This Week

- Roundup of health bills, page 2.
- LEAA sets funding guides, page 3.
- Proposed state tax actions, pages 4-5.

Vol. 10, No. 36

COUNTY NEWS

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

Sept. 11, 1978

NACo

Washington, D.C.

Oregon Readies for First Elected Regional District

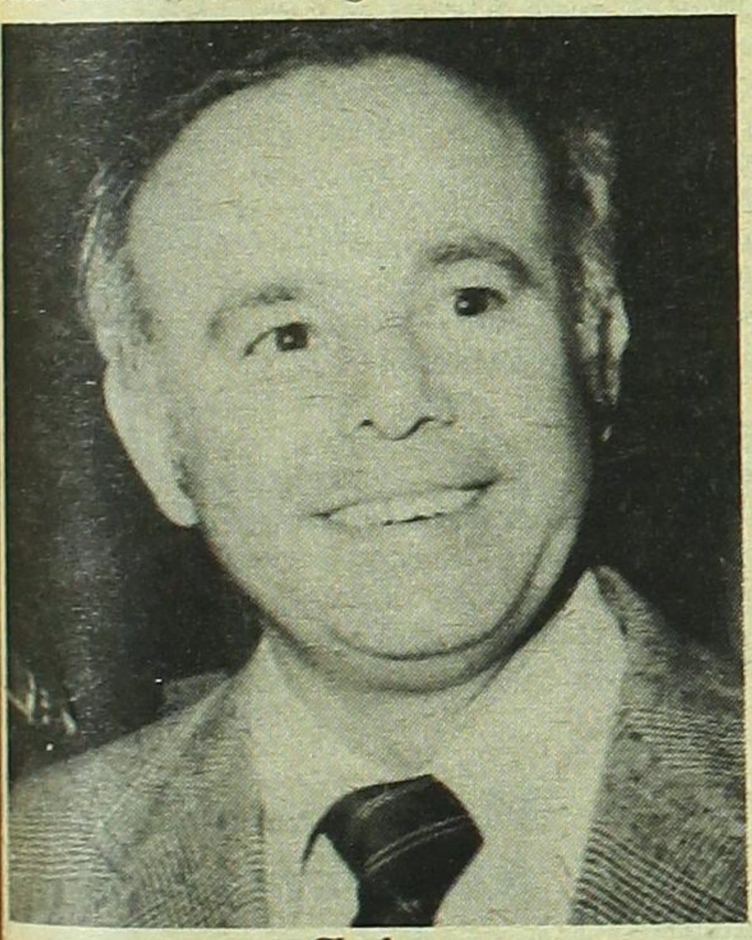
OREGON—Voters in the tri-county Portland metropolitan area will take a further step toward the nation's first elected regional government by electing a chief executive officer and 12 district councilmen this November.

In a series of actions over the past decade, residents of the Portland area, which includes the counties of Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas, have been voting to strengthen their metropolitan bodies, adding more regional services for them to administer.

This past May a majority of voters approved a proposition that would abolish their regional council of government and consolidate some of the special service districts in the area into a new regional government, the Metropolitan Service District (MSD).

THE NEW government, which becomes effective Jan. 1, is the culmination of efforts to bring to the citizens of the Portland-Multnomah area a regional body, directly elected, that would be "understandable, visible, and especially accountable," noted Don Clark, chairman of the Multnomah County board and one of MSD's strong supporters.

Prior to the May 23 referendum, there were five different regional bodies in the Portland-Vancouver Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), according to Denton U. Kent, executive director of the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG), the regional council.



Clark

The merger of CRAG and the old metropolitan service district now permits the people a direct voice in the provision of certain services, Kent explained.

None of the counties or cities will lose any autonomy because of the new system, said Clark. He sees the establishment of the regional government as paving the way for consolidation of many already existing "quasi-governments" into one areawide government responsible to an electorate.

"The proliferation in recent years of independent special commissions and authorities has left the people out of the decision-making process," Clark said. "The new regional government provides them with a voice through the ballot box."

THE FUNCTIONS of CRAG, regional planning and city-county planning and coordination, will be assumed by the new MSD, along with the funding sources (contributions from member counties and cities, and fees and charges). The new agency will also be responsible for solid waste planning; transportation planning; air and water quality control; and operation of the Washington (Portland) Park Zoo.

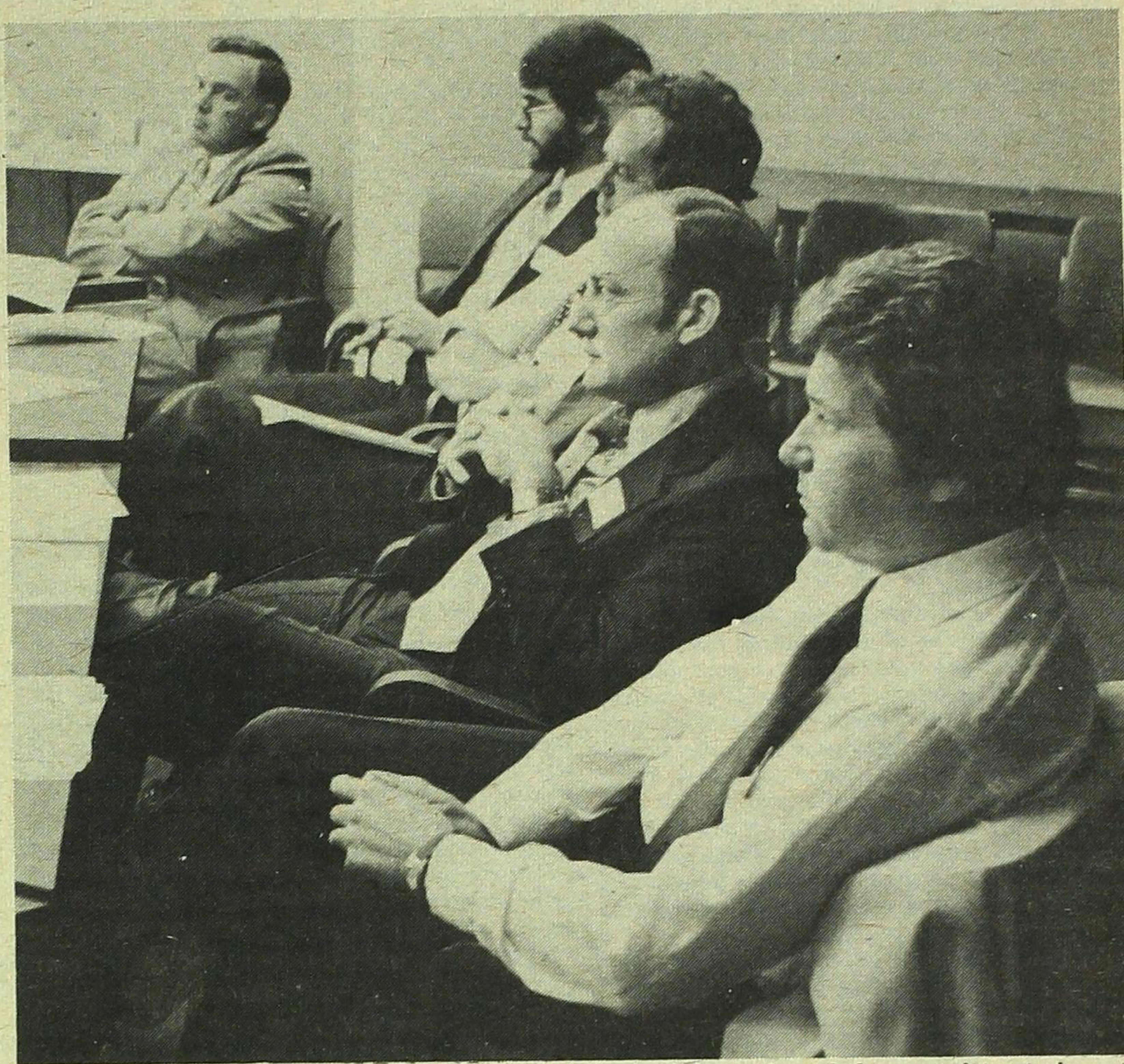
In addition, the enabling legislation provides for the MSD to eventually assume the functions of Tri-Met, the regional transit authority. There are no immediate plans to assume this function, however, until the new MSD has a firm financial basis.

The assumption of Tri-Met's functions would be dependent upon a vote of the new governing board. Assumption of the duties of the Boundary Commission (jurisdiction over annexations and service extensions in the area) could also be part of the new MSD's functions if approved by the voters.

And once it secures voter approval for a tax base to support them, the MSD can take over regional aspects of library services, cultural activities, human services, and park and recreation facilities.

THE ENABLING legislation also permits the MSD to put before the voters a method of permanent financial support: an income tax of 1 percent and/or a business tax. The MSD has

See MSD, page 2



NACo HOSTS MEETING—Seen from right at the initial meeting of the committee to investigate the impact of federal and state mandates on local governments are: John Thomas, executive director, Florida Association of Counties; John Witherspoon, administrator, Guilford County, N.C.; Don Borut, International City Management Association; Scott Franklin, Urban Consortium/Public Technology, Inc.; and Charles Hughes, Office of Management and Budget.

Impact of Federal, State Mandates to be Evaluated

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Sept. 6, NACo hosted a Technical Advisory Committee meeting for a project addressing the fiscal impact of federal and state mandates on local government.

The research effort, funded by the National Science Foundation to the University of California, Riverside (UCR), will look at mandates as "a responsibility, procedure, or any other action that is imposed either as a direct order or as a condition of aid."

Dr. Catherine Lovell (UCR) and Charles Tobin of Riverside County, Calif. are principal investigators on the effort which will directly involve the analysis of 10 local governments. Five counties are participating in the study: Orange, Calif.; Thurston, Wash.; Dane, Wis.; Guilford, N.C.; and Somerset, N.J.

Officials representing counties on the advisory committee were John Thomas, executive director, State Association of County Commissioners of Florida, and John Witherspoon, county administrator, Guilford County.

Witherspoon said that this study will help county officials and citizens to better understand the real impact of federal and state mandates on local finance.

"To date," he noted, "federal mandates appear to be eroding the ability of local governments to make their own decisions." He went on to say that when the voters ask why taxes are so high or why they can't be cut back, "our only answer is that we can't cut back our budgets because they include so many state or federally required costs."

For further information on the project, contact Bruce B. Talley of the NACo staff.

CETA Showdown in House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—When the House takes up its CETA reauthorization bill on Sept. 13, three amendments could wreak further havoc with the current CETA program.

"The votes on Sept. 13th will test how effective county officials were in turning around votes during the August recess," said NACo Executive Director Bernard Hillenbrand.

"Unless we change some votes," Hillenbrand warned, "CETA could be unrecognizable when it leaves the House."

On Aug. 9, the House adopted Rep. James Jeffords' amendment to cut $1 billion from the CETA Title VI public service jobs authorization and Rep. David Obey's strict new limits on public jobs wage ceilings and average wages.

Jeffords (R-Vt.) is considering an amendment to cut the amount of money in Title II that can be spent for wages, administrative costs, and fringe benefits for public service employment (PSE) jobs. The committee bills say that no more than 50 percent of the funds can be used for PSE wages. The Jeffords amendment says that no more than 50 percent of the funds can be used for PSE wages, administrative costs and fringe benefits in fiscal '79, 40 percent in fiscal '80, 30 percent in fiscal '81, and 25 percent in fiscal '82.

The second amendment which would have disastrous impact will be offered by Rep. John Ashbrook (R-Ill.) His amendment would result in a 20 percent across-the-board cut in the PSE authorization for Titles II and VI of CETA for fiscal '79.

In addition, Rep. Dave Stockman (R-Mich.) plans to offer an amendment that would further cut the Title VI authorization from enough jobs for 25 percent of the number unemployed in excess of a 4 percent unemployment rate to either 25 percent in excess of 5 percent or 25 percent in excess of 6.5 percent.

In addition to these major amendments, Jeffords will offer an amendment to limit PSE projects to two years and an amendment to restrict PSE participation to 18 months in any five-year period instead of three years in the reported bill.

Rep. Millicent Fenwick (R-N.J.) plans to offer an amendment to abolish or modify the Title V National Commission for Employment and Training Policy.

NACo met with House committee staff last week to develop a strategy to oppose all additional amendments to CETA.

—Jon Weintraub

Whatever your field of interest or expertise, NACo offers a chance to share your knowledge and learn more. Keep in mind the upcoming fall conferences:

- **National Conference on Taxation and Finance Issues of Local Government, Los Angeles, Sept. 17-19.**
- **Annual National Federal Aid Conference, Washington, D.C., Oct. 22-25.**
- **NACMO Manpower Conference, Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 29-Nov. 1.**

Health Bills

County Elected Officials Win Recognition in Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Back in the early '70s, a county official warned federal policy-makers that consultation and involvement of local officials would determine the success or failure of a federally mandated health program. He said that while the average citizen sees himself as a much put-upon taxpayer, he does not differentiate between levels of government to which he is paying taxes. But when things go wrong with a federal, state or local program, it is the local elected official who first hears about it.

"If I am going to take the heat," the county official said, "then I want to be in on the planning and operation of federally mandated health programs. If I am going to be held accountable, I must be responsive to the voters."

These remarks were aimed at a federal attempt to preclude counties from participating in a host of federally supported health programs. It started with the drafting and enactment of the health planning and resources development act a few years ago. As originally proposed, the bill specified that only private, nonprofit organizations could qualify as health planning agencies.

The trend was repeated the following year with the enactment of an omnibus health bill that extended the authorities for community mental health centers, neighborhood health centers, health maintenance organizations and migrant health programs. Recently, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) compounded the problem by administratively implementing the Urban Health Initiative and proposing a child health assessment bill. These programs had the same overall effect—to discourage local governments from participating.

All required a majority of consumer representation on the governing board which automatically prevented local governments and their elected officials from becoming direct grantees for federally funded operational grants.

HEW tried to justify such action by claiming that health programs supported by federal funds needed to be isolated from political pressures. However, NACo demonstrated that, in the long run, federally mandated programs initiated without the support of locally elected officials and their appointees and representatives were destined to fail.

Over the last few years, NACo has been successful in relaying county health interests to the Administration and Congress. Bills have been amended and programs changed in favor of county elected officials and their health agency directors. The following is a summary of health legislation introduced in Congress this year, which exemplifies the success of county officials, led by Terrance Pitts, supervisor, Milwaukee County, Wis. and chairman of NACo's Health and Education Policy Steering Committee, in health policy formulation.

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

These bills accept NACo's long-standing Platform policy on public health services. Both bills call for a cost-sharing program for financing public or communitywide services relating to disease control, health hazards and preventive health services. The bills allow counties to set their own health priorities.

Health Planning (H.R. 11488; S. 2410)

More than 10 NACo amendments were accepted. NACo was concerned over the inadequate provisions for involvement of local elected officials in private Health Systems Agencies (HSAs) and the lack of basic authority for counties to exercise control over the health planning process. The NACo amendments now make private HSAs accountable to elected officials. Other amendments include: provisions to require large HSAs to establish countywide subarea councils; addition of public health to expertise of staff; total control of public HSAs by elected county officials; funds for renovation of public general hospitals.

Health Maintenance Organizations (H.R. 13655; S. 2534)

The present HMO law effectively prohibits units of general purpose local government from sponsoring HMOs. The representational requirements of the law mean that no city or county can act as the policy-making body for the HMO. The NACo amendment removes this restriction and allows the governing body of the unit of general purpose local government or combination to be the policy-making body. It also mandates the establishment of an advisory body which meets the requirement of one-third membership in the HMO and equitable representation from medically underserved populations.

Primary Care Centers (S. 3115)

NACo was instrumental in generating support for the Primary Health Care Center Act of 1978. The bill is an extension of a provision in S. 2474, the Health Services Extension Act of 1978, that authorizes $34 million for the establishment of community and public general hospital-based primary care centers in urban areas. Under the bill, the Secretary of HEW would award grants to nonprofit and county and city hospitals to establish hospital-affiliated primary care centers in medically underserved areas (both urban and rural). Intended recipients are those hospitals which are currently delivering care through their emergency rooms and outpatient departments.

Child Health (H.R. 13611; S. 1329)

NACo amended the House bill to allow county health departments to continue child health screening while at the same time referring patients to comprehensive health care facilities. This would prevent duplication and would maximize effective utilization of existing community resources. The agencies will be held accountable to ensure that treatment was rendered after referral. The Senate health subcommittee has not acted on its version of the Child Health Assurance Act.

Health Centers (H.R. 12460)

This bill extends the programs that establish community health centers, migrant health centers and community mental health centers. Present law precludes counties from running and operating these centers. The law requires that these centers be governed by consumers or people residing in the "catchment" area. Most county boards do not qualify. NACo's amendment removes these restrictions and allows the governing board to be the county board.

Hospital Cost Containment (H.R. 6575, H.R. 5285; S. 1470, S. 1391)

NACo was the only public interest group supporting the Administration's original bill to hold down hospital cost increases to 9 to 10 percent a year. The NACo supported "anti-dumping" amendment was adopted. The amendment prohibited "dumping" by private hospitals of their uninsured or unsponsored patients onto county hospitals.

The Administration's bill (H.R. 6575) passed the House Commerce Committee but in such a watered-down version that HEW officials maintain it is useless as a major cost containment mechanism.

Sen. Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Finance health subcommittee, was successful in having his subcommittee report out S. 1470, a bill that reforms Medicaid and Medicare. Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) is expected to introduce an amendment on the Senate floor to expand the bill if attempts by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to substitute S. 1391, a version more closely resembling the Administration's original proposal, fails. This bill has been reported out by the Senate Human Resources Committee.

The Nelson amendment would come into play if the voluntary effort (Talmadge bill) by the hospital and medical industry to hold down hospital cost increases misses its mark. The bill covers all payers and all costs, not just routine expenditures. It includes a mandatory wage passthrough for nonsupervisory hospital workers. The Nelson amendment is patterned after a proposal pending before the House Ways and Means Committee. Action on these measures is expected to occur this month. NACo is supporting both Sens. Nelson and Kennedy.

Disease Prevention (S. 3116; H.R. 12370)

The Senate health subcommittee approved the National Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Act of 1978 on Aug. 16. It authorizes over $4 billion for about 20 health programs of concern to counties. NACo worked closely with Sen. Kennedy, chairman of the health subcommittee, to ensure that NACo policies were incorporated into the bill. Title I of the bill authorizes $228 million for states and counties to set up health promotion programs. The House Commerce Committee reported out its version of Kennedy's health promotion bill in July. H.R. 12370 more closely dovetails with NACo's platform positions. The conference committee will meet in late September to iron out differences.

HEW Appropriations (H.R. 12929)

The House has passed its bill and the Senate will act this month. The Senate amount for controllable health programs was $5.3 billion, an increase of $98 million over the House figure and $523 million over the President's budget request. Both bills contain abortion language that limits the use of federal funds for that purpose. The Senate language allows Medicaid funding of abortions if the mother's life is in danger, if the doctor says it is "medically necessary," or if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. The House version allows funding only if the life of the mother is in danger.

National Health Insurance

This July, at NACo's annual convention, county officials adopted a new national health insurance plank. In August, President Carter unveiled his long-awaited national health insurance principles. The 10 Carter points closely parallel NACo's position. This is indication of close working relationships between NACo and the Carter administration.

NACo's position, like Carter's, is that the plan must be phased in and it should stress health promotion and disease prevention, include protection against catastrophic illness, freedom of choice, cost controls, private insurance participation and coverage of traditional county supported patients such as illegal aliens, working poor, migrants, alcoholics, etc. No congressional action is expected until late in the next Congress. NACo will work to ensure that county officials are included in the development of the legislation and as partners in the implementation of national health insurance.

Education (H.R. 15; S. 1753)

NACo supported extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and opposed attempts to cut back impact aid. A NACo-supported amendment to increase cooperation between county boards and school boards was accepted; however, the attempt to cut back some impact aid succeeded. The reduction in funds mainly affected Washington's "rich" suburbs. The formula involving children of federal workers whose parents pay local property taxes was amended. The bill provides over $51 billion in federal aid to elementary and secondary education. The act is aimed primarily at providing aid for disadvantaged children and school districts. The House passed a less expensive version in July.

In a related matter, the House bill (H.R. 13343) to split off education from HEW was reported out of the House Government Operations Committee but faces stiff opposition on the House floor. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee unanimously voted to report out its version (S. 991) and faces no major threat on the floor.

—Michael Gemmell

CIC SEMINAR

Attention: New Grants Coordinators

WASHINGTON, D.C.—To meet the need for training designed specifically for county grants coordinators, the Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators (CIC) will sponsor its third seminar in conjunction with the national federal aid conference next month. The session, designed for grants coordinators from NACo member counties who have been on the job for one year or less, will be held at the NACo offices Oct. 19 and 20 (all day) and Oct. 21 (morning only). Since members of the council volunteer their time to this new program, cost for the seminar is only $35.00. The registration fee includes materials, a text and two luncheons.

The October session has been expanded to include a half-day on techniques of proposal development and writing. Members of the council will be available to assist participants with their grant writing skills and to critique their efforts.

The first two days will concentrate on program development and planning, and the process of developing a grants coordinator's office.

Although a number of private organizations offer such training, none target their programs for local government officials, and most are extremely costly for a new county grants coordinator's budget.

As a professional organization dedicated to the improvement of the intergovernmental system, NACo's CIC affiliate designated a vice president for training several years ago to design a program to fill this need. Nearly 60 county grants coordinators have attended the first two seminars. Many have instituted similar programs within their counties to train departmental staff and CETA employees.

Due to the size of the training facilities, and expansion of the program to include proposal writing, classes are limited to 20 people. If you are interested in attending this session, please fill out the accompanying form and return it to NACo as soon as possible. Preference will be given to county grants coordinators with less than one year's experience.

NACo/CIC Grant Training Seminar, Oct. 19, 20, 21

Return form with your check—**by Sept. 29**—to: *Linda Church*
National Association of Counties
1735 New York Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Name ______________________________

County ______________________________

Title ______________________________

Address ______________________________

Number of Months on Job ________ Phone (____)__________

Confirmation from NACo staff is required to attend this seminar.

MSD Takes On Area Functions

Continued from page 1

the ability to levy an assessment of up to 51 cents per capita on the population in the cities, counties and special districts within its boundaries between January 1979 and through fiscal '81. After '81, the MSD hopes to have established its financial base. Contractual agreements may be undertaken by the MSD with areas outside of its boundaries.

It is hoped through the contractual agreements, counties lying outside of the MSD boundaries would join in providing a uniform planning for the area as well as for the provision of technical assistance, special planning and development of services on a regional basis.

Efforts are underway to have Clark County, Wash. and Columbia County, Ore. join the MSD.

Although there has been a court suit filed by Clackamas, where the referendum failed 52 to 48 percent, officials are optimistic the new governmental entity will succeed.

DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS

LEAA Sets Guides for '79 Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) has published draft guidelines for discretionary programs that will be funded during fiscal '79. Two documents, describing the programs, have been published in the *Federal Register* for public comment. The Draft Fiscal '79 Guide for Discretionary Grant Programs was published July 27. Final publication is expected in November. The Incentive Fund Programs, a new program, was published Aug. 24 for public comment.

The Discretionary Grant Guide is published annually to outline programs funded by LEAA on a nationwide, competitive basis. (The largest portion of LEAA funds are distributed in formula grants to the states.)

One example is the Integrated Police/Prosecution Witness Assistance Program. Up to eight projects will be funded from applications submitted to demonstrate that police and prosecutor coordination can increase successful prosecutions through witness cooperation. The grants will range from $50,000-$250,000 for an 18-month period. They will require a 10 percent match. Deadline for applications is April 13, 1979. In this particular program, some assistance is available from LEAA for preparing the application. For more information, contact: Program Manager, Integrated Police/Prosecution Witness Assistance Program, Special Programs Division, Office of Criminal Justice Programs, LEAA, 633 Indiana Ave., N.W., Room 700, Washington, D.C. 20531.

THE INCENTIVE Fund Programs Guide is a new program offering up to 50 percent federal match for jurisdictions that choose to implement any of seven selected program models. A 10 percent cash match is required and up to 40 percent of the costs can be met with block (formula) grant funds. The program models are Managing Criminal Investigations; Career Criminal Prosecution Program; Juror Utilization and Management; Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime; Health Care in Correctional Institutions; Community Rape Response; and Prosecutor Management Information System.

The Incentive Fund Program is expected to be part of the reauthorizing legislation for LEAA when it expires after fiscal '79. The draft guidelines are a partial implementation of recommendations for restructuring LEAA made by the Attorney General and included in the President's proposed Justice System Improvement Act of 1978.

Both the Discretionary Grant and the Incentive Fund draft guidelines are available from the NACo Criminal Justice and Public Safety Program.

—Duane Baltz

NACo to Support Fiscal Relief Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Immediate fiscal relief to counties for the costs of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program will be supported in testimony Sept. 12 before the Senate Finance subcommittee on public assistance. Frank Jungas, commissioner, Cottonwood County, Minn. and chairman of NACo's Welfare and Social Services Steering Committee, will also reaffirm NACo's continuing commitment to reform of the welfare system.

The bill, S. 3170, introduced by Sens. Russell Long (D-La.), Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), and Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), would eliminate the present AFDC funding mechanism based on federal payment of a percentage of each state's AFDC costs.

It would substitute a two-part block grant based on AFDC costs and general revenue sharing allocations. This is essentially the same formula used to allocate $187 million in fiscal relief payments provided in the 1977 Social Security amendments. Both elements of the block grant would be updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living.

The bill requires that 100 percent of the funds be passed through to counties which contribute to AFDC costs. However, since the bill permanently changes the way the AFDC program is funded, it will "cap" federal costs without any guarantee that state and county costs will be "capped."

Because the bill will be effective in the last quarter of fiscal '79 (July 1979), $400 million in fiscal relief will be available that year. For fiscal '80 (the first full fiscal year) the amount is estimated at $1.5 billion. The accompanying table provides estimates of each state's share, based on the distribution of fiscal relief in the 1977 Amendments to the Social Security Act.

—Aliceann Fritschler

Estimated Fiscal Relief for State and County Welfare Costs Under S. 3470 (dollars in millions)

Ala.	$17.487	Mont.	$3.582
Alaska	2.967	Neb.	6.591
Ariz.	10.482	Nev.	2.493
Ark.	10.989	N.H.	3.921
Calif.	202.503	N.J.	55.755
Colo.	14.202	N.M.	7.392
Conn.	19.809	N.Y.	212.250
Del.	4.194	N.C.	28.098
Fla.	31.695	N.D.	2.640
Ga.	23.565	Ohio	62.583
Hawaii	9.129	Okla.	13.854
Idaho	4.104	Ore.	17.796
	93.204	Pa.	90.165
Ind.	24.357	R.I.	7.260
Iowa	15.627	S.C.	13.365
Kan.	12.015	S.D.	3.660
Ky.	22.821	Tenn.	19.851
La.	24.033	Tex.	46.644
Maine	7.866	Utah	6.930
Md.	26.226	Vt.	3.873
Mass.	57.528	Va.	25.458
Mich.	84.396	Wash.	21.876
Minn.	25.839	W.Va.	10.710
Miss.	13.122	Wis.	34.383
Mo.	25.107	Wyo.	1.749

Conferees to Settle Aging Services Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House and Senate conferees will soon begin deliberations on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. Among the differences between the House (H.R. 12255) and Senate (S. 2850) versions of the legislation are five issues of concern to county officials:

- **Membership of local elected officials on area agency advisory councils**: included in Senate version but not in the House.
- **Consolidation of the titles of the act**: enabling local areas to establish priorities and plan for services that respond to local needs.

Although both the House and Senate bills deal with consolidation, the House bill simply reorganizes the legislation. By providing separate authorizations for specific services, it continues to impose a federal service pattern on local areas. The Senate bill, however, by including a separate authorization only for nutrition, comes much closer to the concept of consolidation advocated by NACo.

- **Use of local plans**: Senate language also adds an amendment stipulating assurances that the state plan actually be based upon area plans. This should eliminate the development of state plans which completely ignore local plans, designed to reflect local priorities.
- **Planning cycle**: although the Senate bill increases the present one-year planning cycle to two years, the House bill adds another year establishing a three-year cycle.
- **Local match**: H.R. 12255 retains the current 90 percent federal/10 percent local formula but S. 2850 increases the local share by changing the match to 85 percent federal/15 percent local.

HOUSE CONFEREES who will decide among these possibilities are: Carl Perkins (D-Ky.), John Brademas (D-Ind.), Edward Beard (D-R.I.), George Miller (D-Calif.), Dale E. Kildee (D-Mich.), Cecil Heftel (D-Hawaii), Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.), Albert Quie (R-Minn.), James Jeffords (R-Vt.), and Larry Pressler (R-S.D.).

Senate conferees are: Harrison Williams (D-N.J.), Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), and John H. Chafee (R-R.I.).

County officials are urged to contact conferees immediately and send copies of letters and telegrams to James Koppel at NACo.

Proposed State Activities in the Tax Area

Over the past few years, many states engaged in tax reform activities. Howe California experience was more prono because of the intense efforts by its ci

California is one of the few states wh initiatives are permitted on the ballot.

State	Type of Action and Year: Constitutional	Type of Action and Year: Statutory	Initiative or Referendum	Remarks and/or Proposal
*Alabama	1977/78, currently being modified and re-drafted by the legislature		Referendum	Would limit the increase in the ad valorem tax rate to 20 percent of the base.
***Alaska**				Local campaigns are underway in major municipalities for tax limitations to levy and collect taxes.
***Arizona**		1978	Initiative	Property tax limitation (petition failed to get required signatures).
	1978		Referendum	Would limit state spending to 7 percent of the state's total personal income.
***Arkansas**	1978		Initiative	Would exempt certain foods and medicines from sales, use, gross receipts or any similar taxes.
***California**	Passed June 6, 1978		Initiative	Limits taxes on real property to 1 percent of the full cash value. Limits increases in assessments to 2 percent a year.
***Colorado**	1978		Initiative	Would limit annual increases in per capita expenditures by the state to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.
*Delaware	1977		Referendum	Would prevent school districts from transferring debt service money to current operations without referendum.
	1978, passed		Referendum	Limits appropriations to 98 percent of state revenues.
	1978		Referendum	Would provide limitation on appropriations by the general assembly.
* + Florida	Prefiled legislation for the 1979 session		Referendum	Would require a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature to levy or increase taxes: would require rollback in assessments to the 1975 assessed value; would limit annual increase in tax assessment of real property to 2 percent
Georgia				Tax relief efforts are taking place on the local level.
* + Hawaii				Constitutional convention in session to study the following proposals: • Permit initiatives; • Limit state spending to a declining percentage of personal income.
***Idaho**		1978	Initiative	Would limit ad valorem taxes to 1 percent of market value.
* + Illinois			Advisory Statutory Referendum (Did not receive required signatures)	Would freeze property assessments until taxes are reduced by 25 percent.
*Indiana				No pending legislation. Next session of the general assembly will be Nov. 21.
* + Iowa				Would hold assessed valuations on agricultural and residential properties for 1979 to 6 percent or less, increase on statewide average.
				Would increase property tax reimbursements to elderly and handicapped, especially those earning annually $5,000 or less.
*Kansas				Special committee appointed to study the present tax structure.
*Kentucky				Two gubernatorial candidates are drafting tax relief proposals. Nothing definite until 1980 when legislature meets.

States with no activity: Louisiana, *North Carolina, Vermont, and **Wyoming.**

*Legislative reference bureaus contacted in each state (information unmarked by an asterisk was gathered through published reports).

Bold face state indicates that initiatives are permitted to be placed directly on the ballot; does not require approval by the legislature.

+ **Florida**—Only constitutional amendment initiatives by the people may be placed directly on the ballot without legislative approval.

+ **Hawaii**—The state does not have referendum, initiative, or recall.

+ **Illinois**—Advisory Statutory Referendum, not legally binding; it is only a state-sanctioned opinion poll. State of Illinois does not have referendum or initiative.

+ **Iowa**—The state does not have referendum, initiative, or recall.

+ **Nevada**—If the initiative passes in 1978, according to their constitution, it must be voted on again in 1980.

State	Type of Action and Year: Constitutional
*Maine	1978
*Maryland	
*Massachusetts	1980
*Michigan	1978
	1978
Minnesota	
*Mississippi	
Missouri	1979
	1979
***Montana**	1979
***Nebraska**	1978
+ Nevada	1978
New Hampshire	1979
New Jersey	
*New Mexico	1978
*New York	
***North Dakota**	
*Ohio	1979

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Stat

the increased public awareness created by sition 13, other levels of government may be d to cut back tax rates or impose spending s. NACo will continue to monitor state s.

chart below summarizes state tax reform s to date:

Remarks and/or Proposal

Tax limitation on all state and local spending tied to cost-of-living changes.

No statewide activity; proposals are to amend county charters.

Prince George's—would freeze total property revenues at fiscal '78-'79 level; Montgomery—would reduce the general fund property tax rate by about 15 percent, from $2.60 to $2.25 for each $100 of assessed property value.

Montgomery—require approval by five of the seven council members on the annual budget, rather than the current simple majority approval.

Would limit the amount of revenue the state can raise and the amount it can spend, based on a formula tied to growth in average personal income.

Would limit property taxes to 2.5 percent of full value.

Would place a limit on state revenues and expenditures as a percentage of personal income in state, and would roll back property taxes if increases in valuation exceed the growth of Consumer Price Index.

Would cut the legal assessment standard from 50 percent to 25 percent with increases in valuation limited to 2.5 percent in any one year. Also limit increases in state income tax to a 1 percent increase in the rates.

Tax limitation legislation being drafted.

Committee of the legislature is presently studying state tax structure for the purpose of reducing taxes.

Tax limitation legislation being drafted.

Proposal to give the legislature authority to roll back property taxes.

Would restore the responsibility for assessing certain property to the counties under the policy direction of a state-county equalization commission.

Would limit spending increases on state and local government to 5 percent. If this passes, it will take precedence over the following:

Limits property tax increases to 7 percent and allow local governments to impose spending limits through popular vote.

Proposition13-type initiative has qualified for the ballot; it would limit assessments to the purchase value.

Would limit property taxes and prohibit sales and income taxes.

Limits state spending, allowing increases equivalent to the change in personal income.

Would defer taxes on the residential property of persons over 62 years old, or whose income consists totally of disability benefits.

Proposals for spending limitations and initiative authorization being discussed.

Would cut personal income tax rates and increase corporation tax.

Would impose a limit on state taxes, spending and real property taxes.

State	Type of Action and Year: Constitutional	Statutory	Initiative or Referendum	Remarks and/or Proposal
*Oklahoma	1979		Initiative	New state taxes cannot be imposed or increased unless approved by a majority of the electors.
	1979		Initiative	Repeal of tax laws; would prohibit the legislature from authorizing or enacting income taxes, estate and gift taxes on real property.
	1979		Initiative	Governor may reduce expenditures but cannot raise taxes or create any indebtedness without voter approval.
***Oregon**	1978		Initiative	Would limit total property taxes to 1.5 percent of "full cash value" of taxable property in the state.
*Pennsylvania	1980		Referendum	Real property tax shall not exceed the sum of 1 percent of the actual full cash market value of property.
	1980		Referendum	Would authorize use of the initiative.
South Carolina				A legislative committee is studying a proposal to allow citizen initiatives, and a proposal to place limits on income tax.
*South Dakota	1978		Referendum	Would require a two-thirds vote of the legislature before taxes could be raised.
	1980		Initiative	Would put a maximum on amount of existing real property taxes in force and effect by keeping present state statutes on real property not to exceed 1 percent of the full and true valuation of such real property.
*Tennessee	Passed March 1978		Referendum	Rate of growth of state revenues not exceed estimated rate of growth of the state's economy as determined by law. Legislature must now decide how to measure growth rate. Question remains whether gross state product or gross state income will be the base.
Texas	1978		Referendum	Would eliminate the requirement that the state tax ad valorem intangible personal property; would exempt residence. homesteads for $5,000 of market value from taxes levied by school districts; and would tax ranch, farm, and timberland on their productivity, rather than market values. Empowers the legislature to exempt the elderly and disabled an additional $10,000 of market value from school district taxes.
***Utah**	1978		Initiatives (Failed to meet deadline to be submitted; therefore, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature)	• The maximum amount of ad valorem tax on real property shall not exceed 1 percent of fair market value of such property. • Would expand "Circuit Breaker" for individuals earning less than $20,000 annually. • State spending shall not increase over its per capita spending as a percentage of state personal income.
*Virginia	1979, prefiled legislation		Referendum	Would limit state taxes to no more than the current level, or 6.5 percent of personal income.
Washington		1978	Initiative	Retired persons (62 years or older) would be exempt from any legal obligation to pay all or a portion of the amount of excess regular real property taxes due and payable in the year following the year in which a claim is filed.
*West Virginia	1978		Referendum	Would reduce from 60 percent to a simple majority the number of voters necessary to approve bond levies and excess levies for the independent county school districts.
*Wisconsin				1979 legislature will consider: • General property tax relief to all property taxpayers; • Homestead credits for the elderly and low income. No petitions have been submitted for November ballot. Legislative Committee is studying constitutional tax limitations.

Options for Revamping UI System Explored by Panel

CHICAGO—The National Commission on Unemployment Compensation reviewed options for revising the federal-state unemployment insurance system during recent hearings in Chicago. The commission, formed last February, is chaired by Wilbur J. Cohen, former secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and dean of the School of Education at the University of Michigan.

Current options for financing benefits, which will be modified by further research and discussion, include:

• Provision for annual interest charges to states with outstanding loans from funding unemployment insurance benefits during the 1974-1976 recession. (Presently, 20 states have an outstanding unemployment insurance deficit of over $5.4 billion.) States would pay interest on any loans outstanding on or after Jan. 1, 1980 at a 2 percent annual rate for 1980, escalating up to a 10 percent annual rate for 1985 and subsequent years.

This proposal would establish a solvency standard (which must be enacted into state law) to assure a reserve fund equivalent to 150 percent of the average annual benefit cost rate of the first seven of the eight prior years.

• Provision of a federal-state reinsurance plan for benefit payments from federal dollars whenever benefits in any calendar year exceed 1.5 times the average annual benefit cost rate (of the first seven of the eight prior years). Payments to states would range from 25 percent to 75 percent of excess payment depending on the excess of benefits over average costs. The commission is now considering the financing of this reinsurance account by assigning .2 percent of the contributions received from the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

• Increase in the taxable wage base to which an employer's unemployment insurance tax rate is applied from the current mandated federal minimum of $6,000 to a $12,000 level by 1982 (accomplished by an escalating scale).

• Financing costs for federal supplemental benefits from federal general revenues.

• Consideration of federal reimbursement to states of between 75 percent and 100 percent of extended unemployment insurance benefits through 1979. (The federal government currently pays 50 percent of these extended benefits.)

It is estimated that these options would provide between $2 and $4 billion in payments to states.

The commission has scheduled additional regional hearings during the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Administrators (CESA) Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska Sept. 22-23. The Commission on Unemployment Compensation is required to present its recommendations to Congress by Nov. 15.

Letters to NACo

To Charlotte Williams:

How do I express the pride every woman in public administration must feel when women such as yourself prove themselves among the toughest competition? Being selected the first black and second woman to head NACo in this era of "women's equality" sends out a message loud and clear. It says that there are opportunities for young women who have earned the right to apply their skills and prove themselves even among our toughest competitors.

Congratulations, Charlotte, hardly seem enough. The pride I felt while reading of your installation in the *National Journal* (July 15) prompted me to write this note.

Your accomplishment illustrates that women's goals can be realized. All the support we can give one another toward achievement of equal opportunity will speed along the day when full equality for women can be a reality.

Believe me, Charlotte, your accomplishment will benefit thousands of women both young and old for years to come.

My very best wishes to you as you ably tackle the business of this nation's county managers.

—**Bernadine Denning**
Director
Office of Revenue Sharing

Dear Bernie:

Before departing my position as CCI executive director, I want to extend my appreciation to you and the NACo staff for the assistance provided CCI over the years. Those seemingly untiring efforts and devotion to NACo have not gone by unnoticed.

I also commend you, Bernie, for your continuing dedication to the proposition that local government is COUNTY. That dedication coupled with your leadership over many years, is today NACo. "The work of the world is done by a few"--you are one of those rare contributions!

Thanks to the members and friends of NACo for their many, many resolutions, letters, telephone calls as well as personal communications of compassion. They all have great meaning to me.

God bless—God speed.

I will be watching the NACo family build a better and stronger United States.

—**Clark A. Buckler**
Executive Director
Colorado Association of Counties

Matter and Measure

AIRPORT GRANTS

The Federal Aviation Administration, under its Airport Planning Grant Program, awarded grants totalling $3.7 million during the second quarter of fiscal '78.

A total of 80 grants was awarded to public or planning agencies in 37 states and one U.S. territory during the three-month period ending March 31, 1978.

A $250,000 grant was awarded to Raleigh, N.C. to evaluate alternatives for future development of the Raleigh-Durham Airport.

Six locations were awarded grants totalling $472,368 for airport master planning studies concentrating on the development of airport noise control plans. Under a pilot program which began in late 1976, FAA awards planning grants that encourage the preparation of comprehensive noise control plans by airport sponsors.

Thre states received system planning grants and three regional planning grants were also awarded during the quarter.

The remaining grants are for preparation of individual airport master plans—22 for airports serving airlines certificated by the Civil Aeronautics Board and 44 for airports serving general aviation (non-commercial) aircraft.

For information on specific airport projects call FAA regional offices or write: Office of Public Affairs, FAA, APA-300, Washington, D.C. 20591.

ENGINEERING FABRICS

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Offices of Research and Development have published a brochure-order form for publications on engineering fabrics.

To familiarize highway engineers with use of fabrics as construction and maintenance material, three publications have been printed and made available:

• USDA Forest Service Report, "Guidelines for Use of Fabrics in Construction and Maintenance of Low-Volume Roads," by J. Steward, R. Williamson, and J. Mohney, (FWHA-TS-205).

This publication contains current testing, design, and construction procedures employed by the Forest Service. It explains fabric manufactures, types of fabrics available, and costs. Although directed to use of fabrics in low-volume roads, the principles apply to all roads.

• May 1977 issue of "Highway Focus."

This is a periodical published to acquaint field personnel with engineering and construction features not considered normal or routine. This issue is devoted to engineering fabric applications on construction projects and contains eight articles, (FWHA-TS-211).

• "Sample Specifications for Engineering Fabrics."

This publication contains specifications from Illinois, Alabama, New York, California, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the USDA Forest Service. It can be used as a guideline in developing specifications for the use of engineering fabrics.

Copies of these publications are available free of cost from the Department of Transportation, FWHA, Office of Research and Development, Implementation Division, (HDV-22), Washington, D.C. 20590; (202/42[illegible]-9230.

ome Health Care Being Expanded

Lee County, Miss. Reaping Benefits

EE COUNTY, Miss.—As part of ionwide push to increase the ef- eness of home health care serv- as an alternative to nursing es, Lee County (population 00) is beginning to reap the bene- of participation in a three-year nstration project funded by the al Administration on Aging and ucted by the National Council Homemaker-Home Health Aide ices.

he project, directed at increasing capacity of local agencies to pro- homemaker-home health aide ices, provides technical assist- to regional, state and local offi- and service providers. A key ponent of home care, the service redited by some studies with g a crucial factor in preventing essary institutionalization.

vailability of homemaker and e health aide services is usually tantially less than the potential in most communities. More- there are major problems in inistering and providing these ices, which act as a deterrent to use. Sources of payment are ed and frequently uncertain, for mple, with Medicare covering e health aide service (but not the emaking component), and only r certain narrowly defined cir- stances. Further complicating situation are the service defini- s, which vary from agency to cy, even within the same com- ity.

HESE AND SIMILAR problems being addressed by the National ncil for Homemaker-Home th Aide Services in one of the al regions in each year of the ect, with two communities in each of the selected regions serving as centers of activity. Having just concluded its first-year efforts in Health, Education and Welfare's (HEW) Region IV, with Lee County, Miss. and Graves County, Ky. as the target communities, the real test of the program is just beginning.

Essentially working as a catalyst, the national council helps service providers and officials negotiate the cumbersome task of developing and expanding home health care services. Through a series of regional and state meetings and conferences, the council provides technical assistance in the intricacies of management, staffing and funding alternatives.

Teams of two professionals and one consumer from each of the target communities are then selected to stimulate and coordinate local efforts, with the council again providing technical assistance in developing a strategy for service development. Through a supplemental grant to the national council from the Exxon Corporation, these communities also receive $5,000 to cover new service start-up costs.

KEY TO THE PROGRAM'S success will be the strength of the community team, which continues its coordinating and leadership role, once the council concludes its intensive role after the first project year. Team members are assigned the responsibilities for mobilizing public interest, exploring funding sources and assisting in the development of staff training programs.

In Lee County, a number of activities directed at service expansion were undertaken prior to the council's project. But the council's efforts are credited with providing the necessary spark to get the community moving. "Without the project," notes Lynda Eifling, project coordinator with the Trace Regional Area Agency on Aging in Belden, Miss., "service expansion would have taken a lot longer."

Four different agencies in Lee provide either homemaker or home health aide services. The situation created sufficient confusion among agencies and clients to affect the quality of service and deter its use—problems which are common to many communities.

Through the stimulus of the national council, however, that situation is improving. The local team is coordinating efforts to obtain Title 3 (Older Americans Act) funds from the Area Agency on Aging to provide additional homemaker staffing; agreements are being negotiated among the service agencies to standardize their definitions of service; and one of the four agencies has agreed to direct efforts toward handling all forms of reimbursement for service. This last arrangement would enable persons in the community who are eligible for multiple forms of reimbursement to receive service from that one agency.

THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES have also had an effect on a statewide level. Working with the Mississippi Council on Aging, the national council helped initiate a State Advisory Council on Homemaker-Home Health Aide Services to work with local agencies in developing homemaker-home health aide services.

Now the national council is beginning activities in Region VII, in Missouri and Nebraska. Selection of the region, states and communities for next year, the third, will depend largely upon the level of interest expressed over the next few months. The national council will also be selecting several other communities as recipients of grants for new service development. Some $50,000 has been made available by U.S. Steel and American Telephone and Telegraph for this purpose.

Meanwhile, with demand for assistance growing across the country, the national council will conduct a national conference for new administrators of service later this winter. While this conference, slated to be a four- to five-day program, will not provide all communities with the in-depth attention enjoyed by Lee County, individual consultation is built into the conference agenda.

In Lee, team coordinator Lynda Eifling firmly expects that the broad-based assistance they have received will result in a significant increase in service availability in the community. She states: "We should see a decrease in the amount of time spent in the hospital and an extension of the time elderly persons remain in their own homes before going to a nursing home."

For more information, contact Camilla Flemming, Director, Advocacy Project, National Council for Homemaker-Home Health Aide Service, 67 Irving Place, New York, N.Y. 10003.

—Janet Smith, NACoR

Counties Eligible for Health Services Aid

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Health Resources Administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) recently designated 2,985 counties or parts of counties as health manpower shortage areas.

These areas are, thus, eligible to apply for health personnel through the National Health Service Corps, a federal program which places health professionals in areas where the services of doctors, dentists, nurses, or other types of personnel are needed. The eligible areas also may receive preference for grants under certain federal health services programs.

The new list of eligible areas includes 2,392 rural and 593 urban areas. The criteria used by HEW are new, and replace older, more restrictive criteria used in previous years. The designation process will continue, and HEW expects that there will be about 5,000 health manpower shortage areas by the end of 1978. Any county may request a formal designation from HEW by working through its local health systems agency.

Further information or assistance to existing or potential health manpower shortage areas is available from NACoR. Contact Tony McCann, Director, Health Services Program, NACoR, 202/785-9577.

Counties Spared UI Liability on Wages of PSE Employees

ASHINGTON, D.C.—The De- ent of Labor recently issued a tive to all state employment ity agencies instructing states lieve public employers from all al revenue liabilities for unem- ent insurance costs based on prehensive Employment and ing Act (CETA) wages paid to service employees.

y unemployment insurance benefit payments necessary for CETA-PSE positions will be paid from federal revenues. Only non-Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) employers—nonprofit organizations and state and local governments—will be relieved of the liability for unemployment insurance payments.

FUTA employers, principally private employers, cannot currently be relieved of liabilities for CETA-PSE participants. In order to provide federal payment for unemployment insurance benfits an Internal Revenue Service ruling is necessary. If a favorable ruling is obtained, this would permit FUTA employers to receive a credit against the federal unemployment tax. Pending this ruling, FUTA employers must continue the payment of liabilities for contributions. In addition, for FUTA employees to be relieved of liabilities, state laws must allow FUTA employers to receive this relief.

Other wages paid to non-PSE state and local government CETA employers may be subject to unemployment tax contributions payable from county general revenues. Unemployment insurance tax collection for other CETA state and local government employees is left to the discretion of each state employment security agency. State agencies have been instructed to consider whether or not an employer-employee relationship exists through employment under non-PSE CETA job classifications.

Job Opportunities

ty Assessor, Spartanburg County, S.C. $14,086 to $19,786. Supervises and par- s with workers engaged in appraising real sonal property tax to determine its fair value. Considerable knowledge of tax ac- g methods, principles of effective admin- n and ability to meet and deal success- th the public. Resume to: Spartanburg Courthouse, Personnel Department, 4, Spartanburg, S.C. 29301.

h Commissioner, Geauga County, Ohio. ommensurate with experience. To serve as public health officer, responsible to five-member board of health, and direct staff of 20 providing full range of personal and environmental health services. Applicant must be physician or hold DDS., DVM., or MPH. degree. Public health administrative experience desired. Resume to: Dr. Robert Schlatzer, Geauga County Department of Health, 219 Main St., Chardon, Ohio 44024. Closing date Oct. 15.

Associate Planner, Lake County, Ill. Salary $12,936 to $16,512. County planning agency has immediate opening for landscape architect to work in its current planning section. Major tasks are to review subdivision plots, assist the public, provide technical expertise on design concepts, and employ innovative approaches to land use. Resume to: George Hummel, Department of Planning, Zoning and Environmental Quality, 18 North County St., Waukegan, Ill. 60085.

Assistant County Road Supervisor, Saguache County, Colo. Degree in civil engineering with at least two years road and bridge experience or equivalent is required. Resumes to: Michael Wynn, Saguache County Administrator, County Courthouse, Saguache, Colo. 81149.

Planner, Northern Kentucky Area Development District. Salary $12,646. Responsibilities include: planning and coordination of services designed to meet the health, safety and welfare needs of elderly citizens in an eight-county area. Assists local governments and social service agencies in seeking out and developing fiscal and human resources to address the needs of the elderly. Bachelor's degree in urban or regional planning or related field. Resume to: Mary Jo Ruccio, Manager, Division for Regional and Local Planning, Northern Kentucky Area Development District, 7505 Sussex Dr., Florence, Ky. 41042. Closing date Sept. 29.

COUNTY NEWS

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NACMO Nominations Deadline Extended

At its Sept. 6 meeting in Savannah, Ga., the NACMO Board voted to extend nominations for NACMO president and vice president to Sept. 30. Please send nominations to: Carolyn Rush, NACMO Nominations Chairperson, Oswego County CETA, 200 North Second St., Fulton, N.Y. 13069. Your letter should include: name, title, address, telephone number, and region of nominee; whether nominated for president or vice president; and whether nominee is a NACMO member.

Pa. Conference Considers Juvenile Justice Problems

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Ralph Schlosstein, consultant to President Carter on urban policy, was keynote speaker for the 92nd Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Commissioners.

More than 400 persons representing 63 of the state's 67 counties attended the meeting in Philadelphia, which also included a question-and-answer session with Peter Flaherty, Democratic candidate for governor, and William Scranton III, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor.

Officers elected include President David K. Rice, VMD, of Warren County; First Vice President Paul W. Bricker of Franklin County; Second Vice President Nelson A. Punt of Cumberland County; and Secretary-Treasurer O. Richard Bartlett of Tioga County.

Other speakers for the meeting included James Mellody, head of the Health, Education and Welfare regional office in Philadelphia; Norvall Reece, Pennsylvania secretary of commerce; Kenneth F. Kahn, chairman of the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board; William B. Robinson, Pennsylvania commissioner of corrections; James G. Schultz, deputy director of the State Department of Community Affairs; and NACoR staffer Tony McCann.

Panel discussions dealt with industrial development, health systems agencies, state legislation and county administration.

Nearly two dozen resolutions were adopted by the membership, including a call for a change in the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act to permit children and adults to be housed in the same prisons, so long as physical barriers prevent any contact between those age groups.

ACCA Installs New Officers

JEFFERSON COUNTY, Ala.—Clarence Bishop of Baldwin County was installed as president of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) during the group's 50th Annual Convention held in Birmingham.

Other officers are First Vice President Charles Christopher of Limestone County and Second Vice President Charles Stone of Madison County.

Members of ACCA's Board of Managers are: Immediate Past President Tom Gloor of Jefferson County; C.M. Knight of Clarke County; Bennie C. Beckham of Coffee County; Roscoe Simmons of Calhoun County; Jimmy Byars of Franklin County; E.V. "Plug" White of Morgan County; Chriss Doss of Jefferson County; and Thomas A. Hayes of Chilton County.

O.H. "Buddy" Sharpless is ACCA executive director.

A Weekly Report
Legislative Countdown

by Bernard F. Hillenbrand, NACo Executive Director

At this writing, President Carter is closeted with Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin in the Maryland mountains leaving Vice President Mondale as daily strategist for the Administration's congressional action program in the final days of the 95th Congress.

Much of vital interest to counties is at stake—fiscal relief for welfare and social service costs, bridge funds, jobs and many, many more "big tag items."

Time is getting as short as congressional nerves. Congress still plans to be home for campaigning by Oct. 7. Yet, there is so much to be won or lost in the final days of legislative wheeling and dealing.

Keep in mind that with 60 veteran congressional representatives not running for re-election and the prospects that many will fail in their attempts to be re-elected, we will have an entirely different Congress come next January. Its newness alone will cause delays in organization and in getting down to the business of enacting items not completed this time around.

Remember also that next year we will be in the home stretch for the 1980 presidential election with all of those uncertainties.

In short, if we are going to get the laws and funding that we need for effective county/federal teamwork, now is the time to act.

Congress is hearing a great babble of voices. A clear, resounding chorus from county officials on what is vital—so that counties can continue to "mind the store" in national partnership programs—is needed on subjects ranging from airports to welfare.

WELFARE FISCAL RELIEF—TITLE XX

With adjournment at hand, the fate of major county welfare legislation depends on the skill and daring of the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee Russell B. Long (D-La.).

Jurisdiction of the Finance Committee is so broad that spending bills like social services (Title XX) which will raise the spending ceiling from $2.5 billion to $3.45 billion by 1981 and fiscal relief which will provide $1.5 billion for welfare costs in 1980 must be "sandwiched in" on days when the members are not dealing with other "major" legislation like the tax bill.

Sen. Long is a firm believer in the block grant concept. He has told many county groups that he believes in giving money to states, counties and cities and letting them do what needs to be done in their individual jurisdictions. True to his word, Long, together with Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), have introduced a bill to provide $1.5 billion in block grants in fiscal '80 for the state and county costs of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

As a way to get the bill acted on this session, Long could attach it to a major piece of legislation like the tax bill—a bill the President would be unlikely to veto.

This is the last chance for fiscal relief for welfare this year. County officials need to make their support known now for fiscal relief and for the need to increase the federal spending limit for local social services programs.

CETA

Has the ugly mood of the House changed over their recess regarding CETA? As county officials know, the program was being shredded so badly by the House that the bill's sponsors withdrew it from consideration. Now CETA returns to the House floor this week. The Obey and Jeffords amendments severely limiting public service wages and cutting the number of public service jobs nationally had wide House support. County officials should not let up in efforts to turn these votes around. Otherwise House action could result in further CETA slashes.

House-Senate conference action is expected immediately after the House acts on CETA. Since no funds are available for CETA in the fiscal '79 Labor-HEW appropriations bill, a separate appropriation must occur before the October recess. NACo supports President Carter's 1979 budget request as the desired appropriation level.

TRANSPORTATION

Returning from vacation, Congress must approve a host of transportation-related bills. Among the most important is the reauthorization of the federal-aid highway bill and public transportation programs. So far only the Senate has acted on highways. The House is expected to act this week. As soon as the House moves, the Senate is then expected to take up the public transportation bill. Time for conference committee action will be tight.

ENERGY IMPACT AID

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has not yet scheduled action on the energy impact aid bill in order to give the subcommittee staff more time to work on a possible compromise between the versions of Sens. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and John Glenn (D-Ohio). The snag remains the same: should communities hurt by skyrocketing energy development be assisted through grants or loans? Sen. Glenn's subcommittee staff has extensively rewritten the bill so that the differences between the two versions are not as great as they once were.

Meanwhile, the House is waiting for the Senate to act. Consequently, it is more important than ever that impacted counties keep in touch with their congressional delegation so that the House can act quickly once the Senate completes its deliberations.

PUBLIC WORKS

As reported last week, it now ap- pears as if a Senate subcommittee h enough votes to approve a new tw year, $2 billion labor intensive publ works bill. The Senate subcommitte on community and regional develop ment is scheduled to meet next wee to consider the legislation.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Dan Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), is a mod fication of the NACo-endorsed Labo Intensive Public Works proposal. is less labor intensive than original proposed (with labor costs averagin 40 percent of total project costs) a targets fewer jobs to the long-te unemployed (25 percent as opposed 50 percent).

Action is imminent on a conside ably larger public works bill in t House Public Works Committe Earlier its economic developme subcommittee approved a two-yea $6 billion combination of publ works construction grants and lab intensive rehabilitation grants.

It is very important for counti suffering severe unemployment—a there are many—to contact their se ators and representatives and expla how important this legislation is ba home.

COUNTERCYCLICAL

The Senate Finance Committee h requested a budget waiver for t countercyclical bill, thus clearing t way for floor action on this aid local governments.

The two-year extension, which projected to distribute $600 million $700 million to financially ha pressed local governments, is c tained in H.R. 2852, the Antirecessi and Fiscal Assistance Act Amen ments of 1978. The bill is cosponsor by Sens. William Hathaway (D-Main Edmund Muskie (D-Maine), and D iel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.).

After the Senate has acted, countercyclical bill will be attache another bill, already passed by House, and sent to a House-Sena Conference Committee to iron ou compromise. The bill will then voted on by both Houses.

Although the House Governme Operations Committee has not ported out any countercyclical m sure, the procedure of attaching the Senate floor to another bill enable the House to vote on the year extension of local and s assistance.

This convoluted effort needs stant support from county offici Much is gained and lost in the minute efforts of congressional clo days.

Bernie Hillenbran

If the Mail Can't Get Through, Let NACo's "Wire to Washington" Keep You Informed

A nationwide postal strike would delay the delivery of **County News.** Yet the threat of a postal strike comes at a time when Congress is down to the wire on key legislation...legislation counties need to keep on top of.

In case of a postal strike, let NACo's own "wire to Washington" keep you informed. The **National Association of Counties** telephone hotline (a three-to-five minute) recorded message will be updated daily during a strike, or postal slowdown. Information on "what's happening" on Capitol Hill is at your fingertips by simply calling:

202/785-9591

NACo's hotline—the wire to Washington