of the guidelines was prepared by an interagency staff representing the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Civil Service Commission, and the Departments of Labor and Justice. It contains substantial changes from the previous draft of the guidelines published in the *Federal Register* Dec. 30, 1977.

The uniform guidelines are intended to supersede all previous regulations on employee selection procedures issued independently by federal agencies having civil rights enforcement responsibilities. They will govern the use of employee testing and selection procedures by county governments and all other employers subject to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

NACo HAS STRONGLY supported the overall concept of developing a set of uniform employee selection procedures to guide federal civil rights enforcement agencies and public employers in combatting job discrimination.

Said Franke, "While our comments and testimony on the Dec. 30 draft of the guidelines expressed disapproval with certain specific items, the overall thrust of our comments was generally favorable. With certain revisions, it was a document we could live with.

"But the new July 13 draft of the guidelines," he asserted, "departs substantially from the Dec. 30 version. It imposes new costly and **bureaucratic nitpicking requirements** on county governments which may make compliance with the guidelines virtually impossible. In addition, it clearly is at odds with professional testing and validity standards." Franke is chairman of the Johnson County (Kan.) Board of Commissioners.

FRANKE POINTED to a substantial increase in recordkeeping requirements, erosion of the "bottom-line" enforcement concept and the imposition of "unbelievably complex **and bureaucratic" technical and documentation requirements** as specific problems with the new draft.

NACo staff has been working closely with the uniform guidelines staff to ensure that the concerns of county officials regarding the new version of the guidelines are taken into consideration. Last week, NACo Executive Director Bernard Hillenbrand and the executive directors of other public interest groups persuaded EEOC Chairwoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and the other principal architects of the uniform guidelines to obtain the informal input of public employers before any final version is promulgated. A series of meetings has been arranged with the guidelines staff to discuss the public employer concerns.

Copies of the new version of the uniform guidelines were sent to the chairman and vice chairman of NACo's Labor-Management Relations Steering Committee, to members of the NACo personnel administration subcommittee and to various county personnel and legal officials to obtain their input.

Anyone who would like more information on the guidelines should contact Chuck Loveless, NACo labor management relations specialist, 202/785-9577.

Food Stamp Regs for Workfare Out

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Agriculture published in the July 12 *Federal Register* a set of proposed regulations for the 14 "workfare" pilot projects required by the 1977 food stamp law. Under this project, food stamp recipients will be required to perform work in public service jobs in exchange for the monthly coupon allotments they normally receive. The law requires that a project be conducted in one rural and one urban area in each of the seven federal regions.

Recipients in demonstration projects will be required to participate in workfare if they are subject to employment registration requirements, and have not found a job after 30 days. If a recipient is working, he will be subject to workfare requirements if his earned income is less than his food stamp allotment. "Persons may be exempt from the program if commuting time to a job is more than one hour; transportation is unavailable; if workfare combined with other employment exceeds 40 hours a week; a recipient is ill or if there are other circumstances beyond his control," according to the proposed regulations.

The monthly work hour requirement will be determined by dividing the value of the household's coupon allotment, minus any nonexcludable earned income the household receives, by the federal minimum wage.

THE PROJECTS will be conducted jointly by the USDA and the Department of Labor. To be eligible to participate in the project, the workfare sponsor must be located with a CETA prime sponsor. The law mandates that no workfare job offer is to be made until all CETA public service job slots are filled. Workfare jobs are intended to supplement and not supplant other job programs.

The financing of these demonstration projects, however, poses a serious problem to county participation. No federal money was authorized under the act to fund these projects. Sponsors must provide workmen's compensation, health, and unemployment insurance benefits to workfare employees. They must also, "where appropriate, maintain or provide linkages with upgrading and employment and training programs" to help workfare clients obtain permanent employment. Training, administrative costs and worker benefits will be paid for entirely by the sponsor; no federal money or CETA funds may be used. Thus, it is questionable whether such a project will be cost-effective for participating counties.

The USDA is accepting comments on the proposed regs until Aug. 13. If you plan to respond to them, please send a copy of your comments to Diane Shust at NACo, 202/785-9577 ext. 309.

—Diane Shust

Tax Reform Update

Conference on County Finance Planned

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Tax reform, mandated costs, revenue and expenditure forecasting; it all adds up to a complex financial picture for county government and the officials who must meet these demands.

The passage of Proposition 13 further complicates the situation. Thirty-three states are presently considering some type of action to cut back tax rates or to impose spending ceilings.

In an effort to help county officials respond to such issues, NACo has scheduled a National Conference on Taxation and Finance Issues of Local Government Sept. 17-19 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, Calif.

The conference, jointly sponsored with the County Supervisors Association of California and Los Angeles County, will focus on tax reform activities and the challenge of providing effective government within fiscal limitations. As an integral part of any discussion on effective government, the meeting will also emphasize sound financial management practices for local government.

Registration will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, to be followed by a reception at 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 18 will be devoted to policy and program sessions featuring analysis and impact of Proposition 13 and other tax reform measures. Invited principal speakers will include members of Congress, nationally known economic leaders and key California state officials.

The remainder of the conference will examine crucial topics within the financial management area, such as performance evaluation, pension fund administration and alternative revenue sources. The program will offer concurrent sessions in order to meet needs of the elected official as well as the finance officer.

Conference registration and housing reservation form should be sent to NACo by Aug. 22; contact Elizabeth Rott, 202/785-9577 ext. 329, for any additional information.

Counties Back House Unit on CETA

Krebs Substitute Would Resolve Retirement Issue

WASHINGTON, D.C.—County officials in Washington last week urged their congressmen to support the House committee bill on CETA with only one amendment—Rep. John H. Krebs' (D-Calif.) substitute on retirement.

Reenactment of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), H.R. 12452, is scheduled for general debate on the House floor Aug. 8, with amendments voted on Aug. 9.

H.R. 12452, as reported by the Education and Labor Committee (House Report 95-1124), is a reform bill. It places tight new restrictions on public service employment (PSE), including strict eligibility requirements, limitations on how long an individual can hold a PSE job, tight new wage limits and extreme limits on wage supplementation. The Education and Labor Committee bill directly addresses the charges of fraud and abuse that have been brought against public service employment.

Committee members expect a series of amendments to cripple or even eliminate public service employment on the House floor Aug. 9. County officials and a House leadership task force headed by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) are urging congressmen to oppose amendments that would:

- Lower the PSE wage ceiling;
- Restrict PSE to minimum wage;
- Eliminate wage indexing by area or by the Consumer Price Index;
- Reduce the number of jobs authorized in Title VI;
- Eliminate PSE in Title II;
- Eliminate Title VI;
- Change the Title II allocation formula.

RETIREMENT

NACo supports only one amendment to H.R. 12452 as reported by the full committee.

That amendment is expected to be offered Aug. 9 by Rep. Krebs as a substitute for an amendment offered by Rep. John N. Erlenborn (R-Ill.).

The Krebs substitute amendment:

- Puts severe restrictions on the use of federal funds to pay retirement benefits for participants in short-term public service jobs;
- Ensures that no state or local tax revenues will be used to pay retirement benefits; and
- Ensures that federal funds will be used to create the maximum number of public service jobs instead of increasing the coffers of retirement systems from which few PSE job holders will ever benefit.

Krebs' proposal is needed to solve a complex problem.

Current CETA law has created an obligation to pay retirement benefits (paid out of CETA funds from the beginning of the program until Oct. 1, 1977) on behalf of many CETA participants in public service jobs. Department of Labor regulations, effective Oct. 1, 1977, stated that CETA funds could no longer be used to pay retirement benefits except for those participants who are likely to accrue benefits through vesting or entry into permanent employment.

ANALYSIS

H.R. 12452, as reported, would force state and local governments, school boards, and nonprofit agencies to pay retirement coverage out of local funds for most CETA employees.

Those currently on-board are a special case.

CETA participants who are already members of retirement plans cannot lose that benefit. Once a CETA participant has been hired with the understanding that his employer will make payments into a retirement fund on his behalf, no local, state or federal law can change that situation without effectively changing a condition of employment and violating personnel practices.

Hence, the only solution for current CETA participants is to continue to provide for their retirement coverage out of CETA funds. Given the time limits on participation in the CETA public service jobs in H.R. 12452, this cost is of a short-term nature which will rapidly phase out.

For new CETA enrollees H.R. 12452 as it now stands requires that they be placed in regular job classifications, many of which require retirement coverage. However, H.R. 12452 generally does not allow the use of CETA funds to pay for retirement benefits. So, local governments would have to pick up those costs.

A seemingly simple solution to the problem would be to exclude retirement as a benefit and prohibit the use of CETA funds for retirement. However, because of the complexity of state and local retirement provisions, this approach does not solve the problem in all 50 states. The dimension of the problem is clear: 25 states had to seek waivers of federal regulations on this issue this fiscal year.

Krebs' substitute amendment would change Sections 121(c)(3)(B) and 121(c)(4) of H.R. 12452 to resolve the retirement problem.

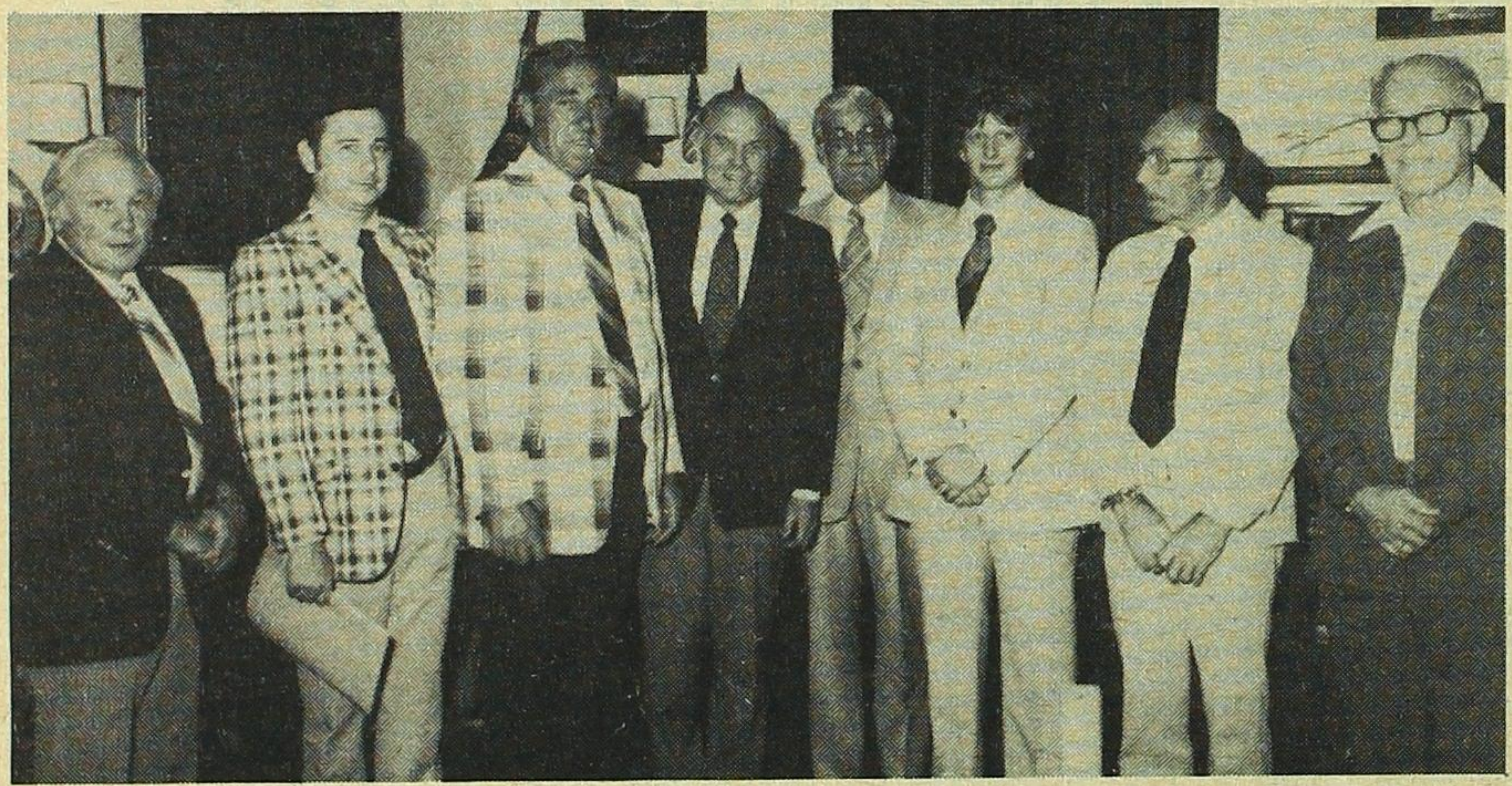
SENATE ACTION

Senate action on the companion CETA bill, S. 2570, has not yet been scheduled, but is expected later in August.

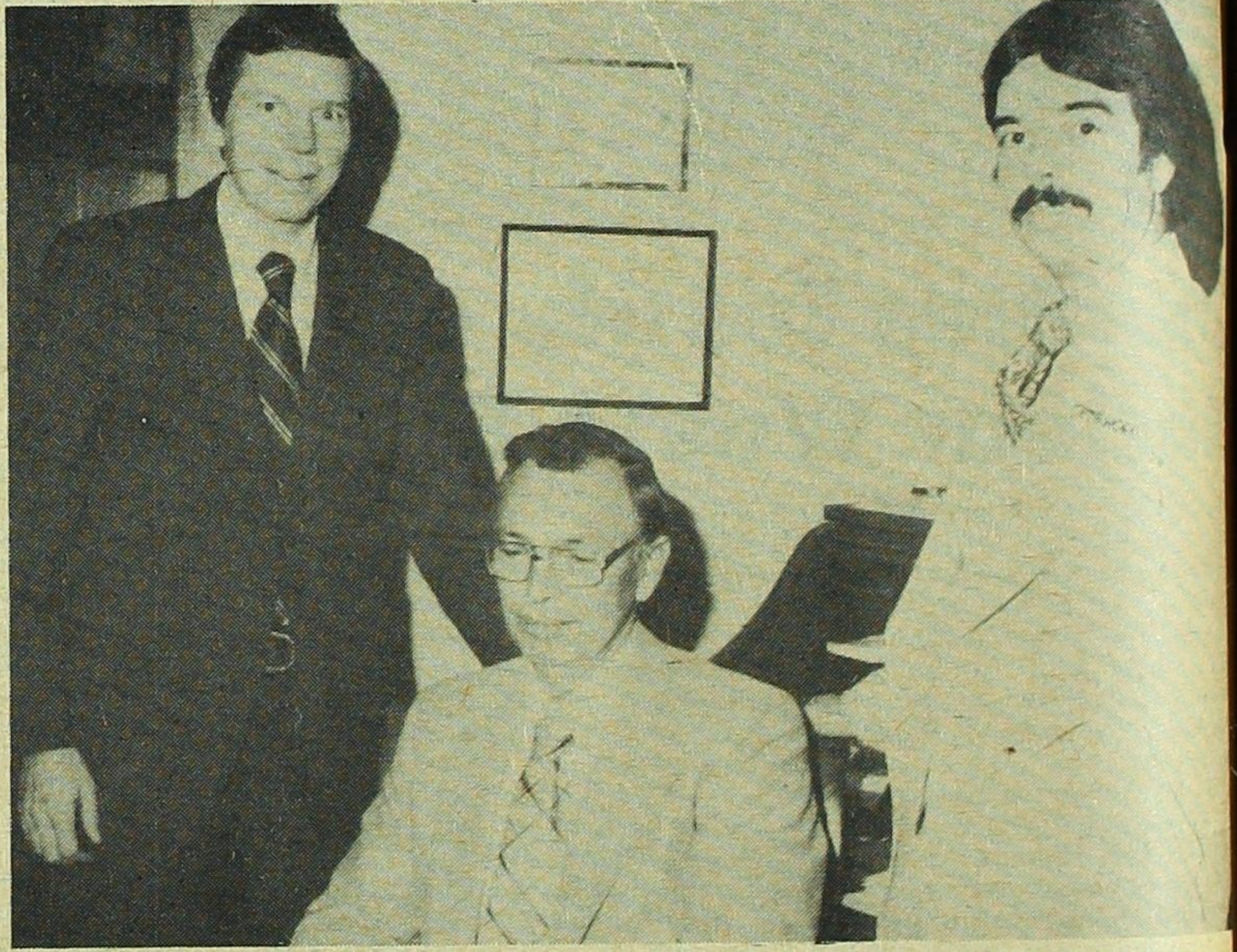
Although it is too early to know who will introduce specific amendments on the Senate floor, a number of proposals are being discussed. These include proposals to:

- Further restrict the committee's tight new eligibility requirements (NACo opposes);
- Cut back or even eliminate public service employment (NACo opposes);
- Allow both regular public service jobs and "projects" in Title VI PSE (NACo supports);
- Streamline the administrative arrangements by adopting the House (H.R. 12452) rewrite of Title I (NACo supports);
- Ensure that smaller units of local government in the "balance of state" have a say in the operation of CETA programs in their areas (NACo supports);
- Simplify the often complex CETA residency requirements in current law and the committee bill (NACo supports);
- Prevent the mandated use of local property tax dollars to pay retirement benefits to CETA workers (NACo supports).

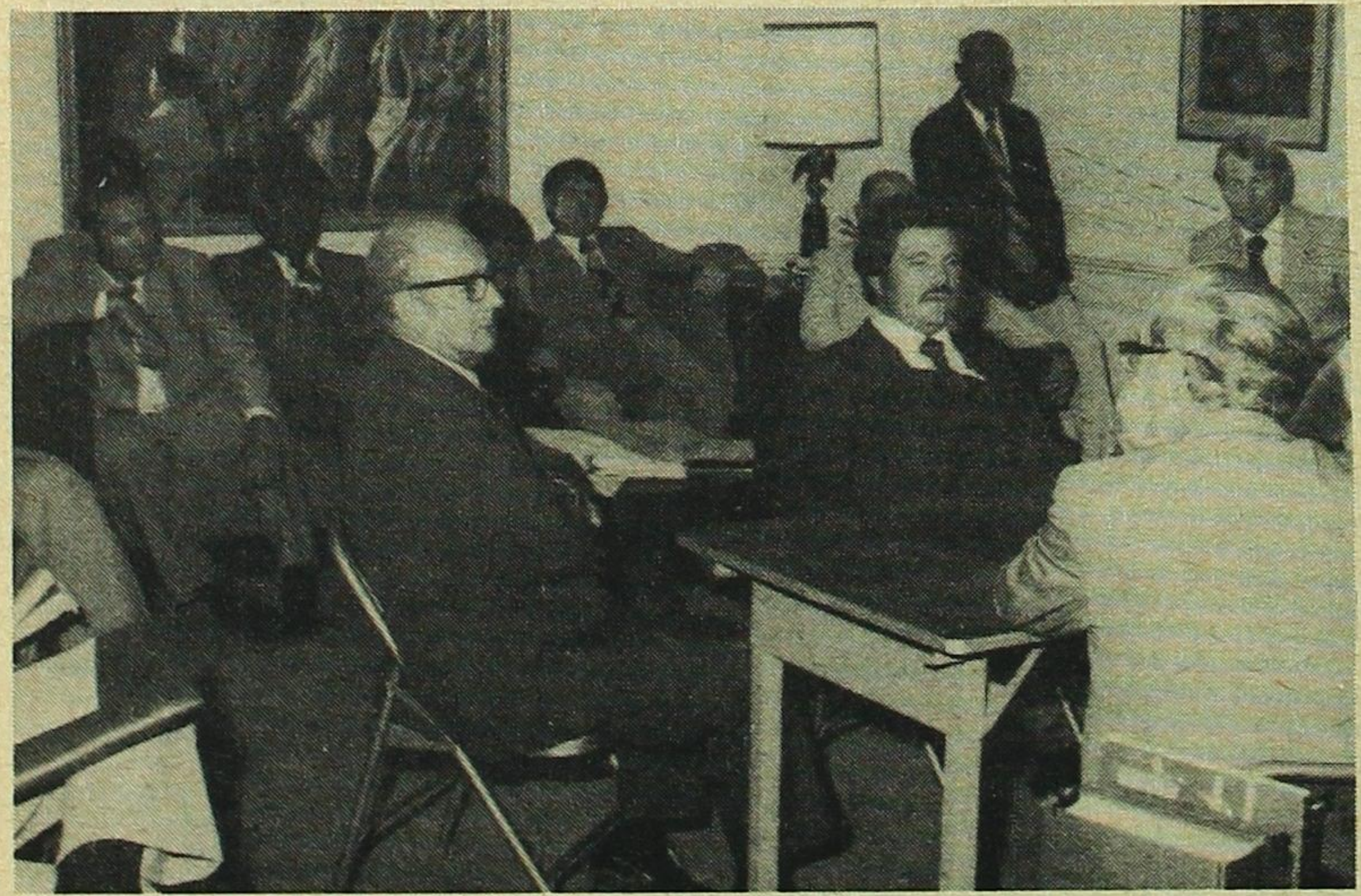
County Officials Visit Hill to Tell of CETA Successes



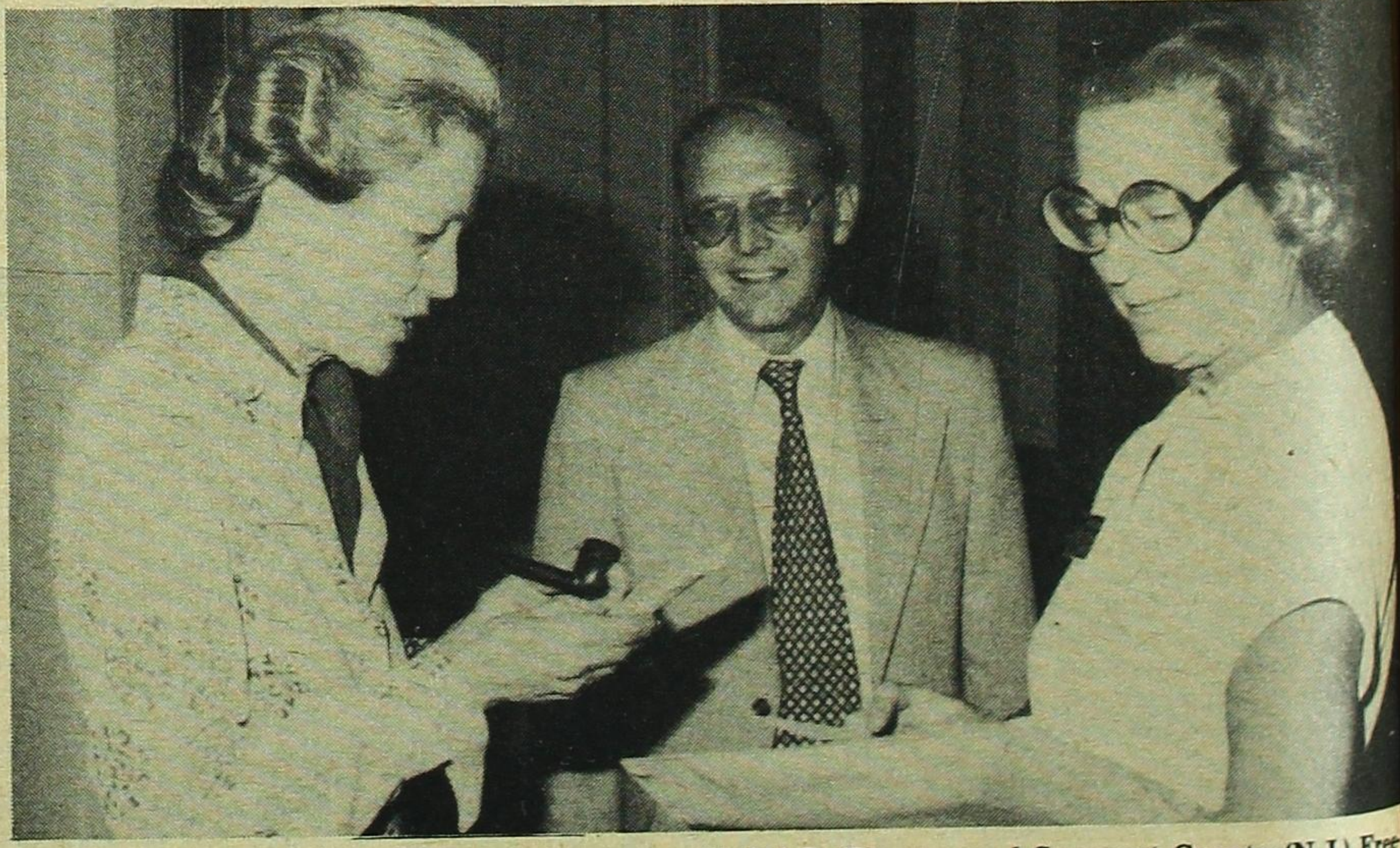
Ohio counties were well represented at NACo's Rally to Save CETA. Pictured here are, left to right: Ed Swiger, commissioner, Jefferson County; John J. Plahovinsak, administrator, Sandusky County; Charles Klasic, commissioner, Jefferson County; Ohio Sen. John Glenn; J.R. Martin, commissioner, Sandusky County; Frank Polivka, CETA director, Geauga County; Dick Ford, commissioner, Geauga County; and Zene J. Smith, commissioner, Sandusky County.



Rep. Andy Ireland (D-Fla.), left, meets with Louis E. Driggers, commissioner, Manatee County, Fla. (seated), and Bob Fernandez, chief, Grant Services Division, Department of Grants Development in Manatee County.



Sen. Russell Long (D-La.), back to camera, talks to the Louisiana parish officials here for NACo's Rally to Save CETA.



Rep. Millicent H. Fenwick (R-N.J.), left, meets with NACo Director and Somerset County (N.J.) Freeholder-Director Doris W. Dealaman, right. Somerset County CETA Director Robert H. Mohlenhoff looks on.

Ways to Finance Senior Centers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senior centers can be a valuable asset to a community.

By providing a place where older people can meet friends, get hot meals, or obtain health or social services, senior centers contribute substantially to the well-being of all citizens as they reach their later years.

Centers may fill gaps in older people's lives left by retirement, the absence of family and friends, or the inaccessibility of a doctor.

For this reason a number of county governments have helped develop multipurpose senior centers.

The county role has varied. Some counties have donated buildings and materials; other counties have contributed county tax dollars or general revenue sharing funds for construction of a new facility. A Florida county holds the lease on the building to assure continuity of ownership and purpose.

FOR THE PAST few years federal assistance has also been available. Title V of the Older Americans Act provided $40 million in fiscal '78 to help pay for converting existing buildings into senior centers.

Although Title V does not provide funds for new facilities, for operating costs, other federal programs can be used to support senior centers.

Title III of the Older Americans Act, for example, will pay for staff, training and materials used in a senior center. Title VII of the same act will fund a hot meal program at a center.

Other federal funding sources include: Title XX of the Social Security Act for social services, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), the Higher Education Act, and ACTION programs such as VISTA and RSVP.

In addition, senior centers can be added to housing projects for the elderly funded by the federal government.

STATE GOVERNMENTS have also begun to provide funding for senior centers. The Tennessee legislature recently adopted a goal of at least one multipurpose senior center in each of its 95 counties. In 1977, $1 million was appropriated to cover up to 50 percent of staffing and operational cost of these centers.

For 1977-79, the Wisconsin legislature appropriated $2 million to provide up to 50 percent of the cost of renovation and alteration of existing structures for senior centers.

In 1976 Hawaii authorized $1.5 million for construction and $272,800 for operation. In 1977 New York appropriated $1.7 million for senior center operations.

Another source of assistance to senior centers or groups seeking to establish a senior center is the National Institute of Senior Centers. The institute provides technical assistance, conducts an annual conference, and publishes a monthly newsletter, "Senior Citizen Report," which lists innovative programs undertaken in communities throughout the nation.

For more information, write to the National Institute of Senior Centers, 1828 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Spouse Abuse Bill Passed by Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Senate passed S. 2759 on Aug. 1 which will provide $30 million for services directed toward spouse abuse. There is a similar bill, H.R. 12299, awaiting final House action before a conference between the House and Senate can begin. The House bill will need to be scheduled for floor action by the Rules Committee.

The Senate bill will provide funds to state and local governments to set up or continue to help victims of domestic violence. It would also set up a national center for domestic violence and require each state to appoint a commission.

NACo supports the Senate bill over the House bill but is pushing for House action in order to work out the differences between the two bills in conference.

House Rules Committee members are:

James J. Delaney, chairman (D-N.Y.)
Richard Bolling (D-Mo.)
B.F. Sisk (D-Calif.)
John Young (D-Tex.)
Claude Pepper (D-Fla.)
Morgan Murphy (D-Ill.)
Gillis Long (D-La.)
Joe Moakley (D-Mass.)
Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.)
Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.)
Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.)
James Quillen (R-Tenn.)
John Anderson (R-Ill.)
Del Latta (D-Ohio)
Del Clawson (R-Calif.)
Trent Lott (R-Miss.)

—James Koppel

Work Relief Meeting Set

MILWAUKEE COUNTY, Wis.—Milwaukee County will be the site of a national work relief conference Oct. 26 and 27. The conference, which is directed toward elected officials across the country, will be cosponsored by NACo and Milwaukee County.

The meeting will open the evening of Oct. 26 and continue through the next day. The focus will be upon Milwaukee County's model work assistance program, which has moved many general assistance recipients into private unsubsidized employment, has also saved the county over $9 million.

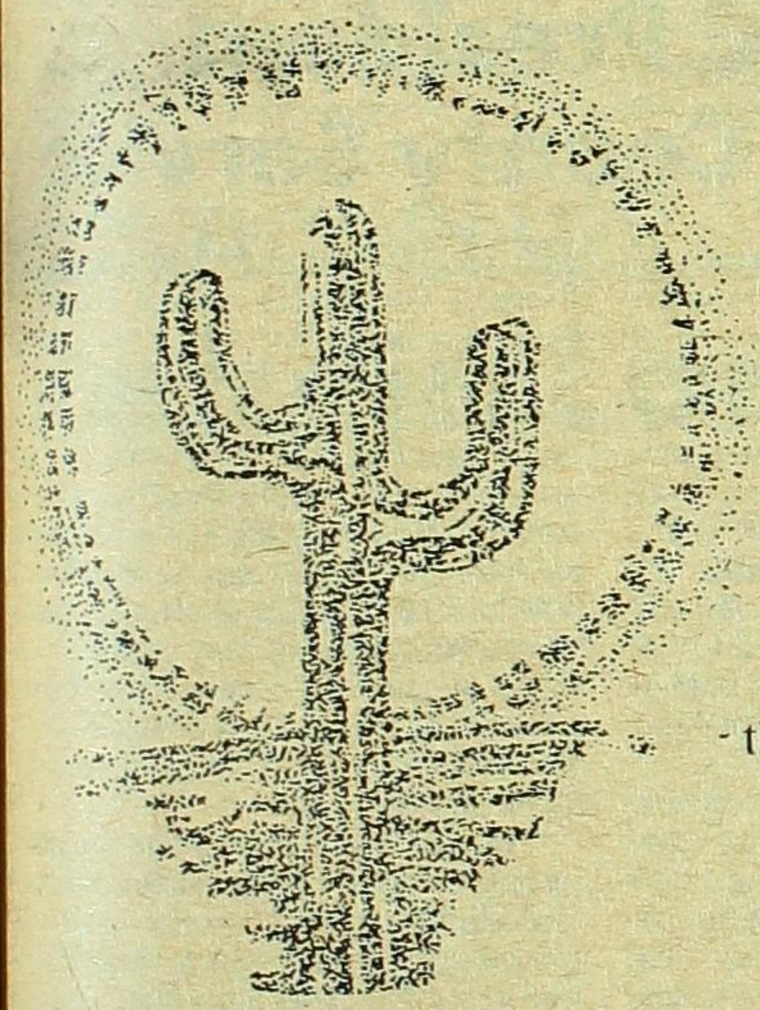
The Milwaukee project uses the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, Title XX (social services) and some local funding to operate the program. The project also uses the private, nonprofit sector as an innovative approach to administer and deliver services.

Conference Registration/Official Housing Form

1978 NACo Manpower Conference

Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 1978

Maricopa County (Phoenix), Ariz.



sponsored by
the National Association
of County Manpower
Officials (NACMO)

General Information:

- Delegates to NACo's 7th Annual Manpower Conference can both preregister for the conference and reserve hotel accommodations by completing this form in full.
- Please use ONE form for EACH delegate registering for this conference.
- You must pay your Conference Registration Fee by check, voucher, or equivalent made payable to National Association of Counties/Manpower and postmarked no later than Oct. 6, 1978. After Oct. 6 you must register at the conference as an on-site registrant with an additional $10 on-site fee.
- Return all of the above to:
  NACMO Conference Registration Center
  1735 New York Ave., N.W.
  Washington, D.C. 20006
  For further information, call 703/471-6180.

Conference Registration:

- All advance conference registrations must include payment and be postmarked no later than Oct. 6, 1978. After Oct. 6 you must register at the conference as an on-site registrant with an additional $10 on-site fee.
- No requests for conference registration will be accepted by telephone.
- Refunds of Conference Registration Fee will be made if cancellation is necessary, provided that written notice is postmarked no later than Oct. 20, 1978.
- Spouses must register to attend social events. No separate tickets will be sold.

Check appropriate box(es): ☐ $80 advance delegate ☐ $90 on-site delegate ☐ $55 advance spouse ☐ $65 on-site spouse

Name ______ Last ______ First ______ Middle Initial

Title ______

County ______ Prime Sponsor (If Appropriate) ______

Address ______

City ______ State ______ Zip ______ Telephone ( ) ______

Name of *Registered* Spouse ______ Last ______ First

Official Housing Reservation Request:

- Special conference room rates will be available to all delegates whose reservations are postmarked to the NACMO CONFERENCE CENTER no later than Oct. 6, 1978.
- After Oct. 6, no hotel reservations will be made directly by the NACMO Conference Registration Center. However, the NACMO Registration Center (703/471-6180) will provide information on hotel room availability after Oct. 6 so that delegates can make their own hotel reservations.
- No Housing Reservations will be accepted over the telephone at any time by the Conference Registration Center.

Indicate hotel preference by circling rate under type of room:

HOTEL	SINGLE 1 person/1 bed	DOUBLE 2 persons/1 bed	TWIN 2 persons/2 beds
Adams (Headquarters)	$30	$36	$36
Hyatt (across street)	$30	$36	$36

Note: Suite information from Conference Registration Center (703/471-6180).

Name of Individual ______

Co-occupant If Double or Twin ______

Arrival Date/Time ______ Departure Date/Time ______

Special Hotel Requests ______

Credit Card Name ______ Number ______

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

No room deposit required. Rooms may be guaranteed for after 6 p.m. arrival in writing by your county or by sending one night's deposit to the above address. For further housing information, call NACMO Conference Registration Center, 703/471-6180.

For Office Use Only
Check # ______
Check Amount ______
Date Received ______
Date Postmarked ______

Standard Regs Would Benefit Rural Counties

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Claiming that small communities are "at a disadvantage in competing for federal funds," Francis L. Kuntz, commissioner of Elk County, Pa., last week praised a bill in Congress that would cut down on federal red tape for rural counties.

Kuntz testified Aug. 2 before the Senate subcommittee on intergovernmental relations in favor of the Small Communities Act of 1978 (S. 3277), a grants reform bill sponsored by Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.).

The legislation would standardize national policy requirements that counties must comply with to participate in major federal programs. National policy requirements include citizen participation, equal employment opportunity, environmental protection, among others.

Kuntz explained that rural areas such as Elk County (population 38,000) cannot afford to set up and staff entire grants departments. "The excessive requirements for technical data, and the unending process of red tape all too often combine to limit our opportunities," Kuntz said.

"Let me illustrate the confusion caused by nonstandardization in the case of a typical senior citizens center to be funded by community development funds, two CETA workers and general revenue sharing dollars. Add to that, an LEAA grant designed to assist elderly victims of crime.

"The county would be forced to comply with four different citizens participation requirements alone under revenue sharing, community development, CETA and LEAA. In addition, there are environmental protection requirements, two separate handicapped requirements and the real property relocation requirements ...

"If you then add the program reporting and planning requirements and local ordinances, it is a wonder that any projects ever get off the ground, let alone operate efficiently," Kuntz pointed out.

RED TAPE SCORED—"Every effort should be made to simplify rules and regulations," said Francis L. Kuntz, commissioner, Elk County, Pa., testifying in favor of the Small Communities Bill of 1978.

Newsmakers

Past NACo Fiscal Officer Assumes Va. Housing Post

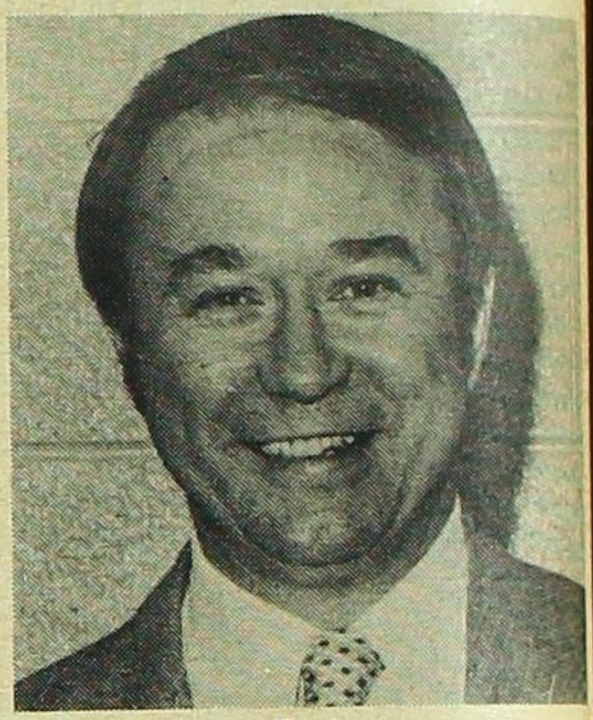
SCOTT COUNTY, Va.—Former NACo Fiscal Officer Gene Dishner, 39, has left county government to become director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. After 10½ years as Scott County administrator and three years as NACo fiscal officer, Dishner will be heading up an agency with a staff of 150.

During his term as fiscal officer, the association continued to strengthen its financial management. Specific accomplishments during the "Dishner Years" include a classification and pay plan for NACo staff; increased board of director and Executive Committee review; approval and oversight of association budget and operations; implementation of a program budget; oversight of the annual audit; and review and approval of investment of association funds by the fiscal officer.

In addition, travel, expense and purchasing policies have been formalized and competitive bidding has been implemented. A financial control policy document is in place and has been provided to all members of the board of directors.

When Gov. John Dalton appointed Dishner to head the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the governor consolidated the Office of Local and Regional Planning, Office of Housing and the Fire Marshal's Office. The department will be responsible for codes enforcement, including the uniform statewide building code. Responsibility will include an Office of Special Programs consisting of the Appalachian Regional Commission and Coastal Plains Commission programs.

At the NACo annual conference in Atlanta, the NACo Board of Directors unanimously recognized and thanked Dishner for his many accomplishments as fiscal officer. A special County Achievement Award was presented to him as a permanent token of appreciation.



Dishner

Former CIC President Ends Long County Service

SAN JOAQUIN, Calif.—James K. Mahoney, immediate past president of the NACo affiliate, the Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators (CIC), has retired from county government. He had been a county employee since 1955 and served as deputy county administrator since 1963 where his responsibilities included the administration of the county's grants-in-aid system. A stroke last year curtailed his activities and brought about his decision to retire.

As the county's chief grants administrator, Mahoney was instrumental in establishing the NACo/CIC affiliate in 1966 and remained active with that organization as it has grown to almost 800 members nationwide. During his term as CIC president from 1976-77, Mahoney worked with NACo staff in conducting a study of the excessive paperwork burdens associated with federal grant programs. The study was included in the Commission on Federal Paperwork's final report to Congress last fall.

In addition, he has worked closely with NACo staff on a number of projects related to grants-in-aid administration, including providing consultation on legislative proposals as well as preparing a revision of NACo's 1973 publication, "A Guide to Grantsmanship for County Officials," a self-help manual designed to assist county governments in developing central grants management offices.

"We, in NACo, and the members of the Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators will sadly miss the professionalism, expert knowledge, and time Jim Mahoney has willingly given to us. We wish him well in his retirement and hope that Jim will still find time to remain active with our county association," said Bernard F. Hillenbrand, NACo executive director.

COUNTY CLOSEUP

Suffolk's Mediation Center Where 'Both Sides Win'

SUFFOLK COUNTY, N.Y.—"Kids, dogs, and fences are some of our biggest problems. For example, the kids will get into a fight, and the parents intervene. An hour later the kids are back playing together, and the parents are down at the police station swearing out complaints against each other."

These are the words of Robert Saperstein, director of the Suffolk County Community Mediation Center, where a range of disputes are brought every day. However, unlike other model community mediation projects, the Suffolk County Center represents the first program aimed at exclusively "suburban" issues.

The center provides an alternative to the formal judiciary system where minor personal disputes such as harassment, property damage, trespassing, minor assaults, family and neighbor altercations, and criminal mischief under $250 can be settled by trained arbitrators.

"The concept is that the community is solving the community's problems. We're interested in keeping cases that don't belong there out of the criminal justice system," explained Saperstein.

PEOPLE CHOOSE the center for a variety of reasons. Often they are reluctant to seek a legal action to resolve an otherwise unpleasant situation. Sometimes they feel that legal actions are too costly or that a court decision may be delayed because of crowded court calendars.

The center provides a free and confidential service to all citizens, but use of the service is voluntary. Referrals come mostly from the district attorney's office and two precincts of the county police, although people are sent by community agencies, and a few are walk-ins.

After both sides agree to mediation, they arrange an evening or weekend session with two volunteer mediators from the center, usually within 10 days to two weeks. Mediation sessions last anywhere from two to five hours, at the end of which time the two sides generally arrive at a solution.

"The people solve their problems themselves. The signed agreement they arrive at says: 'This is what we can do to live together without fighting.' Both sides win; their needs are satisfied," noted Saperstein.

Although the mediation process produces agreements that are legally binding, the parties involved still have the option to take the matter to court if they wish. Should the disputants fail to abide by the mediation settlement, the case automatically reverts to the regular judicial system.

The center's 92 percent success rate from April 1977 to February 1978 bears out the premise that community mediation centers work.

ONE OF THE KEYS to an effective community mediation program is the use of trained volunteer mediators. Ernest Odom, center training coordinator, is responsible for conducting 42 hours of training for each volunteer. Training includes such sophisticated techniques as videotaped role-playing which permits trainees to see the impact of eye-contact and body language. It also allows them to see how they conduct themselves in a mock mediation session.

At present the center has 60 volunteer mediators from all ethnic groups ranging in age from 22 to 73. About half of the volunteers are women, and some of the volunteers also speak Spanish. Each volunteer receives a $10 per session stipend for expenses.

The Community Mediation Center is sponsored by the Outreach Services Division of the YMCA of Long Island and is funded by the Suffolk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, LEAA, the North Shore Unitarian Church Outreach Program, and the United Way. The operating budget of $120,000 a year is estimated to be half that of one judge and his staff.

Not only has the program generated a great deal of interest in Suffolk County, but county officials from other parts of the United States have also visited the center to see if they can use or adapt the Suffolk model to fit their own needs.

For further information write to Robert Saperstein, Director, Community Mediation Center, 356 Middle Country Rd., Coram, N.Y. 11727.

Matter and Measure

NEW AVIATION ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

A report summarizing the results of a conference on "New (Aviation) Engineering and Development Initiatives—Policy and Technology Choices" was recently released by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

The conference, held in March, was sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It marked the beginning of what is considered a major new effort to involve the aviation community in FAA decision making on future development of the airport and airway system.

FAA announced at the meeting the establishment of five specialized topic groups to analyze critical issues of policy and operation philosophy. FAA is encouraging public participation in the topic groups and direct input of user views.

Five topic areas under examination are: productivity and automation; airport capacity; freedom of airspace; safety and flight control; and non- and low-capital policies to improve efficiency.

The report covers various subjects discussed at the conference including presentations of FAA Administrator Langhorne Bond and Civil Aeronautics Board Chairman Alfred Kahn along with other conference speakers from both private and public sectors.

To obtain copies of the report or additional information on the program, write FAA Planning Support Staff, ASP-10, 800 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20591.

IMPACT OF HIGHWAYS ON WATER QUALITY

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will conduct a Demonstration Project #43 on Water Quality Monitoring Aug. 22-24 at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus.

The demonstration is intended to aid in determining the impact of highway construction activities on existing water quality and to evaluate the effectiveness of best management practices in erosion and sediment control. It may also be helpful in assisting states in meeting planning controls of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The program consists of a short introduction; a slide lecture presentation; and an optional one-day training session in the use of monitoring equipment.

For further information, contact: Leon Talbert, Ohio Department of Transportation, 614/466-2916.

Counties Eligible for Grants to Plan Resource Recovery

WASHINGTON, D.C.—If your county is at any stage of planning a resource recovery facility or a source separation program, short of equipment purchase and construction, you may be eligible for a planning grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste.

Assuming that $15 million is appropriated for planning grants as anticipated, cities and counties that need assistance in performing the technical studies to determine the feasibility of resource recovery or source separation may apply for funds.

The program was formulated as part of the President's urban policy. Top priority will, thus, go to those counties with populations over 50,000.

ONE OF THE criteria which will be used in selecting projects for funding will be their "potential for relieving urban economic distress." The other major factors which will be considered, according to the draft solicitation for proposals, will be:

- Need for resource recovery as an alternative to current disposal;
- Probability of successful completion of a project;
- Amount of prior progress in resource recovery planning.

Furthermore, every applicant must provide evidence that it has been jointly designated as the agency responsible for resource recovery or source separation. The joint designation process involves an agreement between the governor and local governments regarding the determination of functional responsibilities in solid waste management.

The federal share of project costs will be set at 75 percent. Up to 10 percent of the remaining 25 percent local share may come out of reallocations of money and personnel within the county, but the other 15 percent must be new funds.

Depending on the amount of planning which has already occurred in a county, it may use the funds for initial surveys and feasibility studies, for procurement planning and market research, or for actual development of a request for proposal (RFP) and selection of a qualified firm to construct and possibly operate the facility. In the case of a source separation program, the funds may be used to carry out preliminary analysis and to design the entire program from marketing, to collection, to public education.

GRANT APPLICANTS will have only 75 days from the issuance of the final proposal to submit their proposals to their respective states and EPA regional offices. Since that allows little time to write a proposal and go through review procedures within the county, county officials are advised to begin preparation of a proposal based on the draft which is now available, even though it may be modified somewhat based on public comments.

The draft appeared in the *Federal Register* July 31, and copies are available from the Solid Waste Project, NACoR, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Comments on the draft should be sent to USEPA, Office of Solid Waste, Resource Recovery Division (WH-563), 401 M St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, Attn.: Docket No. 4008-A2 by Aug. 25.

—Cliff Cobb
NACoR

EPA Seminars

Additional EPA seminars on resource recovery are planned at:

Nov. 8-9
Camden, N.J. (Cherry Hill)
Sheraton Post Inn
Route 70 and 295
Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034

Jan. 16-17, 1979
Los Angeles, Calif.
Biltmore Hotel
515 South Olive St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90013

Feb. 27-28, 1979
Nashville, Tenn.
Hyatt Regency (Nashville)
623 Union St.
Nashville, Tenn. 37219

PAYMENTS-IN-LIEU

Refuge Land Hearings Set

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Senate subcommittee on resource protection will be holding hearings on the Wildlife Refuge Sharing Act Aug. 15.

The bill, which passed the House June 6, is designed to revise the wildlife revenue sharing system and correct the inequities in the system which have developed since its enactment in 1935. Unlike many other public lands, wildlife refuges are not included in the Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes Act. The Wildlife Refuge Sharing Act, H.R. 8394, would compensate local governments for such lands.

Briefly, the bill:

- Applies only to refuge land that was acquired by the United States, and not to public domain lands which would be subject to the basic payments under the original payments-in-lieu of taxes program, P.L. 94-565.
- Calls for the reappraisal of refuge land by the Fish and Wildlife Service every five years, rather than relying on agricultural index averages which are not reflective of the true value of the land removed from local tax digests.
- Provides an authorization to counteract any shortfall between receipts collected from refuges (from oil and gas leasing, etc.) and payments due local jurisdictions.
- Removes the restriction that payments may be used by local jurisdictions only for roads and schools.
- Requires counties to pass on a proportional share of the payments to the local governments which have incurred the loss or reduction of real property tax revenues.

Basically, the bill will ensure that local jurisdictions which suffer loss of economic benefits from the establishment of important wildlife refuges will receive fair compensation for the removal of lands from their tax rolls.

NACo will testify at the Senate hearings. County officials are asked to write their senators in support of the legislation.

Job Opportunities

Capital Program Coordinator, Howard County, Md. Salary $19,887. To develop a six-year capital program; coordinate and monitor project development; and serve as project manager for special facilities. Must have at least a bachelor's degree in architecture or engineering and at least four years of professional experience in architecture, engineering, construction management and/or capital improvements programming. For application, call Howard County Personnel, 3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, Md. 21043. Closing date Sept. 1.

Medical Examiner, Monroe County, N.Y. Salary negotiable. Forensic pathologist to head County Medical Examiner's Office and Training Program. Staff of 30. Resumes to: Fredrick W. Lapple, Executive Director, 209 County Office Building, 39 West Main St., Rochester, N.Y.

Deputy Medical Examiner, Monroe County, N.Y. Salary negotiable. Forensic pathologist to assist in the direction of County Medical Examiner's Office. Staff of 30. University affiliation. Resumes to: Fredrick W. Lapple, Executive Director, 209 County Office Building, 39 West Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14614.

Civil Engineer, Kent County, Mich. To work in the area of sanitary engineering at county's department of public works. Qualifications include graduation from a four-year college with a degree in civil engineering. Applicants should have prior administrative experience and knowledge in the field of construction of municipal water, sanitary sewage collection, and treatment facilities. Professional registration in Michigan desirable. Resumes to: Kent County Personnel, 300 Monroe, N.W., Grand Rapids, Mich.

Executive Assistant, Racine County, Wis. Will be responsible for intergovernmental coordination including federal and state grantsmanship. Will also serve as the county's legislative representative and perform other duties as assigned. Prefer graduation from an accredited college or university with a major in public administration or closely related field and at least one year experience dealing with grants and legislation at the county or state level. Resume to: Racine County Executive, Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Ave., Racine, Wis. 53403.

Building Official, Lake County, Fla. Salary $15,000. Responsible for inspection of all building construction. Administrative experience and ability important. Must be a Class A contractor with 10 years experience, or an architect or engineer. Resume to: Lake County Personnel, 315 West Main St., Tavares, Fla. 32778.

Program Administrator, San Diego, Calif. Salary $1,855 to $2,254 monthly. Department head within independent joint powers agency of the city and county of San Diego administering federal CETA funds. Provides employment and training programs primarily through contractual arrangements with business and private industry. Requires extensive managerial skills including supervision of staff and development of training programs with private sector employers. Application obtainable from: San Diego Regional Employment and Training Consortium Personnel Officer, 861 Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 2072, San Diego, Calif. 92112 or 714/238-1445 ext. 56. Return completed applications no later than Sept. 1.

Personnel Analyst, town of Brookline, Mass. Duties include job analysis and evaluation, safety administration, employee training, collective bargaining research and a variety of special studies. The successful applicant should have a bachelor's degree and three to five years direct experience in personnel administration. Resumes, salary histories and salary requirements to: G.J. Hayes, Personnel Director, 333 Washington St., Brookline, Mass. 02146.

Executive Director, Region D Council of Governments, Boone, N.C. Salary $22,000 to $28,000. Seven-county region; responsible to the COG Executive Board for full management of all COG operations and large staff. Master's degree in public or business administration, strong background in planning, experience in personnel administration. Resume and three letters of recommendation to Ms. Gaylan S. Williamson, Attorney, 210 West King St., Boone, N.C. 28607. Closing date Sept. 1.

Town Manager, town of Boone, N.C. Salary $17,000 to $21,000. Responsible to the town board of aldermen for full management of all city operations and personnel. Strong background in planning, experience in personnel administration, master's degree in public or business administration. Resume and three letters of recommendation to Mrs. Bonnie Greene, Town Hall, Box 192, Boone, N.C. 28607.

Washington Briefs

• **Deferred Compensation Programs.** NACo has testified against implementation of IRS regulations. The Feb. 3 regulations would require employees to pay current taxes on their deferral. Under present Private Letter Rulings, these deferred payments are not taxed until the taxpayer receives the compensation, usually at retirement. The House Ways and Means Committee is planning to consider an amendment to the Tax Reform Act, introduced by Chairman Al Ullman (D-Ore.) and Rep. Joe Waggoner (D-La.), which would partially nullify the Feb. 3 regs. NACo strongly supports this amendment.

• **Public Pension Plan Study.** The House Pension Task Force recently completed a study of more than 7,000 public pension plans covering 96 percent of all public pension plan participants. This study should soon be released in final form. It is expected to serve as the basis of legislation which may be introduced before the end of the current session. Hearings on such legislation will probably not be scheduled any earlier than next year.

• **Regulations to Change Social Security Deposit Payments.** Rep. Robert Roe (D-N.J.) has introduced a bill (H.R. 11976) to retain the present quarterly deposits and reporting requirements of state and local governments. The bill has been referred to the House subcommittee on Social Security, chaired by Rep. James Burke (D-Mass.). No hearings have been scheduled yet. The regulations would require state and local governments to make monthly, rather than quarterly, deposits beginning in January 1980. Counties and states could lose a substantial amount of interest income on investments, and administrative cost would more than triple in some cases.

• **Land and Water Conservation Fund.** The Senate Appropriations Interior subcommittee cut the House-recommended fiscal '79 budget for the land and water conservation fund by $50 million last week. The cut came from the grants-to-states part of the program, leaving a recommended budget of $595 million. The action came as the subcommittee marked up H.R. 12932, the fiscal '79 appropriation for the Department of the Interior. No changes are expected to be made by the full Appropriations Committee, or when the measure is taken up on the floor sometime next week.

• **Coastal Zone Management.** The Senate Appropriations Committee this week reported out H.R. 12934, the fiscal '79 budget for the Department of Commerce. Included was a recommendation of $57.6 million for the CZM program, a $400,000 increase over the House figure. The additional money was allocated to implement an interstate cooperation program, as authorized by Section 309 of the CZM act. The subcommittee also recommended an additional $4 million for the coastal energy impact fund, which is expected to have a carryover balance of $200 million from fiscal '78.

• **Older Americans Act.** The Senate passed S. 2850 which reauthorized the Older Americans Act for three years. Bill includes county officials on AAA advisory councils. Conference dates will be announced to resolve House-Senate differences.

• **Title XX.** The House passed H.R. 12973 to increase social service funding over the next three years by $750 million. It includes an amendment requiring states to consult with local elected officials during the Title XX planning period. The bill now goes to the Senate Finance Committee.

• **Domestic Violence.** The Senate passed S. 2759 which will provide funding for services for abused spouses.

• **Aircraft Noise.** The House Rules Committee has cleared for floor consideration a measure that would give the airlines an estimated $3 billion over the next five years to help them buy quieter airplanes. The aircraft noise bill (H.R. 8729) is designed to aid the airlines financially in meeting federal noise standards. It would divert 2 percent of the current 8 percent domestic ticket tax, divert 2 percent of the current 5 percent tax on domestic air freight, raise the current departure tax on flights to foreign countries, and establish a 5 percent tax on air freight leaving the United States. These funds would be used by the airlines to buy new planes or retrofit old ones. All taxes would be effective until late 1983. Additionally, the bill would provide local governments with planning funds to begin local voluntary noise planning in and around airports. House action is anticipated after Labor Day recess.

• **Highways/Public Transportation.** House Ways and Means Committee has cleared H.R. 11733. See page 3.

• **Reporting and Tax Liabilities for Public Pension Plans.** NACo continues opposition to Treasury regulations issued by IRS which require state and local governments to file IRS Form 5500. This determination was made administratively and has raised a number of serious legal questions with respect to the authority of IRS to regulate state and local retirement plans. Sen. Richard Stone (D-Fla.), the sponsor of S. 1587, and cosponsor Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.) have agreed on additional language to S. 1587 on disclosure provisions. NACo supports the revised bill. Revised bill, S. 1587, has been referred to the Senate subcommittee on private pension plans and employee fringe benefits, chaired by Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.). One day of hearings were held on the old bill and NACo presented testimony to the committee. No hearings have been held on a similar bill (H.R. 9118) introduced by Rep. Jack Cunningham (D-Wash.).

• **Countercyclical Assistance.** House subcommittee on intergovernmental relations and human resources voted to table consideration of the Administration's $2 billion supplementary fiscal assistance bill. See page 1.

• **Solid Waste, Clean Air, and Clean Water Appropriations.** The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved the recommendations made by the HUD-independent agencies subcommittee for the Environmental Protection Agency. The following items were approved: Section 175 clean air planning grants, $60 million; local solid waste planning, $15 million; resource recovery project planning, $15 million; Section 208 water quality planning grants, $39 million; wastewater construction grants, $4.5 billion; and noise abatement and control program, $10.6 million.

• **Agricultural Land Retention, H.R. 11122.** Sponsors of H.R. 11122 are uncertain whether floor consideration will be scheduled for the bill during the current Congress. The full House Agriculture Committee reported the bill without the demonstration grant program contained in the subcommittee bill. No action is scheduled in the Senate.

• **Rural Housing.** House and Senate have approved increases in rural housing programs as well as new subsidized program to aid rural families to purchase housing. New programs were included in HUD authorization bill. Legislation to go to conference committee to resolve other issues.

• **Rural Development Policy Act.** House Agriculture Committee has referred H.R. 10885, Rural Development Policy Act of 1978, back to subcommittee on family farms, rural development and special studies for a number of changes. Subcommittee is expected to amend the legislation and report it back to full committee this summer.

• **Rural Appropriations.** Senate Appropriations subcommittee on agriculture has acted to recommend record funding levels for rural development programs. Dollar amounts include full funding level of $300 million for water and waste disposal program, $50 million for community facilities, $5 million for rural planning grants, and funds to hire 1,500 additional staff. Levels equal or exceed that recommended by House Appropriations Committee.

• **Agricultural Credit Act.** House and Senate have passed the Agricultural Credit Act and sent it to the President. Legislation makes significant changes in Rural Development Act of 1972 to benefit rural counties. See page 2.

Grant Regs Taking Effect

WASHINGTON, D.C.—By the end of the summer, most federal agencies should be complying with changes in two federal grants management circulars important for state and local governments, according to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

OMB has also clarified its policies on cost principles as they relate to OMB Circular A-95 which deals with evaluation, review and coordination of federal grants programs.

A new OMB A-73, "Audit of Federal Operations and Programs," revised March 15, strengthens coordination and agency audit follow-up on grants to state and local governments. Under the revised circular, agency audit work plans, consisting of programs and jurisdictions selected for audit, should be made available to state and local governments. When audit recommendations requiring corrective action involve more than one program, agency, or level of government, the auditing agency is required to coordinate its corrective action with the affected parties.

The revised circular also requires federal agencies to report to OMB on actions taken to improve interagency cooperation in audits, to improve coordination with state and local auditors, and to increase reliance on audits made by others.

OMB Circular A-102, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants to State and Local Governments," (formerly FMC 74-7), was revised Sept. 12, 1977. The changes in the circular make it clear that provisions apply to subgrantees; add a provision which allows federal agencies to accept bonding policies of grantee for all construction contracts; require federal government to reimburse grantees within 30 days; and delete the requirement to obtain prior approval for budget revisions of grants $100,000 or less.

On Feb. 6, OMB issued a memorandum to all agencies that nonstandard application and reporting requirements must be brought into conformance, as established under A-102, by June 30, 1978.

Additionally, recovery of costs incurred by state and local governments, as a result of the A-95 process, has been clarified by OMB. Costs incurred in connection with A-95 review and coordination are allowable. This policy recognizes that A-95 review activities benefit ongoing operations and programs, and since the "benefits of the review and coordination have general applicability to all programs, such costs need not be treated as 'preagreement costs,' under Attachment B, of FMC 74-4, "Costs Principles Applicable to Grants and Contracts with State and Local Governments." Provisions under Attachment B had allowed a wide margin of agency discretion as to acceptability of proposal costs.

For further information regarding these revisions and OMB implementation, contact John Lordon, Chief, Financial Management Branch, Budget Review Division, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C.

Countercyclical Bill Tabled

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trigger of 6 percent, as well as a rate of local unemployment of 4.5 percent as a prerequisite for local eligibility. Under those criteria, 17,000 units of government are eligible for assistance. In addition, in calendar quarter when the national unemployment rate falls below 6 percent (such as the present), the program would change to standby status and no assistance would be distributed. Funds would again be provided once national unemployment exceeded 6 percent.

Countercyclical assistance was originally authorized by Title II of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976 at a level of $1.25 for five quarters (through June 1977). It was expanded by the Intergovernmental Antirecession Act of 1977 at a level of $2.25 billion through September 1978.

—Elliott Alm

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