This Week

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COUNTY NEWS

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

NACo

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Panel Votes AFDC Improvements

NACo JOINS COURT BATTLE—NACo President Frank Francois reviews NACo's recently filed court brief on the handicapped transportation regulations with Tom Bulger, NACo legislative representative for transportation. See related story, page 3.

The Social Welfare Reform Amendments of 1979, H.R. 4904, was reported by the House Ways and Means Committee Sept. 13, after surviving attempts to amend it in ways unacceptable to NACo.

As reported, the welfare reform bill is essentially the proposal set forth by the Administration as the cash assistance portion of President Carter's welfare reform program. The other half, the Job Opportunities Act of 1979, has not yet received hearings in the House Education and Labor Committee.

The cash bill proposes a set of major incremental changes in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program which would simplify program administration, improve benefits in 13 states and increase the federal share of AFDC costs in all states. The combined greater federal share and administrative savings would result in $900 million in fiscal relief to states and counties beginning in 1981.

All states would receive a 10 percent higher federal match on AFDC expenditures, e.g., New York would receive 55 percent federal funding instead of the current 50 percent matching rate. Hold-harmless provisions guarantee states at least 5 percent fiscal relief until 1984.

Major simplification would occur through alignment of AFDC and food stamp eligibility definitions for income, assets and resources, and by standardizing work expense deductions.

OTHER PROVISIONS include:

- Establishing a federal minimum benefit level at 65 percent of poverty level;
- Mandating the AFDC-Unemployed Parent (AFDC-UP) program in all states;
- Integrating WIN with CETA administration, along with strengthened work incentives; 620,000 jobs for welfare recipients would be available through the companion bill, Job Opportunities;
- Cash-out of food stamp benefits for Supplemental Security Income recipients.

A substitute bill, H.R. 4460, offered by Rep. John Rousselot (R-Calif.) would have replaced the current AFDC program with a block grant program based on 1979 spending levels and would have waived AFDC requirements to allow up to eight states to create their own family welfare programs as alternatives to the current system.

This bill was defeated along partisan lines, 21 to 14. Amendments were also defeated which would have allowed similar authority for demonstration programs, permitted states to institute workfare as a condition of eligibility in AFDC, and diluted the hold-harmless and guaranteed fiscal relief provisions.

NACo opposed the block grant and alternative family welfare systems approaches because the effect would be to freeze federal welfare costs rather than state and local costs. The multiple demonstration approach would reinforce disparities in the welfare system, while NACo supports greater national uniformity.

SEVERAL SUBSTANTIVE amendments were adopted: In the AFDC-UP program, in which all states would be required to partici-

See FOOD, page 10

Senate Holds Spending Line

Funds in appropriation bills already agreed to by the Senate probably won't be reduced even though the Senate last week adopted an amendment to the second budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 36, which would hold down spending for fiscal '80 to overall levels agreed to in May in the first budget resolution.

Leading the effort at "reconciliation" was Budget Chairman Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) who agreed to a compromise amendment which would require the Appropriations Committees in the Senate to report legislation necessary to rescind previously decided appropriations only if the sum of the 13 appropriation bills exceed $383.6 billion in budget authority and $338.4 in outlays. The Senate adopted the substitute amendment by a vote of 90-6.

The Muskie substitute was agreed to by Sens. Russell B. Long (D-La.) and Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.), the leading opponents of the original language which, in effect, would have forced reconciliation on selected appropriation bills.

Section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 calls for reconciliation when the total of the 13 appropriation bills exceeds ceilings set by the Second Budget Resolution. When this occurs, the Appropriations Committees are supposed to reduce their spending levels to conform with the ceilings.

With the new fiscal year only a few weeks away, the Senate has passed only half of the 13 appropriations bills.

The effect of the Muskie compromise will be to hold down any add-on amendments to those fiscal '80 appropriation bills yet to be considered and to prevent an economic stimulus supplemental next spring without having to pass a third budget resolution to increase current ceilings. The likelihood for a third resolution is minimal despite dire predictions of increasing unemployment because of the overwhelming support for the Muskie compromise and the reluctance of senators to go on record for increased spending except in the area of national defense. Basically, senators chose to take their money (in current fiscal '80 appropriations bills) and "run" this year in exchange for the Senate precedent of accepting the reconciliation process.

The compromise also requires authorizing committees to report reconciliation measures necessary to bring spending and budget authority in line with budget ceilings by Nov. 1, 1979.

There is no apparent immediate impact on county programs such as housing, CETA, health and LEAA as previously feared. Conference reports on fiscal '80 appropriation bills already passed by the Congress are relatively safe and those appropriation bills still to come up will receive a tight reign by Chairman Magnuson in order to bring the sum of the bills in below the ceilings of the second resolution.

After wrestling with the question of reconciliation, the Senate finally passed the second budget resolution 62-36, increasing defense spending a full 3 percent over what was needed to keep pace with inflation. This increase raised the deficit to $31.6 billion, $3.6 billion over what had been agreed to after the Muskie compromise.

See VITAL, page 10

House Sends Budget Back

The House last week rejected its version of the second budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 186, 213-192, in protest over the measure's $29.3 billion deficit. The House Budget Committee must now reopen consideration of the resolution and try to come up with a smaller deficit. Prior to rejecting the budget, the House defeated, 221-191, an attempt to raise defense spending to the Senate-approved level. The House also rejected the GOP tax-cut plan, 230-187.

The House Budget Committee did not include "reconciliation" language in reporting the second budget resolution and recognized "that there may be practical difficulties inherent in the reconciliation process."

The fact that the House rejected higher defense spending, rejected reconciliation language and sent the budget back with a deficit $2.3 billion lower than the Senate's version does not auger well for a speedy agreement by both Houses on spending for fiscal '80 which begins Oct. 1.

Sasser to Key Aid Briefing

Sasser

Sen. James Sasser (D-Tenn.), chairman of the subcommittee on intergovernmental affairs and a champion of grant reform, will be a key speaker at the 15th annual Federal Aid Briefing Oct. 24.

Sponsored by NACo and its affiliate, the Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators, the conference will take place Oct. 23-25 at the Washington, D.C. Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Sen. Sasser is a cosponsor of S. 878, the Federal Assistance Reform Act. This bill along with S. 904, the Federal Assistance Reform and Small Communities Act, is designed to standardize, simplify and strengthen the rules and conditions governing the use of federal aid by state and local governments. These bills would also encourage the consolidation of related grant programs by the President in consultation with the Congress.

In kicking off a series of hearings to examine proposals to streamline the management of the federal grants system Sasser said, "The time is ripe to examine the operation of these programs with an eye toward controlling unnecessary costs and reducing regulatory burdens.

"Categorical grants are growing by leaps and bounds," he noted, "as special interests seek to protect their separate funding programs. We must be able to streamline our mammoth grant system in time of fiscal austerity."

David Walker, associate director of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs (ACIR) will address the difficulties for grant reform and what the future holds at the Oct. 25 luncheon.

Tornadoes frequently accompany hurricanes causing additional destruction such as in this rural area of Alabama.

HURRICANE FREDERIC

County Plans Save Lives

Citizen alerts and evacuation procedures established by county civil defense directors helped move an estimated 500,000 people out of the direct path of Hurricane Frederic. Few lives were lost directly to the storm which wreaked havoc on several Gulf Coast states earlier this month; about a dozen people were indirect casualties. In contrast, Hurricane Camille took 255 lives when it struck Mississippi a decade ago.

While there were some exceptions, people in the Gulf Coast counties cooperated to meet the basic tenet of the civil defense coordinator—getting people out of danger and saving lives.

A spokesman from the Alabama State Civil Defense Department, Lawrence Bowden, praised county officials both for their preparedness and response efforts.

For example, only a few days before the hurricane, Baldwin County had updated and published evacuation maps designating the best routes for moving north. These were posted and published in local newspapers.

In addition, counties from all over the state responded with nearly 1,200 volunteers to help clear debris from streets and allow utility and rescue operations to function.

Howard Proctor, civil defense coordinator for Morgan County in northern Alabama, spent three days on the Gulf Coast with chainsaws to help clear the streets of trees. He also brought a generator to help restore power for storing food and washing clothes. He and Bowden both observed that the primary needs were power saws, generators, food and ice.

A system for locating these priority resources had been developed by 13 counties in northern Alabama after Hurricane Camille struck in 1969. Three councils of governments organized a mutual aid system under a grant from the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency in 1972. One of the features of the program is a computerized inventory of all major resources in the 13-county area that would be on tap in the event of a major emergency.

Shirley Cyphers, civil defense director for Madison County and Huntsville, noted that if such an inventory could be kept up-to-date it could pinpoint more quickly the equipment needed by local governments during a major emergency.

Immediately following Hurricane Frederic, President Carter declared 30 counties as disaster areas, 11 of these being in Alabama. The President personally viewed the coastal ruins by helicopter along with John Macy, the new director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Initial estimates indicate there may be $1.25 billion damage, excluding agricultural damage, in Mobile County alone. Recovery efforts will be a major test of the newly reorganized federal response agencies to provide aid quickly.

Federal help available to victims includes: temporary housing, disaster unemployment assistance, Small Business Administration low interest loans, agricultural assistance, emergency supplies of food and clothing, food stamp emergency assistance, tax assistance by the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security assistance for those who need checks, and individual and family grants up to $5,000 per individual or family for needs not covered by insurance or other grants.

—Duane Balt[illegible]
NACo[illegible]

House Votes Funding for the SOS Program

An additional $242.5 million in new spending was included in H.R. 4440, the fiscal '80 appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation, passed by the House, 335-71.

The money was added in a NACo-supported amendment by Rep. Robert Duncan (D-Ore.), subcommittee chairman for Transportation appropriations. (See box for total appropriations in areas important to counties.)

If the Senate takes similar action the safer off-system roads program, recommended for termination by the Administration, will be funded in fiscal '80, and the public transportation capital program would be fully funded at the 1980 authorized levels. The operating assistance program would, however, still be $125 million short of 1980 authorized levels, and the new rural public transportation program would also be short $15 million.

Action now shifts to the Senate where a similar bill is expected to be approved in the next few weeks. The House vote, coupled with swift Senate action, will mean that a continuing spending resolution will not be required for DOT to pay its bills as the new federal fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Duncan

	Appropriations Committee (in millions)	Duncan Amendment (in millions)	Total (in millions)
Public transportation capital program (Section 3) for the purchase of buses and construction of rail systems	$1,280	130	1,410
Public transportation operating assistance (Section 5)	1,425	30	1,455
Small urban and rural public transportation	75	10	85
Carpool/vanpool	——	4	40
Safer off-system roads program	35	40	75
55 mph enforcement program	——	20	8.5

Transit/Handicapped Regs Being Challenged in Court

NACo has joined as a "friend of e court" in a lawsuit which chal- nges federal regulations aimed at oviding transit mobility to handi- pped persons across the country.

The suit filed in U.S. District Court r the District of Columbia by the merican Public Transit Association PTA) seeks a summary judgement transportation regulations imple- enting Section 504 of the Rehab- itation Act of 1973.

Last month U.S. District Court dge Louis F. Oberdorfer rejected a otion by the plaintiffs to halt imple- entation of the rules until the merits the case could be argued. He ruled at "irreversable harm" from the gulations taking effect could not e proven.

The new rules which were issued in final form this past July require, among other things, the purchase of wheelchair lift-equipped buses and full accessibility for subways, airports and highway facilities in future years.

Data on "harmful effects" was difficult for the plaintiffs to show since those governments affected have had little time to assess the scope of the new rules and to incorporate the additional costs of compliance into their budgets.

Although action on the suit is scheduled for this week, it could be put off until early October.

NACo's participation in the legal proceedings is supported by a resolution passed by the full membership at the annual conference. According to NACo President Frank Francois, councilman, Prince George's County, Md.: "By dictating a single 'made in Washington' response to the problem of mobility for the handicapped, the federal government has imposed a cost burden on all local governments without necessarily ensuring that the job will be done any better."

Additionally, by implementing these regulations the federal government is "once again usurping the authority and responsibility of local elected officials to respond efficiently to their citizens," he noted.

NACo stressed in its brief the absence of local options in the final regulations issued by the Department of Transportation. Prior to these new rules, DOT had relied on the ability of local officials through countywide transportation systems to tailor services to the public, including special programs for the handicapped and the elderly.

Also noted was the high cost of complying with the new regulations. To the extent that funding considerations are tied to the ability of governments to provide public transportation services, NACo said in its brief, the regulations will not contribute to the mobility of handicapped citizens or to the public in general.

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING—Pete Mirelez, commissioner, Adams County, Colo., is greeted by President Carter during meeting on hispanic issues. Every major hispanic group was present at the meeting along with most cabinet members. Since that meeting hispanics have been appointed to key positions in the White House, the State Department and the Navy.

Hill Conferees Nearer to Voting Gas Rationing Plan

House and Senate conferees are se to agreement on a bill which uld give the President standby thority to ration gasoline. The ra- ning mechanism is an amendment S. 1030 which establishes manda- ry state conservation programs.

A breakthrough was achieved last ek on the controversial issue of e right of Congress to veto a ra- ning plan. The Senate wanted the ht to veto a proposed plan before was put on the shelf to await plementation in an emergency.

Arguing that Congress would ver approve a rationing plan in the sence of a clear emergency situa- n, House members felt that the ht to veto at this stage would put end to any chance of gasoline tioning. The House wanted the ht to veto a rationing plan be- re it was to go into effect.

The compromise finally agreed to somewhat complicated. Under the oposal, both Houses would have to sapprove a plan within 30 days ter it was submitted by the Presi- nt. However, the President could to Congress's disapproval and ngress could then override the to on a two-thirds vote of both uses.

If the presidential veto were over- dden, another plan could be sub- tted. If the President prevailed, plan would be put on the shelf til implemented by the President during an emergency.

One issue still divides House and Senate: the question of defining an emergency. Under the House plan, the President could only impose the rationing plan during a petroleum shortage of 20 percent or more, a trigger considered high by the Senate. If the President moved to implement the gasoline rationing plan, it could be vetoed by the majority vote of one House.

In addition, the mandatory conservation plans could only be imposed during a petroleum shortage of 10 percent or more, again a trigger considered to be high by the Senate. The staffs were directed to work out a compromise on this issue. No formal hearings of the Conference Committee are scheduled.

The state mandatory conservation plans would involve having the President set state-by-state conservation goals. How those goals would be met would be at the discretion of the various states. If any state is unable through its own programs to achieve the established goals, then the President could impose an Administration plan for that state.

Debate on the gasoline rationing plan has tied up many members of the Energy Committee, and consequently, action on the Energy Mobilization Board has been slow. Now that a compromise is at hand, it is expected that the EMB proposal will move much more rapidly.

Land/Water Funding Cut Fought

Oregon's Senator Mark Hatfield has agreed to sponsor an amendment to the House-passed appropriation bill for the Department of the Interior, H.R. 4930, to restore $159 million for the state and local portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal '80. Earlier, the House at the urging of the Appropriations subcommittee for Interior deleted a similar amount from the President's original request.

No opposition has been detected to restoring part or all of the amount cut by the House. Senate subcommittee markup is expected this week. County officials should contact their Senate delegations and subcommittee members to urge support for the Hatfield amendment.

NACo strongly supports restoration of the state and local portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund as the principal source of assistance for acquiring and developing park, recreation, and natural resource areas. This program has one of the best obligation records of any federal program. Reduction in the fiscal '80 appropriations would delay or terminate many projects already under way. The table below compares state allocations between the amount requested by the Administration, $359 million, and the amount approved by the House, approximately $200 million.

Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittee members include:

Democrats:

Robert C. Byrd, Chairman, W.Va.
Ernest F. Hollings, S.C.
Birch Bayh, Ind.
J. Bennett Johnston, La.
Walter Huddleston, Ky.
Patrick Leahy, Vt.
Dennis DeConcini, Ariz.
Quentin Burdick, N.D.
John A. Durkin, N.H.

Republicans:

Ted Stevens, Alaska
Milton R. Young, N.D.
Mark O. Hatfield, Ore.
Henry Bellmon, Okla.
James A. McClure, Idaho
Paul Laxalt, Nev.

Estimated Fiscal '80 LWCF State Apportionments (millions)

State	Adm. Request $359,307,000	House-passed $200,000,000	State	Adm. Request $359,307,000	House-passed $200,000,000
Alabama	5.91	3.27	New Hampshire	3.25	1.92
Alaska	2.84	1.72	New Jersey	10.85	5.76
Arizona	4.78	2.69	New Mexico	3.41	2.00
Arkansas	4.20	2.41	New York	22.57	11.69
California	26.40	13.62	North Carolina	7.02	3.85
Colorado	5.22	2.92	North Dakota	2.99	1.79
Connecticut	6.05	3.34	Ohio	13.84	7.29
Delaware	3.12	1.86	Oklahoma	4.96	2.79
Florida	11.48	6.08	Oregon	4.66	2.64
Georgia	6.98	3.82	Pennsylvania	15.06	7.90
Hawaii	3.47	2.03	Rhode Island	3.61	2.10
Idaho	3.07	1.83	South Carolina	4.92	2.77
Illinois	14.41	7.57	South Dakota	2.99	1.79
Indiana	7.73	4.19	Tennessee	6.48	3.56
Iowa	4.78	2.70	Texas	15.22	7.98
Kansas	4.45	2.53	Utah	3.80	2.20
Kentucky	5.36	3.00	Vermont	2.81	1.70
Louisiana	6.12	3.38	Virginia	7.30	3.97
Maine	3.33	1.96	Washington	6.07	3.35
Maryland	7.01	3.82	West Virginia	3.94	2.28
Massachusetts	9.27	4.96	Wisconsin	6.79	3.72
Michigan	12.24	6.47	Wyoming	2.75	1.67
Minnesota	6.27	3.46	District of Columbia	1.31	.71
Mississippi	4.21	2.41	Puerto Rico	4.66	2.58
Missouri	7.07	3.86	Virgin Islands	.10	.05
Montana	3.07	1.83	Guam	.11	.06
Nebraska	3.82	2.22	American Samoa	.03	.02
Nevada	3.17	1.88			

Fire Safety Plans Studied

Representatives from several na- nal organizations reviewed proce- res for county fire protection plan- g at a meeting hosted by the Co Fire Protection Project, Sept. , at the Asilomar Conference ounds near Monterey, Calif.

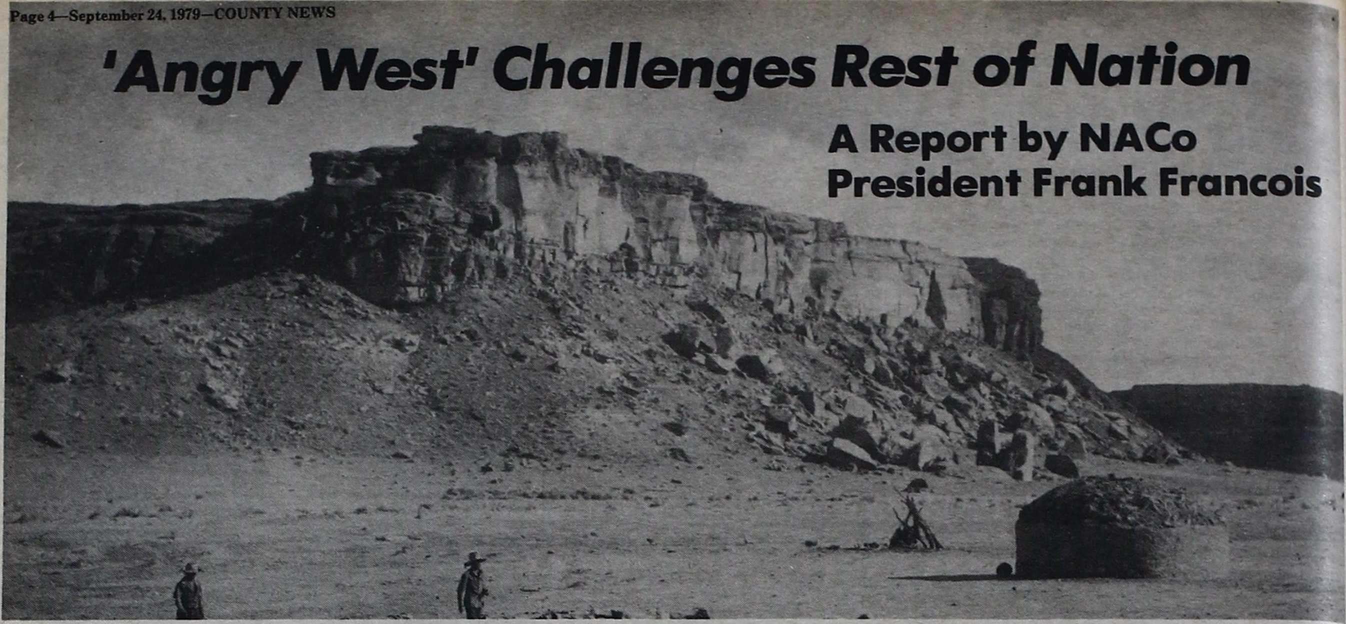
The National Advisory Board was tablished under a grant from the S. Fire Administration to assist Co's research arm in develop- g a guide to multijurisdictional fire otection planning. Since county- el fire protection involves many rvices—including emergency dical services, communications d dispatch, and code enforcement— at are spread out over many inde- ndent districts, extensive proce- res are often required to combine these interests into a workable nning unit. Revisions in existing protection guides, developed for municipalities, are required to provide a guide that is appropriate for county officials.

San Diego County, which hosted a feasibility study and is scheduled to be a pilot site for county fire protection planning, was represented by Supervisor Lucille Moore and Charlotte Langley, director, Office of Disaster Predparedness and Fire Services. Also represented was the Los Angeles County Fire Services Commission by Jeffrey M. Stern.

The organizations which make up the advisory board are: The National Volunteer Fire Council, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Association of Regional Councils, State Fire Marshals, International City Management Association, and National League of Cities.

'Angry West' Challenges Rest of Nation

A Report by NACo President Frank Francois



As the national organization representing county government, NACo must be aware of the issues concerning our members wherever they are located in the vastness of our nation. Today, the counties in our western states are growing increasingly concerned about a set of issues which those of us living in the more populous and water-rich East and South often cannot truly grasp. But grasp them we must, for they affect all Americans.

I recently attended the Western Coalition Meeting on Public Lands, held in Reno, Washoe County, Nev. I went so that I could better understand the special concerns of NACo's Western Interstate Region, and do a better job as NACo president.

There is a new, and growing, unrest in our western states. The *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times* are calling it the "Sagebrush Rebellion." *Newsweek* magazine is calling it the "Angry West." Whatever it might be called, it is generating one of the strongest sense of intersectional regionalism in the country today. As Alaska's Lt. Governor Terry Miller expressed it in Reno, "The Mason-Dixon line has moved west—to the 100th meridian." Cal Black of San Juan County, Utah, president of NACo's Western Interstate Region, refers to the 13 states west of this new "Mason-Dixon" line as the "13 colonies."

ROOTS OF THE REBELLION

What lies at the root of the "sagebrush rebellion?" Several things. When our western states were accepted into the Union, in most cases the federal government retained

> ***"There is a growing concern with how the federal government is managing its western lands."***

ownership of vast amounts of land. Today, very large portions of these states are still owned by Uncle Sam, including over 87 percent of the state of Nevada and 96 percent of the state of Alaska. Increasingly, Westerners are arguing that the failure of the federal government to release most of this land to the now well-established states and their citizens constitutes unequal treatment, as compared to the eastern states which have long controlled the great bulk of their land.

There is also a growing feeling beyond the 100th meridian that those of us living elsewhere in the United States still look upon the West as a frontier region, to be explored, exploited and enjoyed without concern for the people who live there. When it comes to the administration of the federal lands, they believe that policies are being set without taking into account the unique geography and climate of the West, and what its residents want.

One overriding concern of the West is water. It is hard for Americans living in areas of heavy rainfall and lush greenery to understand the vastness and the dryness of our western states, and what it means to live in constant fear of inadequate water for people, crops and livestock.

Today, all of these issues, and others, are being articulated more and more. The "Angry West" is a new reality for our nation, as we face the 1980s.

SUCCESS OF PAYMENTS-IN-LIEU

We in NACo have long been aware of many of the concerns of our western counties—especially the counties with large holdings of federal lands. In fact, as Jack Petitti, commissioner of Clark County, Nev., indicated during the Reno conference, the history of NACo's Western Interstate Region goes back to 1940, when NACo first established its policy for payments-in-lieu of taxes, and encouraged the formation of the old Interstate Association of Public Land Counties.

It took many years, but NACo finally succeeded in getting Congress to enact the payments-in-lieu of taxes program. This program now provides recognition of the tax burden in all states, and especially in the West, resulting from the tax exempt nature of federal lands. More than 1,500 counties now receive annual payments totalling more than $100 million a year, to help them provide law enforcement, health care, road maintenance, and other local government services affected by the presence of federal lands.

UNCLE SAM AS LANDLORD

But the tax immunity issue was not high on the agenda in Reno. Instead, in state-by-state reports from western county officials, I heard time and again that the major concern today is a growing frustration with how the federal government is managing its western lands. Based upon what I heard, there is cause for concern. I think it will help all

> ***"One overriding concern of the West is water."***

NACo members to better understand the problems faced by counties in the West if I relate some of the Reno reports.

One county official reported the closing and chaining of public county roads by federal officials, without notifying the county's board of commissioners. Others reported that proposed wilderness "study areas" have precluded the collection of firewood for low-income families dependent on this form of energy, that many small communities dependent on the timber industry are threatened by prolonged wilderness studies, and that in hearings on these studies county governments have received no formal recognition.

One county official said that federal agents are denying county access to gravel and water deposits needed to maintain county roads that go through and are intended to serve federal lands. Another reported that recreation roads are being closed to cabins and lakes used by local fishermen, again without notice. Running through all the reports was concern about the economic chaos which arbitrary and unjustified actions can create.

The county officials in Reno gave other reports, too. I was pleased to hear that many counties are using a portion of their payments-in-lieu funds to increase law enforcement on the federal lands. I also heard official after official encourage all counties to adopt county land use plans, as the best tool to deal with federal bureaucrats and explain what the local concerns and issues are.

Those who talked about the need for local land use planning repeatedly emphasized that they should be adopted through public hearings that give the citizens a meaningful voice in what is done, and that all plans must take into consideration state and national interests, as well as local economic and social goals.

The message was clear. Most of our western leaders mean to protect and properly utilize the land which they have come to love, and which often is fragile and needs special care.

FUTURE CONFLICTS AND NEW CHALLENGES

Today the concerns of the West are frequently in conflict with proposals made by the rest of America. In the field of energy, we now want to harvest vast areas of coal and other fuels found in the West. The western states are concerned about what rapid industrialization will do to their fragile environment, their clean air, and to counties with limited means to handle a large influx of new citizens. They are concerned that water needed for drinking and growing crops might be channeled unnecessarily into industrial uses.

All of these matters are important, and we in NACo must be prepared to discuss them openly, and with a willingness to listen to all views.

Our *American County Platform* deals with the public lands issues and calls for the officials in the West to have a meaningful voice in the decisions to be made. This is as it should be, and NACo will continue to fight for recognition of the principle of local government involvement in decision-making.

Every state in the Union has special concerns. As a national organization, NACo must try to understand and respond to the issues involved and help where we can, and over the years we have normally succeeded in doing this.

The "sagebrush rebellion" presents all of us with new challenges, which will require more cooperation and understanding by county officials from all parts of the nation. I know we are up to the task.

ACREAGE LIMIT RAISED

Senate Votes Reclamation Act

Last week the Senate approved legislation updating the 1902 Reclamation Act which would establish a 1,280 acre limitation on ownership of farmlands irrigated with federal reclamation water.

Sponsor of the bill, S. 14, Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) hailed the 47-23 vote as a victory for the West and called upon the House to begin its own consideration of the new bill.

"This is the first major overhaul of reclamation law in 77 years, and looks to the needs of Idaho and other western states now and in decades to come," Church said.

NACo supports legislation to update provisions of the 1902 reclamation law to meet the needs of modern farming requirements.

Federal courts have indicated that unless Congress acts to reform the 1902 law, they will begin to require stringent enforcement of its current provision limiting water deliveries to 160 acres of reclamation land. The 160-acre limitation, long ignored, "is simply no longer adequate to meet the needs of modern farming conditions," Church argued repeatedly during two days of Senate debate on his bill.

Before voting to accept the 1,280 acre limitation, the Senate defeated two attempts to decrease the limitation to 640 acres and 920 acres respectiviely.

The Senate-passed measure allows the acreage limitation to be in any combination of owned or leased parcels. The land can be controlled by an individual, a family, a partnership, or a small company which benefits less than 25 individuals.

"These votes made it clear that the intention of the reclamation reform bill is to put a cap on the amount of land covered under the reclamation law at 1,280 acres. That is sound policy, and will preserve the concept of family farming the land. Residence of 51 miles or further away does not mean a person is not actually working his land," Church said.

The bill also incorporates the concept of "equivalency" into general reclamation law for the first time. This means that the acreage limitation can be raised for land with a short growing season, or for land of lesser productive value.

The bill also stipulates that once beneficiaries have repaid their share of water development costs, restriction will be removed. The bill is expected to meet a critical reception on the House side. No hearings have been scheduled.

NACo's President ... Meets the Press

opping off a week of non-stop etings with officials from every el of government, NACo President ancis B. Francois was honored at a eption at NACo headquarters at- nded by numerous Washington rsonalities.

One of the first to greet Francois s Moon Landrieu, the newly con- med Secretary for the Department Housing and Urban Development. her guests included presidential es Jack Watson and Gene Eiden- rg, Les Lamm, executive director the Federal Highway Administra- n, and Alan Campbell, director of Office of Personnel Management.

Francois' week began at NACo dquarters with the New Coali- n's Energy Task Force. The meet- , attended by representatives m state and local government blic interest groups, identified eral areas of concern in the Presi- nt's energy proposals and reached sensus on broad policy areas hin the issues on the Energy bilization Board, the windfall pro- s tax, energy conservation and rgy impact assistance.

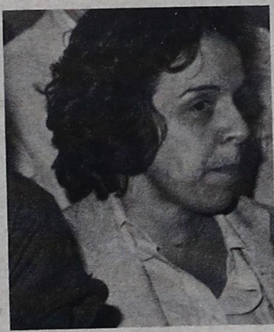
After reviewing various policy issues on general revenue sharing, energy and welfare reform for nearly three hours, Francois and other members of the New Coalition met with the President at the White House. New Coalition members called on the President to make clear to Congress that he supports full funding of the general revenue sharing program in the fiscal '80 budget pending before both Houses.

Later that week, Francois told more than a dozen Washington energy editors and reporters that without meaningful legislation, the energy crisis "can destroy the economic lifeblood of our nation." He pointed out that while county officials across the nation have been working hard to solve the energy crisis at the local level, Congress has been virtually idle and energy costs keep rising.

Following the news conference there was a reception honoring Francois. He was greeted by various officials from the White House, Congress and other governmental agencies.

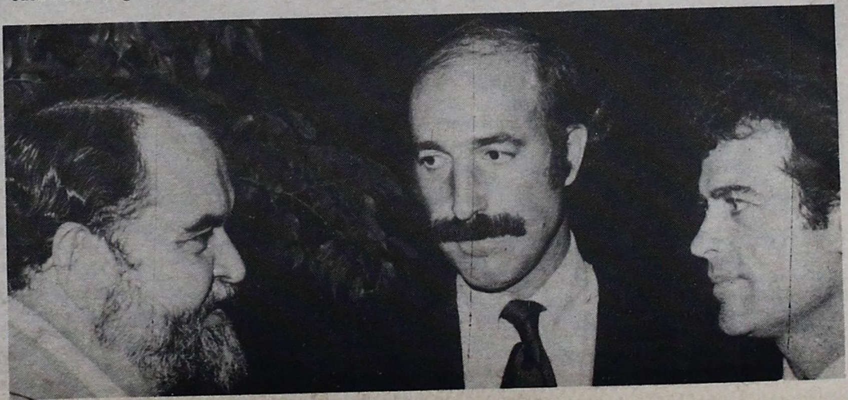
NACo President Frank Francois, above, gives his energy address at news conference at NACo headquarters and, below, fields questions from reporters.

... Greets Washington VIPs



Donna Shalala, HUD assistant secretary for policy development and research, above left, was at the reception. Alan Campbell, director of the office of personnel management, above, talks with Francois. Below are presidential aides Jack Watson, right, and Gene Eidenberg, center, greeting NACo president.

Linhares, DOT's chief of Technology Sharing Division, top left, and WA Executive Director Les Lamm meet Francois. HUD Secretary Moon drieu, above left, talks with Robert T. Hall, Commerce Department stant secretary for economic development.



Will Older Citizens Need Income Supplement?

LEE COUNTY, Miss.—What can be done to assure enough income for a county's older population over the next 10 or 20 years? Can programs be undertaken that will help supplement Social Security benefits? Can older, but still middle-aged, workers be retrained so that the economy does not suddenly leave them behind?

These important yet difficult questions are the subjects of an intensive needs analysis being conducted with the help of Lee County officials, local planners, private sector employers, and public agency personnel.

Data is being collected and developed by Lynda Eifling, a planner from the Traceway Area Agency on Aging, and researchers from the National Association of Counties Research, Inc. (NACoR).

NACoR has received a grant from the federal Administration on Aging to help five counties develop long-term planning for the elderly.

Besides Lee, the other counties are: Contra Costa County, Calif.; Plymouth County, Iowa; Rensselaer County, N.Y. and Summit County, Ohio.

Each county was selected on the basis of its population characteristics, existing services to the elderly, and commitment to long-term planning.

In four counties the initial needs assessment studies 10 areas: health, housing, transportation, income and employment, social services, nutrition services, protective and legal services, safety (from crime) services, leisure activities, and "access services." Access services include outreach, information and referral, etc.

In Lee County, however, the initial needs analysis concentrates on one area judged to be the most important by a committee of Lee County officials organized by the staff of the Traceway Area Agency on Aging. The area selected is income and employment, although transportation was a close second in this northeastern Mississippi County that has changed rapidly from a farming community to a center for business and industry in the area.

Initial findings suggest:

- In the next 20 years, the elderly population will increase twice as fast as the nationwide average of 21 percent;
- Over half of the people who will be elderly in the year 2000 do not presently live in the county, but will migrate into the county in the next few years and then grow older;
- Most of the increase will be in the county seat, Tupelo, rather than in the outlying parts of the county;
- Some companies in the county seem to be interested in cooperating to develop a preretirement counseling system;
- Few part-time jobs, which are often preferred by older workers, are available in Lee County;
- A large percentage of low-income elderly who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) do not seem to be obtaining food stamps although they are probably eligible.

These findings differ considerably from those in the other four counties. For example, in Rensselaer County the elderly population of the central city will decrease 20 percent. In Summit County, 79 percent of the future increase will be outside the central city, Akron.

In both these counties part-time employment is available and the number of elderly food stamp recipients seems to exceed the number of SSI recipients.

In Contra Costa County the number of very old people, those 75 and older, will increase a staggering 300 percent.

Each of the five counties is at a different stage in developing a plan to respond to information gathered in the initial needs assessment. Plymouth and Rensselaer Counties are the most advanced; both have appointed planning committees, and held public meetings to develop priorities and strategies.

Later this year NACoR will publish a report summarizing the planning process, the initial findings in all five counties, and the steps that each county will have taken.

For more information contact the Aging Program at NACo.

—Phil Jones, NACoR

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Criminal Justice Report

Jail Reform Supported

...sitions supporting federal jail reform ...lation and the removal of juveniles and the ...tally ill and retarded from jails were taken by ...o members at their annual conference this ...

...resolution on jail reform legislation ...gnizes that solving the county jail crisis ...ires several approaches: removing from jail ...ons who don't belong there, developing ...munity alternatives to jail, upgrading ...ices and programs, and construction and ...vation. Citing counties' frequent inability to ...d the cost of these improvements, NACo ...essed support for federal legislation to help ...ess the problems of local jails.

NACo re...mmended that such a bill do the following:

- Provide adequate funds authorized on a 50-50 federal-local matching basis to assist in the construction and renovation of jails;
- Provide incentives for the creation of multicounty and other multijurisdictional jail facilities and services;
- Place an emphasis on community-based corrections and alternatives to incarceration; and
- Make available relevant federal programs, such as health, educational, employment and social services, to local jails.

In previous years NACo adopted policy supporting alternatives to the criminal justice system for persons who are drunk in public. Consistent with that trend, members called for the removal of juveniles and the mentally ill and retarded from jails.

Language was added to the *American County Platform* as follows: "Counties are urged to remove juveniles from correctional facilities which detain accused or adjudicated adults."

By resolution, NACo also expressed support for removing the mentally ill and retarded from jail and developing alternative programs to care for them. In addition, NACo recommended that the federal government shift its funding emphasis to provide greater incentives for community-based programs rather than institutionalized care for the mentally disabled.

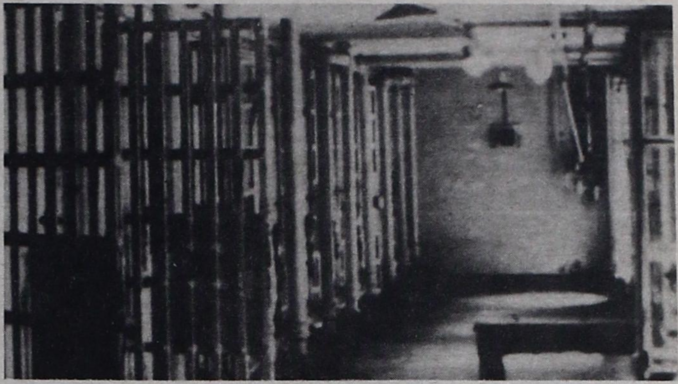
In another resolution, NACo urged that soon-to-be-published federal jail standards clearly differentiate between detention and correctional facilities and include input from local government.

Criminal Justice Report to Be Regular Feature

The Criminal Justice Program at NACoR with the support of a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration has as its major mission the sharing of information to county officials in the criminal justice field. This month the program inaugurates a new supplement to *County News*, "Criminal Justice Report" to highlight major issues of importance to elected and appointed county officials.

Each supplement will have a central theme. This month the focus is the county jail crisis, a subject which has been identified by NACo's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee as its number one priority.

Donald Murray, Director
NACoR Criminal Justice Program



Coalition Aims at Diversion for Juveniles, Mentally Ill

The National Coalition for Jail Reform (NCFJR) has been working on strategies for removing juveniles, public inebriates and the mentally ill and retarded from jails. At its spring meeting in Racine, Wis., coalition members agreed to focus their efforts on these areas. They established three committees to address each target group and a fourth to develop general strategies such as the formation of state and local coalitions.

As part of its effort, the coalition is working to coordinate the relevant activities of federal agencies and other national organizations, and make use of their available resources to further jail reform. Toward this end, several members of the coalition recently met with Henry Dogin, administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

He told them his agency would compile a survey of LEAA's involvement in jail programs, research, and technical assistance, and he designated an LEAA representative to the coalition. Dogin also accepted an invitation to speak at the next coalition meeting Oct. 29-31, in Fredericksburg, Va.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has also agreed to provide support to the coalition. The director, John DeLuca, appointed an NIAAA representative to the NCFJR and offered to help in the area of public inebriates, both through data collection and identification of effective local programs to assist them. The National Council on Alcholism, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors and the Salvation Army have also become involved in coalition activities geared toward removing the public inebriate from jail.

The NCFJR committee on juveniles has enlisted the help of the Community Research Forum, which is operating under a large grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The forum has agreed to do a comparative analysis of state laws on juveniles and to write a report on the use of jails for juveniles.

Other activities in which the NCFJR is now involved include prepration of a brochure on jail reform and coalition efforts. The committees are seeking information on model local programs which can serve as alternatives to jail for the target groups.

The National Coalition for Jail Reform was established in October 1978, to make a concerted attack on the problems of the nation's jails. By consensus, its members agreed to concentrate on removing from jail persons who do not belong there and making jail conditions suitable for people. Thirty national organizations, from across the political spectrum, belong to the coalition. NACo's representative is Rosemary Ahmann, Olmsted County (Minn.) commissioner and chairperson of NACo's subcommittee on corrections.

At its last annual conference the full NACo membership passed policy which conforms to coalition position statements on removing juveniles and the mentally ill and retarded from jails. Policy on public inebriates was already part of the *American County Platform*. (See article on this page.)

For further information on the coalition contact Judith Johnson, Executive Director, NCFJR, 1730 Rhode Island Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 202/296-8630.

Many Wait for Trial, Sentence

Some 40 percent of persons being held in locally operated jails across the nation are awaiting trial or sentencing, according to the 1978 Census of Jails and Survey of Jail Inmates, prepared by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

The survey put the number of inmates in local jails at 158,000 as of February 1978. A profile of these inmates reflected the traditional twofold function of a jail, as both a place for the temporary detention of the unconvicted and a confinement facility where many offenders—predominantly those convicted of lesser crimes—serve their sentences.

The survey noted that of those inmates who had been accused but not convicted of a crime, about one-fifth did not have a lawyer at the time. Most of those who had counsel (82 percent) were being represented by court-appointed lawyers, public defenders, or legal aid attorneys. Four-fifths of all unconvicted inmates remained in jail even though bail had been set for them by the authorities, primarily because they could not afford the price of bail.

For every 100,000 inhabitants in the United States, there were 76 inmates held in locally operated jails. Whites outnumbered blacks in jail, but blacks made up 41 percent of jail inmates—far exceeding their 12 percent share of the U.S. population.

Nearly half of the 3,493 jails, holding about 43 percent of the inmates were in the South. Among the 45 states having jails, Georgia, Nevada, Alabama, and Louisiana ranked highest in the ratio of inmates to population, but none of these states was among the top four in terms of total jail population. California, Texas, New York, and Florida each held a daily population of at least 10,000 persons in jail; California, with more than 26,000 inmates, held more than twice as many as each of the other three states.

...urvey Shows Inmates' Deaths ...losely Related to Alcohol Abuse

...cohol abuse played a major role in more ...half of the deaths of North Carolina inmates ...ng a five-year study period, a new report ...ws.

...e report, published by North Carolina's ...f medical examiner, Dr. Page Hudson, and ...n Butts, M.D., noted that alcohol was ...ved in a large percentage of the 223 deaths ...urring during the years 1972-76, particularly ...e in the first 30 days of custody.

...fty-one of the 97 prisoners who died during ...irst 24 hours after arrest were intoxicated at ...ime of death. Forty-five prisoners died after ...g in custody for more than one and less than ...ays. Of these, 21 autopsies revealed ...ence of alcoholism, according to the report.

...Suicide was the manner of death for 70 ...oners, a grimly impressive one-third of all ...hs in custody," the report noted. More than ...of them took place during the first 12 hours ...stody. Of these, 85 percent were ...icated.

...majority of the suicide victims had been arrested on alcohol-related offenses such as public drunkenness or "driving under the influence." The report cited estimates that intoxicated persons make up over one-half of those confined to jail in North Carolina.

The authors concluded that the number of deaths in jail and prison could be significantly reduced. "Changes can be made that would not only be humanitarian, but cost effective."

They listed four problems which seemed to present the highest risks to prisoners and to be easily remediable: "deaths in jail due to alcohol withdrawal syndrome; failure to distinguish features of alcohol withdrawal from intoxication; fatal alcohol overdose, and suicide in an obviously high risk groups: relatively young, typically white, intoxicated males who have just been jailed."

The report was published in *Popular Government*, Spring 1979. For information, contact Dr. Page Hudson, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, P.O. Box 2488, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

This report is supported by Grant Number 79DF-AX-0118, awarded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, United States Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions stated in this publication are those of the National Association of Counties Research, Inc., and do not necessarily represent the official position of the United States Department of Justice.

Herbert Jones, associate director for criminal justice and public safety
Donald Murray, director, criminal justice program
Janet Frohman, research associate
Evelyn Wise, secretary

Air Service for Small Communities Threatened

Don't expect much improvement in airline service for small communities under new rules recently adopted by the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

Last year as part of the Airline Deregulation Act of 1979 Congress included a provision, strongly supported by NACo, directing the CAB to guarantee essential airline service for small communities.

Guidelines adopted Aug. 31 by the federal agency, however, make clear that the CAB envisions "essential air service" as a bare minimum program, designed to provide the lowest possible level of air transportation. Its own rules read that "essential air service does not mean all the air service that the community wants."

Under the rules, the CAB could determine that essential air service between a particular small community and a city with national airline connections consists of only two daily flights in unpressurized aircraft. In fact, the rules limit the maximum number of guaranteed seats to 60 total roundtrip seats between a community and the connecting city or cities. Moreover, the rules do not require the CAB to specify which airport in a city the flights must use. Thus, it is possible that the small community flights guaranteed by the CAB might be to an airport in a city other than one with national airline connections.

Another problem with the rules, in NACo's view, is that they will in no way aid the development of small community air service.

Under the rules, the CAB will rely

Analysis

mainly on a community's air service history in determining "essential air service" for that area. This will be to the detriment of those small communities where air carriers generally provided poor service with inferior equipment, thus losing passenger support. Emphasis on past data as an indicator of a community's need for air service could well mean that the CAB will guarantee the communities only a bare minimum of service.

Even before the CAB issued the new rules, in setting low levels of essential air service for Garfield, Kay, Pittsburg and Payne Counties in Oklahoma and Lamar County, Texas, the CAB refused to consider comprehensive studies supplied by the communities, and relied, instead, on low historic traffic.

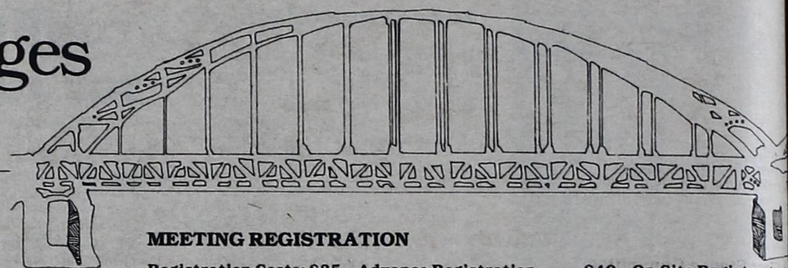
Critics of this method of determining air service point out that if, initially, the government assists a small community airline, enabling it to provide high frequency service with high-quality equipment, community patronage of that air se[rvice] will increase; the increased patro[nage], in turn, would enable the airli[ne to] realize a profit and end its rel[iance] on government assistance.

Although the small comm[unity] legislation passed by Congress a[uth]orizes the CAB to grant fina[ncial] assistance to small community [air]lines in the form of subsidies, [the] CAB has shown little inclinatio[n to] do so.

Rep. Glenn Anderson, chairma[n of] the House Aviation subcommi[ttee,] recently called the CAB's adminis[tra]tion of the program a "political [di]ster," and advised that "we m[ay] now consider a malpractice [suit] against the CAB."

Three Regional Meetings

Help for Your Bridges Is on the Way



Crumbling and falling down bridges pose a threat to both the safety and economic health of a community. But you know well that the cost of repairing and replacing bridges is no small order. That's the reason Congress passed the $4.2 billion federal bridge program.

To make sure that county officials get their fair share of these funds, NACo, through its research arm, NACoR, along with the National Association of County Engineers (NACE), is sponsoring a series of meetings to discuss: distribution of funds to counties, inventory and inspection procedures, bridge ratings, project selection and regulations on such topics as environmental assessment and design standards.

The meetings are based on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regions. You must attend the meeting in the FHWA region that includes your state. The housing and registration information on this page pertains to the three meetings that will be held this year. **Be sure to check your appropriate box for the conference you will attend and return to the NACo address listed below.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Delegates to NACoR/NACE Bridge Meetings can both preregister for the meetings and reserve hotel accommodations by completing this form in full.
- All advance registrations must include payment and be postmarked **no later than 30 days** prior to start of the meeting in your region.
- You must pay your registration fee by check, voucher or equivalent made payable to: NACoR Bridge Meeting.
- No requests for registration will be accepted by telephone.
- Refunds of fee will be made if cancellation is necessary provided written notice is postmarked no later than two weeks prior to start of meeting in your region.
- Return housing and registration forms to: **NACoR Bridge Registration Center, 1735 New York Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.**

For further housing and registration information call: 703/471-6180.

MEETING REGISTRATION

Registration Costs: $35 Advance Registration $40 On-Site Registration

Name____________________
Last   **First**

Title____________________

County____________________

Address____________________

____
City   **State**   **Zip**   **Telephone(area code)**

HOUSING RESERVATION

- Special conference room rates will be available to all delegates whose reservations are postmarked to the NACoR Bridge Registration Center no later than 30 days prior to start of meeting in your region.
- No housing reservations will be accepted over the telephone at any time by the Conference Registration Center.
- You must register for the meeting through the Conference Registration Center in order to receive housing at the special rate.

☐ Region 5	☐ Region 7	☐ Region 1
Indianapolis, Indiana	**Des Moines, Iowa**	**Albany, New York**
Oct. 25-26, 1979	**Nov. 5-6, 1979**	**Nov. 15-16, 1979**
(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)	(Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)	(New Jersey, New York)
Hilton Hotel	**Best Western Airport Inn**	**Turf Inn**
Single $36	Single $24	Single $35
Double/twin $46	Double/twin $26	Double/twin $42

Name of Individual____________________

Co-occupant if Double or Twin____________________

Arrival Date/Time__________ **Departure Date/Time**__________

Special Hotel Requests____________________

Credit Card Name__________ **Number**__________

Authorized user's signature__________ **Expiration Date**__________

☐ **Check here if you have a housing related disability.**

Rooms must be guaranteed for arrival by county voucher, credit card or by sending one night's deposit to the above address. For further housing information, call NACoR Conference Registration Center, 703/471-6180.

For Office Use Only

Check No.__________ **Date Received**__________

Check Amount__________ **Date Postmarked**__________

Future 1980 NACoR-NACE regional bridge meetings not included in this form are as follows:

Region 4
(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee)
Atlanta, Georgia
Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Region 6
(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)
Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas
February 14-15

Region 8
(Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)
Denver area
Jan. 10-11

Region 9
(Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)
San Francisco, California
January 24-25

Watch *County News* for details.

For program information contact Marlene Glassman, NACoR Transportation Project Director at 202/785-9577.

UFFOLK COUNTY: Pioneer in Preserving Farmland

om its western boundary, an imaginary line running ugh the suburbs 45 minutes from midtown Manhattan, lk County stretches over 80 miles to the easternmost tip ng Island and is surrounded on three sides by salt water. ently rolling hills and sandy loan are the offspring of the Age, when an advancing glacier scraped the soil from eval New England and deposited it on the continental f.

uropean settlement of the county was begun over three turies ago by pioneer families attracted to the rich cultural lands in what is now the county seat of Riverhead the eastern fork of Long Island. Suffolk remained ominantly rural for a long time thereafter, its economy ained by agriculture, including the famous Long Island ling industry. Fish from the surrounding waters and mer residents of its south shore barrier beaches also ributed their share to the well-being of the county. ut following World War II things began to change. Rising ence and the population explosion conspired to push the rbs of New York City eastward into the countryside, lowing Nassau County and encroaching into neighboring olk. By 1960, the prewar population of the county had ed to 600,000, and during the following 15 years Suffolk erienced a growth rate five times the national average, ching 1.3 million permanent residents by 1975.

he expansion of suburban development and industry into county produced vast economic benefits and greatly rged the tax base. But it also brought problems, not the t of which—it dawned on county officials and local ners—was the erosion of the foundation of Suffolk's native stry, its rich agricultural land. The 120,000 acres of county nland that existed in 1950 had by 1972 been reduced to that amount, chipped away piece by piece while nobody s paying attention. Still, Suffolk continued to rank first in York State in gross agricultural sales, with $70 million erated annually. It was not too late to try to preserve iculture in the county.

e First Step: a Committee

ounty Executive John V.N. Klein recognized the mixed ssings of Suffolk's phenomenal growth and understood that servation of the county's remaining agricultural land would efit not only the farm population, but also his suburban stituents who desired open space. In the spring of 1972, he ointed an Agricultural Advisory Committee whose mbership was broadly representative of the farm mmunity in the county. The formation of this committee ved to be a turning point in the history of Suffolk farmland. he committee was charged with the responsibility of ntifying the problems that most seriously threatened the icultural industry in the county, and with the task of posing appropriate solutions. It addressed a variety of ues relevant to the retention of farmland and the viability of iculture as an enterprise, including County Executive n's proposal to preserve farmland through the purchase of elopment rights. Two years after it had first convened, r hours of open debate and deliberation, the committee orted to the Suffolk County Legislature the outline of a efully conceived plan of farmland conservation, based on Klein proposal.

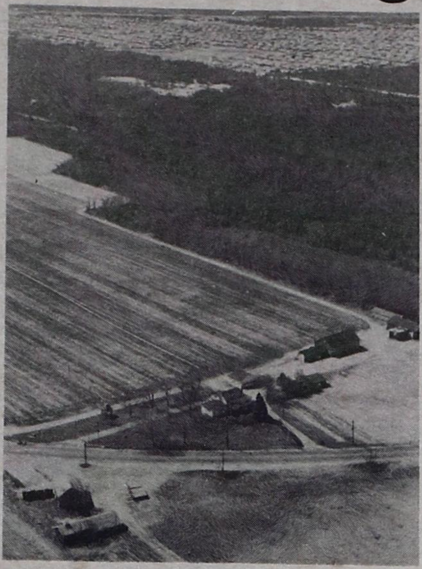
e Tool: Development Rights

he Suffolk County farmland preservation program is ceptually simple, but its implementation has required tical sophistication and conscientious administration. Its ic approach is to use county funds derived from the sale of eral revenue bonds to purchase from the owners of efully selected parcels of farmland the right to use the land purposes other than agriculture. These "development ts" become the property of the county, transferable only eferendum.

A Select Committee on the Acquisition of Farmland (many whose members were on the original Agricultural Advisory mmittee) is responsible for the choice of farmland tracts, sed on a set of flexible criteria: soil suitability, present land age, development pressure, the price of the land, and the tiguity of parcels. Relatively large tracts of farmland, ated close to each other so as to form agricultural ores," have been selected in each of the towns within the unty.

he price of the development rights is determined on the sis of bids submitted by landowners, and accepted or ected by the county in an open, formal process. Generally eaking, these bids reflect the difference between the value he land for development and its value for agricultural use. the county makes its own appraisal and negotiates with ccessful bidders on the final price. Nonetheless, the amount eived by the landowner represents by far the greater portion of his total equity in the land.

Owners who sell their development rights—and they do so untarily, without fear of condemnation—retain title to the d, the right to possession, the right to sell their remaining erest and, of course, the right to continue using the land for icultural purposes. They are also compensated for their nquished rights and their property tax assessment is



reduced. This combination provides the owner with additional working capital—used by some farmers to acquire more land, the development rights to which may in turn be sold—and lowers his operating expenses, making his enterprise more financially secure. Moreover, the dedication of his land to agricultural purposes qualifies the farmer under New York State law for protection from most "nuisance" complaints from nearby subdivisions, for example, when droughty conditions cause dust to be raised during cultivation.

To date, Suffolk County has purchased the development rights to over 3,200 acres at a total cost of roughly $10 million, 5 percent of which went for appraisals and administration over a five-year period. That's about $3,000 per acre for some of the richest farmland on Long Island, in the shadow of the megalopolis. Klein and other county officials think they got a bargain. So, apparently, do the local farmers, who have offered to sell the rgiths to another 13,000 acres. The Suffolk County Legislature has authorized an additional $11 million bond issue to expand the program.

The Measures of Success

But the success of the Suffolk program—the first county effort of its kind—cannot be measured simply in terms of acres and dollars. It seems to have had an encouraging effect on the county's agricultural community, which no longer feels as insecure about disappearing suppliers and neighbors who do not appreciate the practical realities and risks of farming. To some, like John Talmage, whose farm has been owned and worked by his family since the 19th century, it has demonstrated that county government cares about its native industry and is willing to help ensure its survival.

The approach to farmland conservation taken by Suffolk County was tailored to its particular geographic, economic and political context. Other counties will want to examine their own situations to determine which techniques will work best for them. There are, however, two lessons to be drawn from the Suffolk experience that apply to all counties.

First is the desirability of a strong commitment to a farmland conservation program by the county executive, as in the case of John Klein, whose personal dedication and open mind were largely responsible for the success of the Suffolk program.

Second, but hardly less important, is the indispensability of involving farmers, and the agricultural community as a whole, at the earliest possible stage in the process by which such programs are conceived, adopted and implemented. Farmers have more to gain, or to lose, than any other constituency group from an attempt to preserve farmland and bolster agricultural industry. The county officials and farmers of Suffolk County were pioneers, whose mutual respect and cooperation have proved that it is never too late—or too early—to preserve the agricultural heritage and economy of a community.

—Edward Thompson Jr., NACoR
Agricultural Lands Project Director

For more information about the Suffolk program, contact John V.N. Klein, County Executive; Laure Nolan, Intergovernmental Representative; Diane Anderson, Administrative Aide, Suffolk County Executive Offices, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York 11787 516/979-2956.

Advisory Panel to Build Coalition

The Advisory Committee of the Agricultural Lands Project of NACo's research foundation held its first meeting Sept. 5-6, in Suffolk County, N.Y., site of the first county farmland preservation program in the nation. The members of the committee, formed to give direction to the project staff, participated in three lively discussion sessions and toured local farmlands that have been preserved largely through the efforts of County Executive John V.N. Klein.

U.S. Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) keynoted the meeting by outlining the prospects for national farmland preservation legislation that he introduced earlier this year, and which is now pending before the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

The legislation would provide funds to counties to demonstrate innovative techniques to preserve farmland, and would guarantee that federal agency programs are conducted in a manner consistent with local farmland conservation policies.

In explaining the need to conserve our farmland, Jeffords noted that, in order to help feed itself and an expanding global population, the United States "will have to produce as much food in the next 20 years, as has been grown throughout the world since the beginning of time."

Addressing the central question, "Where are we today on farmland conservation?", the committee generally agreed that, while the loss of 3 million acres of farmland each year to non-agricultural uses is a significant national problem, the effects of this trend are today being felt most strongly at the community level. As the farms disappear, local agricultural businesses move away or close up, the cost of providing public services to widely scattered settlement increases, environmental problems become more widespread, open space and the quality of life diminish, and communities are often forced to rely on distant markets for foods once supplied by local farmers.

NACo Executive Director Bernard Hillenbrand opened the discussion of the Agricultural Land Project by stressing its goal of building a national "community of interests" or coalition in support of farmland conservation.

The committee members emphasized the need to involve

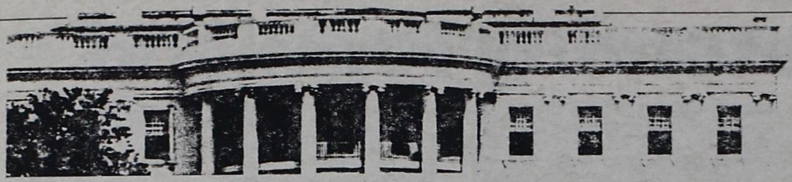
Suffolk County executive John V.N. Klein talks with Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.)

farmers, in particular, because they often have the most to lose as development encroaches into agricultural areas and suburban homeowners start complaining that routine farming operations have become a "nuisance."

As an introduction to a discussion of the ways local government can preserve farmland, the committee was briefed by the Suffolk County staff on the history and accomplishments of that county's pioneering conservation program. (See related story.)

County officials who took part in the Advisory Committee sessions included: Klein, a NACo director; John Spellman, county executive, King County, Wash. and NACo second vice president; Ruth Keeton, council chairman, Howard County, Md., NACo director and vice chairman of NACo Land Use and Growth Management Steering Committee; Lester A. Anderson, commissioner, Blue Earth County, Minn., and a NACo director; and Hugh N. Ford, planning director, Jefferson Parish, La., and president, National Association of County Planning Directors (NACPD), a NACo affiliate.

A brochure detailing the services of the NACoR Agricultural Lands Project may be obtained by writing to Edward Thompson Jr., c/o NACo.



Fifteenth Annual National Federal Aid Conference

Hosted by the National Association of Counties/ Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, D.C. October 23-26, 1979

An opening general session will kick off the conference with a legislative overview of the 96th Congress conducted by NACo legislative representatives. Workshops will provide the most up-to-date information on such subjects as: CETA, community development, LEAA, grant reform and many others.

Delegates to NACo/CIC 15th Annual National Federal Aid Conference can preregister for the conference and reserve hotel space by completing this form.

Conference Registration

Conference registration fees must accompany this form before hotel reservations will be processed. **Enclose check, official county voucher or equivalent. No conference registrations will be made by telephone.**

Conference Registration Fees: $95 (member), $125 (nonmember counties), $150 (other). **Make check payable to NACo/CIC Federal Aid Conference.**

Name________________ County________________

Title________________ Telephone (______)________

Address________________________________

City________________ State________ Zip________

____

For Office Use Only: Check No.________ Check Amount________ Date Received________

Housing Reservation

- Special conference room rates will be available to all delegates whose reservations are postmarked no later than Oct. 1, 1979.
- No housing reservations will be accepted over the telephone at any time by the conference registration center.
- Return both housing reservations and conference registration to the NACo/CIC Federal Aid Conference Registration Center, 1735 New York Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Hyatt Regency rates:
Single: $48/$53/$58 Double: $60/$65/$70
1 Bedroom Suites: $130/$155/$180 2 Bedroom Suites: $190/$215/$240

Name________________________________

Address________________ Telephone(______)________

Arrival date/time________________ Departure date/time________________

No room deposit required. Rooms may be guaranteed by credit card number for late arrival. Give credit card company, number and expiration date:________________

____

Special hotel requests:________________________________

Workshop Looks at County/School Link

A two-day workshop on community education is being planned by the Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Community Education (MACCE). Co-sponsored by NACo, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the International City Management Association, and seven other organizations, the workshop, designed for planners and policymakers, will present ideas to help local governments and schools increase the coordination and effective delivery of services.

Of the 88,572 public schools in the nation, about 94 percent are closed after 3 p.m., during weekends, holidays, and summers, and thus stand idle over 60 percent of the time. In addition, the decline in the school-age population since 1970 has left many empty classrooms. Proponents of community education advocate integrating the school and the community and finding alternative uses for these empty and idle buildings.

For example, the schools can open their gyms, theaters, cafeterias, and classrooms and become recreational, cultural, and educational centers in lieu of expensive new recreation centers. The neighborhood school can also serve as the missing link in integrating health and social services. Since almost 10 million A- can children under 16 receive i- quate medical care and half th- dren under 15 have never seen tist, the school is the ideal pl- begin screening and treatmen- grams in collaboration with agencies. The central location school building can increase t- fective delivery of social servi- making them easily accessible.

These and other ideas will b- cussed during the two-day wor- which is scheduled for Oct. 2 at the Gunston Community C- in Arlington, Va. The agenda includes optional tours of facilities which have taken adva- of underutilized space, and thre- facilities which were coopera- planned and built. A $35 regist- fee covers two lunches, a Tu- evening banquet, coffee break- all workshop materials. Ho- arrangements should be made dually before Sept. 21, by ment- "MACCE Workshop" at Hosp- House, 2000 Jefferson Davis way 703/920-8600.

For more information or a reg- tion form, contact: Joseph R- Jr. Assistant Superintendent, A- ton Public Schools, Box 7024, A- ton, Va. 22207, 703/558-2587.

Food Stamp Cash-out for AFDC Given Limited Test

Continued from page 1

pate, the definition of "unemployed" would now be based upon maximum monthly earnings, rather than number of hours worked, as in current law. The dollar amount would be $500 monthly, adjusted annually for consumer price index increases. A companion amendment would hold the combined AFDC and food stamp benefits for two-parent families to 80 percent of the poverty level.

Another amendment allows cash-out of food stamps for AFDC recipients in pilot projects instead of the subcommittee provision which allowed all states to cash out AFDC food stamp benefits. NACo had supported this option for all AFDC recipients. Cash-out of food stamps for SSI recipients is already provided in H.R. 4904.

Cash-out of food stamps for AFDC clients is seen as a way to cut costs by eliminating duplicative eligibility determinations and other paperwork. For example, Los Angeles County, Calif. has estimated that it would save $10 million a year in this way, primarily by reducing staff.

In an attempt to deal with persistent controversial AFDC err- problems, the committee accep- amendment by Rep. Barber C- (R-N.Y.) which establishes, Dec. 31, 1980, a 4 percent err- as the goal to be reached by but directs the HEW Secreta- develop by that time metho- more accurate measure of AFD- gram performance.

Further House action on th- fare bill is awaiting a Rules C- tee decision on the closed r- quested by Ways and Means would prohibit floor amendme-

In separate action, the ful- mittee favorably reported H.R. a bill sponsored by Rep. Tom D- (D-N.Y.) to retain for three the current program of speci- vices for disabled children ing SSI benefits.

Vital Programs Survive Senate

Continued from page 1

Before final passage, the Senate voted, 57-41, to table an amendment by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.). Sen. Bumpers attempted to make up for the defense spending increase and reduce the deficit to the Muskie compromise level by cutting such programs as CETA, assisted housing, revenue sharing, energy and public works. The Senate also rejected the GOP tax-cut plan, 61-36.

The Senate version of the second budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) must still go to conference with the House version (H. Con. Res. 186). It is not clear as to whether or not House conferees will be willing to accept the Senate's strong reconciliation instructions.

—Jon Weintraub

Job Opportunitie

Drainage Engineer, St. Clair County, handle all phases of storm drainage ac- county office, including open cut dra- sewers, plat review and other related quires a bachelor's degree in civil en- or the equivalent in work experience. Re- St. Clair County Personnel Dept., Coun- ing, Room 156B, Port Huron, Mich. 4806

County Administrator, Cuyahoga Coun- Salary $45,000-$55,000. Responsible dinating the administration of the 23 of- department under the jurisdiction of th- of Commissioners in an urban county c- the city of Cleveland and 57 suburbs. A- must possess a master's degree in bu- public administration or equivalent, and 10 years of progressive management experience in a large organization, five must have been in a high level/admin- capacity. Resume to Robert E. Sween- dent Cuyahoga County Board of Comm- County Administration Building, 1219 Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Clos- Oct. 19.

Executive Director, Northern O- Development Association. Salary open. four years experience in local governm- lic administration or multi-funded opera- in coordinating projects with a variety sonnel and organizations. Resume to: E- Committee, N.O.D.A., 1800 South Va- Suite E., Enid, Okla. 73701. Closing date

ANNING FUNDS AVAILABLE

Car-Related Actions Curb Pollution

same transportation improvement measures that will help a community conserve gasoline can help curb air pollution. Expanded public transit, carpooling programs, traffic flow improvements and similar strategies will all help reduce the amount of air pollutants discharged by this nation's automobiles.

Counties, through a regional planning organization, could be eligible for federal planning money under the Clean Air Act to reduce car-related pollution.

Organizations of local governments in urban areas with the worst air problems have been eligible for Section 175 funding since funds were appropriated for fiscal '79. A total of $75 million was authorized by Congress when it amended the Clean Air Act; $50 million has been appropriated. (Authorization for Section 175 expired this year.)

As of this past July, only about $11 million had been distributed to 37 regional planning councils, councils of government and metropolitan transportation planning organizations. Some of this funding has been passed through to individual county planning commissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency cites three major reasons for the delay in getting funds out to local government:

- Many organizations that are eligible have not applied;
- Some have submitted inadequate applications;
- The inter-agency mechanism set up to distribute funds, involving EPA and the Department of Transportation, has delayed processing.

EPA has already targeted most of the first $25 million; $7 million will eventually be spent in those areas that will meet ambient air standards by 1982 by using transportation control measures.

Only urban areas that cannot meet the 1982 attainment deadline (and have received extensions until 1987) will be eligible for the last $25 million under Section 175. These areas received extensions because they certified that clean air standards could not be met using "reasonably available" transportation control measures, and may have to impose stricter measures to meet the standard by 1987.

IF YOUR COUNTY meets the following criteria, you should urge your designated planning agency to apply for Section 175 funding:

- Your county does not meet federal clean air standards for transportation-related pollutants;
- Your county will not be able to meet the standards by the end of 1982 according to your state's air quality projections;
- Your county is included in a lead air quality planning agency certified by your governor.

Section 175 is only one source of funding for planning the types of transportation measures that will help save gas and reduce air pollution. The Department of Transportation, along with administering this program, also has planning and capital funds available.

For more information on Section 175 grants, contact Arleen Shulman at NACoR.

Some Steps to Start With

The following is a list of "transportation control measures" which are to be analyzed under the Clean Air Act for their cost effectiveness in reducing air pollution. They are all intended to reduce either the number of miles, hours, or trips for which people use their vehicles:

- motor vehicle inspection/maintenance programs,
- improved public transit (short and long-term),
- bus and carpool lanes,
- areawide carpool systems,
- limitations on roads to common carriers,
- control of on-street parking,
- fringe parking,
- bicycle use,
- employer participation in encouraging non-car transportation or car/van pools;
- road tolls,
- control of extending idling,
- traffic flow improvements,
- cleaner engines or fuels,
- retrofit of emission devices on heavy vehicles,
- and control of cold-start emissions.

NATE VERSION

Farmland Bill Markup Nears

Senate Agriculture subcommittee on environment, soil conservation and forestry (No. 1) is expected to begin markup of the farmland protection bill, S. 795, by the end of month.

Sponsored by Sens. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.), Patrick Leahy and John Heinz (R-Pa.) and more than 20 other senators, the bill would require federal agencies to study the merits of retaining agricultural land when making grant, development or regulatory decisions which could promote its conversion to other uses.

It would also require federal agencies to conduct such activities in a manner consistent with state and county agricultural land protection programs. The provision would reduce federal influence over decisions resulting in conversion of important cropland.

Similar legislation in the House, the proposed Agricultural Land Protection Act, H.R. 2551, sponsored by Reps. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) and Richard Nolan (D-Minn.) has passed the House Agriculture subcommittee on the family farm, rural development and special studies and is now pending in the full Agriculture Committee. House subcommittee action is not expected for about a month.

Both bills would establish a demonstration grant program for state and local governments to develop and carry out their own agricultural land protection programs. The Senate bill authorizes $49 million over three years for up to 25 percent of the cost of developing and carrying out a program. H.R. 2551 authorizes $60 million over three years for 50 percent of the cost.

Both bills also authorize a national study of agricultural land loss in the United States to be conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture, to determine its impact on the national economy and the extent to which federal agencies contribute to that loss.

Members of the Senate Agriculture subcommittee on environment, soil conservation and forestry should be contacted and urged to support reporting the S. 795 to the full committee. They include: John Melcher, chairman, (D-Mont.), Walter D. Huddleston (D-Ky.), Donald Stewart (D-Ala.), Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.), Roger Jepson (R-Iowa), S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Jesse A. Helms (R-N.C.).

Matter and Measure

REGISTER NOW FOR 1979 BRIDGE MEETINGS

NACErs:

you know NACE-NACoR are sponsoring meetings on the federal highway bridge replacement and rehabilitation program specifically for county officials within your Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regional area. The federal bridge program is a source of aid for the repair and replacement of deficient bridges under your jurisdiction. These meetings will answer questions on the federal bridge program such as:

Inventory and inspection procedures
Sufficiency ratings
Project selection
Regulations on design standards, consultant agreement, environmental assessment

urge you to attend these remaining meetings scheduled for 1979: FHWA Region 3 (Maryland, Pennsylvania) Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 3-4; FHWA Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin) Hilton Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 25-26; FHWA Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska) Best Western Airport Inn, Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 5-6; FHWA Region 1 (New Jersey, New York) Turf Inn, Albany, N.Y., Nov.

Watch *County News* for reservation and housing forms, and information on the 1979 bridge meetings.

—Herb Klossner, P.E.
NACE President

LOW VOLUME ROADS CONFERENCE

The Second International Conference on Low Volume Roads brought together 370 participants from all over the world to discuss problems and report on studies in their countries. Several county engineers participated in sessions.

The meeting, which took place in Ames, Iowa, Aug. 20-23, was cosponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and the Agency for International Development, with many agencies, including NACo and NACE, cooperating.

The papers presented were a mixture of basic and applied research on such subjects as vehicle operating costs, highway investment decision-making and pavement management systems. Papers of special interest to counties include low water crossings, a bridge inventory inspection and rating system for local rural roads in Illinois and soil cement construction.

It was suggested that some of the demonstration projects be studied to determine if some of the basic research and findings are applicable under different conditions.

Further discussions of the results of this meeting will be conducted at the Transportation Research Board's Low Volume Road Committee during its annual meeting in January. All are invited to attend the session and the meeting. Further information on the January meeting will be reported in this column.

Proceedings of the Low Volume Road Conference will be available from TRB in October at a cost of $18 per copy (plus 10 percent for handling and postage.) Checks should be made payable to the Transportation Research Board and the order sent to TRB at 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. Request TRB record 702.

Minnesota Asks Energy Ideas

The Association of Minnesota Counties is in the process of compiling an energy conservation manual for local government. Particular areas of concentration will include building energy conservation, vehicle fleet management, and highway maintenance conservation. The association would greatly appreciate hearing from county personnel having responsibility and ideas for energy conservation in these areas for inclusion in the manual.

Please forward ideas and comments to: Jon Virden, Energy Coordinator, AMC, 2305 Ford Parkway, St. Paul, Minn. 55116, or call 612/698-4212.

Training to Be Offered for County Aid Coordinators

New county intergovernmental grant coordinators will be offered training at a seminar sponsored by the Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators, a NACo affiliate. The fifth annual training seminar will take place at NACo's Washington office Oct. 22-23 and is being held in conjunction with the 15th Annual National Federal Aid Conference at the Hyatt Regency, Oct. 23-26.

The seminar will be conducted by experienced county grant coordinators and will cover a wide range of material tailored for the new county grant or intergovernmental coordinators. The seminar will address subjects such as: steps in establishing a grants coordinator's office; what is a grant coordinator's job; designing the system from concept to final audit; what a new coordinator should know; building information resources; the application process and other pertinent subjects.

Interested county officials should send the registration form below to Joan Paschal, NACo/CIC Training Seminar, 1735 New York Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. The registration fee of $35 covers materials, manual and luncheon, and payment or voucher must accompany the form.

A resume of past experience is required, as well as a statement of the information participants hope to gain from the seminar, e.g., duties of a grants coordinator, how to set up a grants office, where to go for help, etc.

Space is limited and confirmation is required to attend.

NACo/CIC Training Seminar
NACo Headquarters
October 22-23, 1979

Return form with your payment by Oct. 15 to: Joan Paschal, NACo/CIC Training Seminar, 1735 New York Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Name______________________________

County______________________________

Title______________________________

Address______________________________

____

Phone_____/______________________________

No. of months on job______________________________

A resume of previous experience must be attached to this form, plus a statement of the information you hope to gain from the seminar, e.g., legislative update, duties of a grant coordinator, where to go for help, etc. Confirmation from NACo staff is required to attend this seminar since space is limited.

The registration fee of $35 includes materials, manual and luncheons.

Please make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel.

Washington Briefs

Community Development

Housing Authorization Bill. A House-Senate conference committee resumed consideration of H.R. 3875, the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1979. Conferees have agreed to an authorization of $1.14 billion for the Section 8 assisted housing program. This amount, also included in the fiscal '80 HUD appropriations bill is estimated to produce 266,000 units of assisted housing, significantly down from the 326,000 provided this year. Still to be resolved are the provisions broadening eligibility to pockets of poverty in the urban development action grant (UDAG) program, which NACo strongly supports, and whether to increase the tenant income contribution toward rent under the Section 8 program from 25 percent to 30 percent, an action NACo opposes.

Fiscal '80 HUD Appropriations. A House-Senate conference committee has completed action on H.R. 4394, the fiscal '80 HUD appropriations bill which contains $3.9 billion for the community development block grant program, $675 million for the urban development action program, and $1.14 billion for the Section 8 assisted housing program. The amount provided by the bill for the Section 8 program, however, is higher than the target amount provided in the First Concurrent Budget Resolution and may be subject to reconciliation if the second budget resolution retains the lower amount, a move which NACo opposes. Final House and Senate action on the conference report expected this week.

Economic Development Reauthorization. The Senate has passed S. 914, a four-year reauthorization of the grant and loan programs administered by the Economic Development Administration. The bill greatly expands these programs, but curtails eligibility for them. In contrast, a bill approved by the House Public Works Committee expands eligibility for these programs which NACo supports. In addition, the House Banking Committee is attempting to secure jurisdiction over the business loan programs of the bill. It is expected that the Public Works Committee bill will be brought to the House floor later this month. It is likely that final action on the bill will not be completed before Sept. 30 when current authorization for the EDA programs will expire. A continuing resolution to keep them going until new legislation is passed will be necessary.

Employment

Appropriations. The Senate has yet to consider the conference report on H.R. 4389, the Labor-HEW appropriations bill for fiscal '80, passed by the House. The conflict over abortion language is likely to delay final passage into early October, thus delaying allocations for CETA, health, Title XX, aging and other county social service programs.

Environment and Energy

Integrated Environmental Assistance. Senate hearings on the Administration's bill to consolidate air, 208-water quality planning, solid waste and other environmental programs administered by EPA which provide assistance to states and counties are expected Oct. 16. Hearings have not been scheduled in the House.

Energy Mobilization Board. Staffs of both the House Interior and Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committees are working to try and reach a compromise on the two versions of the EMB that were reported. The bills differ in many respects; one of the most controversial provisions is the power the board has to waive state and local laws. Consideration of the bills by the Rules Committee has tentatively been scheduled for Oct. 10. The Senate Energy Committee has continued its consideration of the EMB but has been hampered by the conference committee meeting on the Standby Gasoline Rationing Plan. With the recently reached compromise on this issue, full attention will swing back to the EMB.

Energy Impact Assistance. The Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittee again delayed markup of the Interior appropriations bill until this week. Still tentatively scheduled, consideration of the Farmers Home Administration energy impact assistance program would be included. Sens. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.), two of the main Senate proponents of impact assistance, have sent a letter to the Committee requesting funding for the program. The Administration's budget amendment to transfer funds from the Economic Development Administration to the Farmers Home Administration for this program has not yet been finalized.

Local Energy Management Act. Rep. Phil Sharp (D-Ind.) has prepared an amendment which he hopes to offer to the DOE fiscal '80 authorization bill when it goes to the House floor. The amendment would create a Local Energy Reference Center which would distribute information on energy activity and programs to interested local governments. The amendment would also provide funds to local governments to document the results of their energy programs for distribution to other local governments. Both of these proposals are elements of the Local Energy Management Act, S. 1587, as introduced by Sen. Percy (R-Ill.). House action on the DOE authorization bill may come later this week.

Health and Education

Hospital Cost Containment. Scheduled at presstime was markup of H.R. 2626, sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) The bill would impose mandatory controls if a voluntary program fails. House Ways and Means has already reported its version of H.R. 2626. In the Senate, Sen. Herman Talmadge's cost containment bill, part of the Medicare/Medicaid Reform Act, which contains provisions for cost containment under Medicare/Medicaid only, was ordered reported by Senate Finance. S. 570, the Administration bill, voted out of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee in June, is expected to be introduced by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) as a substitute to the Talmadge cost containment provisions on the Senate floor. Votes in both Houses expected within the next few weeks.

National Health Insurance. Continued markup in Senate Finance Committee of catastrophic health insurance proposals expected this fall. Current committee consideration not expected to include NACo-supported provision to federalize Medicaid services under the bill. Hearings expected this fall in House health and environment subcommittee on Health Care for All Americans Act (S. 1720/H.R. 5191), sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), and in Senate Labor and Human Resources.

Child Health Assurance Programs (CHAPs). House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee markup of H.R. 4962, sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) scheduled at press time. This bill to improve Medicaid services to low-income children and pregnant women, replaces the three bills considered in subcommittee markup, H.R. 2159, 2461 and 4063. The bill enables county health departments to provide assessments without directly providing follow-up care. The Administration proposal on the Senate side, S. 1204, sponsored by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.) was ordered reported by Senate Finance.

Medicaid Amendments. Markup in House Ways and Means health subcommittee of H.R. 3990, 4000, et al., containing miscellaneous provisions, including extension of coverage for home care, scheduled at press time.

Health Planning. House action on conference report for S. 544, Health Planning Amendments, scheduled at press time; not yet passed in Senate.

Mental Health Systems Act. House health and environment subcommittee markup of the Administration-sponsored bill, H.R. 4156, to provide more flexibility in delivery of services, not yet scheduled. Markup in Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on the bill, S. 1177, scheduled for Oct. 3.

Labor Relations

PERISA. A modified version of last year's Public Employee Retirement Income Security Act (PERISA) is expected to be introduced this fall by Reps. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.) and John Erlenborn (R-Ill.). While there appears to be strong support in the House Education and Labor Committee for such legislation, PERISA's overall legislative prospects are uncertain. The legislation would propose federal standards for state and local government pension plans in the areas of reporting and disclosure, fiduciary responsibility and plan administration. Hearings are tentatively planned for this fall.

Mine Safety and Health Act and Regulations. H.R. 1603 and S. 625 would amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Amendments Act of 1977 to remove from MSHA jurisdiction the sand, gravel and stone industries including counties which are involved in such operations for purposes of road maintenance and construction. Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) plans to introduce legislation strongly supported by NACo which specifically exempts state and local governments from the act. The House legislation has been referred to Education and Labor Committee's health and safety subcommittee which will hold a hearing on the impact of the act on counties Sept. 26. On July 31, the House and Senate conferees on the Labor/HEW appropriations measure approved an amendment supported by NACo deleting funds for the enforcement of MSHA training standards as they apply to surface sand, gravel, clay and stone operations.

Frequency of Social Security Deposit Payments by State and Local Governments. Regulations go into effect July 1, 1980, requiring state and local governments to deposit their Social Security payment 12 times a year rather than quarterly and instituting a 15/15/45 day deposit schedule. Rep. Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.) introduced H.R. 1115 which would retain the current quarterly deposit schedule. On July 30, Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.), introduced S. 1598 which modifies the HEW regulations by permitting states to deposit Social Security contributions within 30 days following the calendar month in which covered wages are paid.

Land Use

Agricultural Land Protection. Markup on S. 795 sponsored by Sens. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and John Heinz (R-Pa.) should occur within the next two weeks. Action on a companion bill, H.R. 2551, sponsored by Reps. James Jeffords (D-Vt.), Richard Nolan (D-Minn.) and more than 60 members of the House is expected during September or October. The bills would require federal agency actions to be consistent with state, county and local agricultural land protection programs, would establish a program of demonstration grants for state and counties, and would establish a national study of the effects of agricultural land loss on the national economy. See related articles on pages 9 and 11.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Appropriations. Sen. Mark Hatfield (D-Ore.) has agreed to sponsor an amendment to restore $159 million to the state and local part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund when it comes to the Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittee this week. See story page 3.

Public Lands

Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes. The Senate subcommittee on appropriation for the Interior Department is expected to vote this week on H.R. 4930. The bill includes $108 million (already approved by the House) for the payments-in-lieu of taxes program. NACo is urging the Senate to add $7 million so that full payments can be made for the new entitlement lands approved by Congress last year. Without the increase all recipient counties will face a pro-rata payment reduction next year.

Taxation and Finance

General Revenue Sharing. The subcommittee on intergovernmental relations of the Senate Government Affairs Committee will begin oversight hearings Sept. 20. Though this is not the committee of jurisdiction, NACo is encouraged that activity is happening prior to the January budget message in which the Administration is supposed to take a position on renewal.

Countercyclical Antirecession Aid. The two-title Senate-passed bill, S. 566, contains both targeted fiscal assistance and countercyclical measures based on unemployment figures. The House Government Operations subcommittee on intergovernmental relations and human resources is currently looking at a single countercyclical measure with an automatic trigger for fiscal assistance based on the decline in real wages and salaries. The House is being pressed to act soon but is waiting for computer printouts on the real wage/price formula.

Mortgage Revenue Bonds. H... 3712, a bill which would restric... use of tax-exempt mortgage bo... for residences, has been reported... of the House Ways and Me... Committee and has not yet b... scheduled for floor action. ... Senate has not yet sched... hearings on its legislation, S. 172... is anticipated that the Ho... operating under a modified cl... rule, may be leaning toward a s... stitute tax credit measure.

Transportation

DOT fiscal '80 Appropriati... House passed DOT appropriat... bill, H.R. 4440, 335-71. Amendm... by Rep. Robert Duncan (D-Ore.)... ded $242.5 million to the commi... bill. Senate action expected... week or next. See story page 2.

Airline Service Guidelines. Civil Aeronautics Board has rele... the essential airline ser... guidelines. See story page 8.

Handicapped Regulation Law... NACo has formally submitted c... papers in opposition to the gov... ment's section 504 handicapped... cessibility regulations. See s... page 3.

DOT Reorganization Proposal... bill is expected this session. Administration's reorganiza... proposal would merge Fed... Highway Administration with... Urban Mass Transportation... ministration.

Welfare/Social Services

Welfare Reform. The wel... reform bill, H.R. 4904, passed... House Ways and Means Commi... 21-14 Sept. 20. The bill would s... minimum level for state we... payments under the AFDC prog... The bill goes into effect in 1... would require states to sup... needy families at a level of be... equal to at least 65 percent o... poverty line, and provides... proximately $900 million in f... relief. The Senate has not sched... hearings. See page 1.

Indochinese Refugee Assist... The Senate voted Sept. 6 to ex... the Indochinese Refugee Assist... Act, S. 643, for one year for t... refugees currently in the U... States and limits assistance to... years for those refugees enteri... ter Nov. 1. On Sept. 19 the H... passed H.R. 2816 which extend... federal reimbursement for we... and social services costs for t... refugees in the United States fo... year and limits coverage to... years for those refugees enteri... ter Nov. 1. The Danielson a... ment (supported by NACo) ... would have extended for two... coverage for those refugees i... United States was defeated by a... of 16-9. A floor vote is expec... the next two weeks.

Title XX/Child Welfare Se... Sen. Daniel Patrick Moyn... chairman of Finance subcom... on public assistance, will be co... ing hearings Sept. 24 on H.R... and other proposals related to... and child welfare services, ad... assistance and foster care. Ti... child welfare services bill, H.R... passed the House last July. It... pected that the Finance Com... will act before Sept. 30 on th... XX measure to prevent the sp... ceiling from dropping from th... billion level established for 19... the $2.5 billion permanent leve... the Title XX law.