This Week

- House passes aircraft noise bill, page 2.
- Conferees settle Older Americans Act, page 3.
- EPA funding agreed to, page 4.

Vol. 10, No. 38

COUNTY NEWS

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

Sept. 25, 1978

NACo

Washington, D.C.

CETA Down to Wire

House Panel Votes Funds; Floor Vote Nears

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As we go to press, the House is preparing to vote on the four-year extension of CETA, H.R. 12452. Details will appear in next week's issue.

In related action, the House Appropriations Committee reported out a six-month continuing resolution which will provide funds and authorization for CETA as well as funding other Labor-HEW programs and the Department of Defense. CETA funding would be at the lower of two levels—the current operating level or funds authorized by the House-passed CETA extension.

Clearly, this will mean an initial cut from current levels nationally. But until the House passes H.R. 12452, no one can guess what the funding is likely to be.

Repeated delays in congressional action on CETA have created immediate worries for counties that operate CETA programs. In order to continue the program in the new fiscal year, counties need legal authority, e.g., a grant or contract from DOL and the guarantee of funds to cover scheduled expenditures.

In order to sign grants or commit funds, DOL must wait for congressional action.

See HOUSE, page 3

Rural Funding Cuts Restored

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rural county officials can expect to receive more federal assistance for rural development and rural housing programs as a result of agreements reached by House and Senate conferees on the fiscal '79 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

The conferees resolved differences between the House- and Senate-passed bills and restored most of the cuts in rural development programs made earlier on the Senate floor.

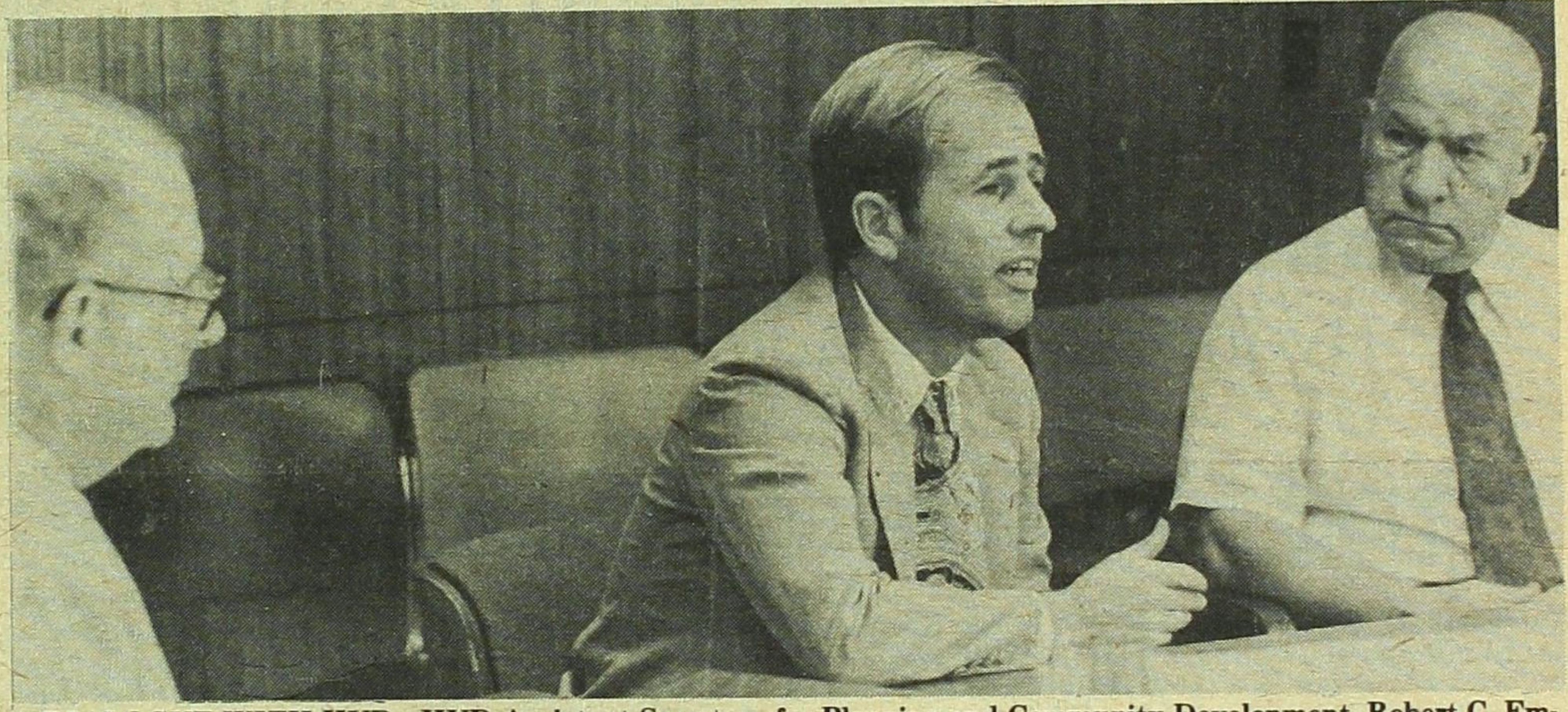
The water and waste disposal grant program, the key component of the Rural Development Act of 1972, will be funded at $282 million in fiscal '79. The conferees also agreed to save the rural planning and rural fire protection programs, which will be funded at $5 million and $3.5 million respectively.

Rural housing programs will also receive increased funding over the current year's levels. In addition, the conferees agreed to fund the new technical assistance housing grants program (Section 525). Both programs are designed to improve available housing as well as stimulate employment in rural areas.

EARLIER THIS year, House and Senate Appropriations Committees reported fiscal '79 Agricultural Appropriations bills (H.R. 13125) which provided significant additional funding for theRural Development Act grant and loan programs. These programs have historically been severely under-funded; the waiting list for water and waste disposal grants alone exceeds $1 billion.

Both bills would have also made available, for the first time ever, a full funding level of $300 million annually for water and sewer grants. The rural planning program, originally funded in fiscal '78, would have continued at the fiscal '78 level of $5 million. The rural housing programs would have received modest increases, and the rural fire protection grants would have continued at the fiscal '78 level of $3.5 million.

See RURAL, page 3



A DIALOGUE WITH HUD—HUD Assistant Secretary for Planning and Community Development, Robert C. Embry Jr., center, met recently with the board of directors of the National Association of County Community Development Directors to explore ways of increasing dialogue between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and counties participating in HUD programs. Also pictured are Roy D. Hoover, right, manager of Resource Development, Los Angeles County, Calif., president of NACCDD, and Jim Scott, supervisor, Fairfax County, Va. and chairman of NACo's Community Development Steering Committee. Regular meetings with Embry and other top HUD officials are planned.

Fiscal Relief Up This Week

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Fiscal relief measures for welfare costs are likely to be considered by both the House and Senate this week. These bills represent the last chance for welfare fiscal relief for counties this year.

In the House, the Rules Committee approved a "closed rule" for H.R. 13353, Rep. Charles Rangel's bill which provides $400 million for costs of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in fiscal '79. A "closed rule" means that debate is limited and that no amendments may be offered on the floor.

The bill distributes funds based on numbers of AFDC recipients and the general revenue sharing formula, and requires that 100 percent of the funds be passed through the counties which contribute to AFDC. It also provides an incentive payment to states that reduce AFDC errors. (The funds would be distributed in the same manner as $187 million in fiscal relief provided in the Social Security Amendments of 1977, except for the error reduction incentives.)

The Rangel (D-N.Y.) bill is supported by Rep. James Corman (D-Calif.), chairman of the public assistance subcommittee; Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee; and Rep. Guy Vander Jagt (R-Mich.), ranking Republican on the public assistance subcommittee.

IN THE SENATE, Sens. Russell Long (D-La.), chairman of the Finance Committee; Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), chairman of the public assistance subcommittee; and Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), majority whip, have introduced a new version of their block grant fiscal relief measure, S. 3505.

The bill would change federal AFDC funding from a matching program to a block grant for a period of five years. (The original bill had made the block grant permanent.) Based on discussions with NACo and other groups, the block grant proposal has been modified from the version introduced this month as S. 3470.

The bill states this is the "first step toward providing federal funding equal to at least 75 percent of the present level of state and local welfare costs." However, the amount proposed, $400 million in 1979 and $1.5 billion in 1980, would not provide this level. NACo supports 75 percent matching as an interim measure while continuing to press for comprehensive reform.

The bill requires funds to be passed through to counties which fund AFDC costs, proportionate to the local share. For example, if a county's share of AFDC costs is 50 percent of the total county share for the state, the county would receive 50 percent of the fiscal relief funds.

Each state's block grant in 1980 would be based on AFDC expenditures and general revenue sharing (as in the 1977 Social Security Amendments).

The state block grants would be adjusted by: the changes in the consumer price index; increases in state population; very high unemployment. In states where benefits are less than 65 percent of the poverty level, block grants would be increased to the extent benefits are increased to that level. Funds provided may only be used for social welfare purposes and cost of living increases must be passed through to AFDC recipients.

When the Senate Finance Committee completes work on the tax bill, it is expected to take up the fiscal relief measure and another NACo top priority, a three-year increase in funding for social service programs under Title XX of the Social Security Act.

It is crucial that members of the Senate Finance Committee be contacted immediately to support both measures—three-year increase in Title XX and fiscal relief.

—Aliceann Fritschler

Health Victory in House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House has passed a bill which would enable counties, for the first time, to become direct recipients of grants for community health centers, migrant health centers and community mental health centers.

The Health Centers Amendments of 1978 (H.R. 12460) waives for public agencies the current requirement that all such centers be governed by a board, a majority of whom are users of the center's services.

The new provision requires that consumer advisory boards approve the hours of operation, the scope of services and the budgets of community and migrant health centers. Otherwise, the establishment of all general policies becomes the prerogative of the public agency grantee.

H.R. 12460 extends the authorization of these health center programs for three years at $523 million for fiscal '79; $599 million for fiscal '80; and $674 million for fiscal '81.

The Senate-passed version of this legislation does not contain the governing board exemption for public agencies. The fate of these provisions will be determined by a House-Senate conference committee before Congress adjourns.

House-Passed Bill Would Fund Quieter Planes

Jet Noise Hits Prime Time

While the U.S. Open tennis tournament televised nationwide from Flushing Meadow showcased the best tennis players in the country, Nassau County Executive Francis T. Purcell saw it as a vivid demonstration to the nation of what the jet noise problem is all about.

"People in areas where jet noise is not a problem heard 'in living color' the incessant roar of jets taking off from LaGuardia Airport," Purcell said. "I hope they realize that this is what people living near airports have to put up with day and night and why we are fighting so hard to reduce aircraft and airport noise."

The county executive, whose county borders on Kennedy Airport, one of the busiest airports in the world, is chairman of the National Organization to Insure a Sound-controlled Environment (NOISE), an organization of local governments, concerned groups and individuals across the county formed to combat the noise pollution menace to the environment.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House has passed legislation to give the airlines an estimated $3 billion to $4 billion over the next five years to help pay for quieter aircraft to meet federal antinoise regulations.

The money would come from existing taxes on flights and freight, plus new taxes on flights and freight to foreign countries. Currently, all airline ticket taxes are channeled into the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

Since the trust fund has a surplus, the proponents of the bill argued that funds could be diverted for noise relief without jeopardizing the construction and safety programs that the fund now supports. They argued that the airlines would be unable to meet federal noise-abatement standards to be phased in between 1981 and 1985 unless they were aided financially.

Opponents argued that the bill would set a dangerous precedent by earmarking federal receipts for distribution to a private industry in order to comply with federal regulations. They predicted that the legislation would encourage other industries subject to federal environmental regulations—such as automobile and steel—to seek federal aid as well.

Proponents successfully overcame this argument by insisting that the case of the airlines is unique. They argued that airlines would have to replace their aircraft while other industries need only modify their plants.

THE BILL, as adopted, would:

- Divert 2 percent of the current 8 percent domestic ticket tax for noise abatement purposes.
- Divert 2 percent of the current 5 percent tax on domestic air freight for noise abatement purposes.
- Raise the current departure tax on flights to foreign countries from $3 to $10 when the fare is more than $100. (The tax on flights less than $100 would be $2.)
- Establish a new 5 percent tax on air freight leaving the United States.

All taxes would be in effect until late 1983. For the first time, foreign airlines operating in the United States would be required to meet federal noise standards by 1985 and would be eligible for federal aid to comply.

Counties are concerned with all aspects of the aircraft noise problem for two main reasons:

- As airport operators, counties are responsible for maintaining the economic viability of local air service.
- As local governments, counties are responsible for the health and welfare of their citizens.

SENATE NOISE legislation now reported out of the Senate Commerce Committee is stalled in the Senate Finance Committee. No date has been set for Senate floor action.

The Senate bill grants two- and three-engine aircraft a five-year extension until 1990 to meet noise reduction requirements.

It also establishes a $20 billion loan guarantee aircraft replacement program based on two premises: that retrofit of two- and three-engine aircraft provides inadequate noise reduction; and that the cost of retrofit would be expensive compared to minor noise reductions.

NACo disagrees with these two premises and the bill's implementation program and has argued that the extension is unwarranted.

The impact of retrofitting two- and three-engine aircraft will, in NACo's view, have a substantial impact on noise reduction. NACo is concerned that 75 percent of the air carrier airports in the country would not receive any noise reduction benefits until 12 years from now.

NACo finds that the cost of retrofitting the entire nonconforming two- and three-engine fleet (approximately 1,600 planes) is modest compared to potential noise benefits and the number of communities receiving relief.

—Gary Raush

COOK COUNTY APPEAL

Better County Census Data Would Improve Services

COOK COUNTY, Ill.—Cook County, the second largest county in the nation population-wise, has appealed to the Bureau of the Census to publish census data beginning in 1980 on unincorporated areas within large urban counties.

Cook County Planning Director Daniel J. Ferrone told the Census Bureau that if unincorporated Cook County, with its 166,000 persons, were classified as a city under the 1970 census, it would have been the second largest city in the state.

"The incomes of these people range from the highest to the lowest and their problems are as diverse as those found in a city of comparable size," he said.

"And yet the Census Bureau does not publish statistics for the total unincorporated area of the county which may have the effect of denying unincorporated area residents of assistance from federal, state and local programs," he said.

For example, a Department of Labor program for cities with high unemployment rates would not apply to persons living outside a city. "In addition, such grant programs as the Community Development Block Grant program are not as effective as they should be because conditions in the unincorporated areas of urban counties cannot be adequately documented," said Ferrone.

Child Support Funds Assured

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House and Senate conferees will meet this week on a bill (H.R. 12232) containing a provision for permanent federal matching for child support services to nonwelfare families, on which agreement seems assured. The federal matching was to expire on Sept. 30.

Originally available since 1974 as a temporary provision of the Title IV-D child support program, the 75 percent federal matching proved successful at generating cooperation and support from absent parents in low-income families. The program has kept families from turning to welfare in many instances.

The permanent extension of federal funding met with House approval last year in passage of H.R. 7200, and was included in the Senate Finance Committee version of H.R. 7200, which did not reach the Senate floor. It was attached to another bill, H.R. 4007, for Senate passage late in August.

An additional Senate Finance Committee amendment not contained in the House version of H.R. 7200, which would extend federal matching to certain court costs which counties incur in carrying out the federal child support enforcement program, was not attached. Although under consideration by conferees, the fate of this provision is uncertain.

—Pat Johnson

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Older Americans Act Settled

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House d Senate conferees completed rk last week on reauthorization of e Older Americans Act, which will nefit the nation's 22 million elderly a number of ways.

The bill will provide $730 million in cal '79 for congregate and home-livered meals, senior centers and her community services.

From the county viewpoint, coor-nation and emphasis on local deci-on-making were important issues that the conferees supported. Included in the final bill are:

- The presence of local elected officials on area agency advisory boards is recommended;
- The service titles of the bill (Title III, Social Services; Title V, Senior Centers; Title VII, Nutrition) are consolidated into a new Title III;
- Assurances that state plans be based upon local area agency plans;
- A three-year, rather than annual, planning cycle.

THESE PROVISIONS will alleviate some of the problems addressed by Somerset County (N.J.) Freeholder-Director Doris Dealaman in testimony earlier this year. Dealaman, NACo's chairwoman for aging, pointed out that the lack of coordination among the various titles created "confusion for elderly persons, unnecessary paperwork for staff, and a duplication of effort on the part of counties and other sponsoring agencies."

Moreover, Dealaman added, "Unless the elected officials have some part in the decision-making and planning process, they really have little incentive to become more involved and expand services for the elderly."

Other provisions which had not been supported by NACo were adopted, but with language that strongly protects county level decision making and county finances:

- Though the nonfederal match is increased for the new Title III (from the current 10 percent to 15 percent in 1981), the increase must be met by the states and cannot be passed on to counties.
- Though there is a separate authorization for meals-on-wheels, funds can be transferred between congregate and home-delivered meals, to respond to the types of meal services actually needed at the local level.

Funds authorized for social services, senior centers, and meals for fiscal '79 are $253 million above the current level of funding.

House Unit Votes Funding for CETA

ntinued from page 1

The continuing resolution, once ssed by both Houses, gives DOL t authority. However, since the solution calls for the lower of two ssible funding levels, DOL must it for the House to pass its CETA tension before it can determine actly how much money will be ailable for the six-month period.

In the meantime, Labor Department officials met Sept. 21 to map t options for providing counties, ies and states that operate CETA ograms the authority and funds cessary to continue operating as of t. 1 until firmer plans for the year n be devised.

Labor officials will probably use ans already submitted to their gional offices to authorize prime onsors to draw on funds needed mediately when the new fiscal ear gets underway. Counties should pect calls from regional offices of abor early this week, as well as of-cial notification of program contin-ation.

The continuing resolution will go to the House and Senate floors this week and be signed into law by Sept. 30. It will serve as both the authorizing and the appropriation vehicle for CETA for the interim period until the authorizing bill is signed into law.

By an optimistic schedule the House-Senate conference on the CETA authorization could occur this week with a floor vote in both Houses on the conference report later in the week. A less optimistic timetable would have a floor vote in both Houses the week of Oct. 2. The President has 10 days after the bill is received by the White House to sign the bill. Thus, the CETA bill signing should occur sometime before Oct. 20.

A continuing resolution for six months would mean that the CETA appropriation would be enacted by the 96th Congress. Thus, counties would not have their true formula allocations until six months into fiscal '79.

Rural Counties Get Water and Sewer, Housing Funds

ntinued from page 1

When the Senate Appropriations mmittee bill reached the Senate or, amendments were added in as other than rural development. ese nonrural development amend-nts increased total funding above ministration requests, and in or-r to avert a possible presidential o, an amendment to reduce fund-g was adopted. However, rather n making reductions in those ne nonrural development pro-ams which created the spectre of a o, the slashes came instead entire-from the rural development levels ommended by the Appropriations mmittee.

If the cuts had not been reinstated, ny of the nation's rural counties would have had to continue without adequate water and sewer supplies. This would have occurred at a time when more and more federal and state laws are requiring improvements in these services. As a result, rural business and industries could have been forced to close.

The legislation will now go back to both Houses for a final vote before being sent to the President for his signature. The House will act on the measure first. There no longer appears to be a possibility of a veto.

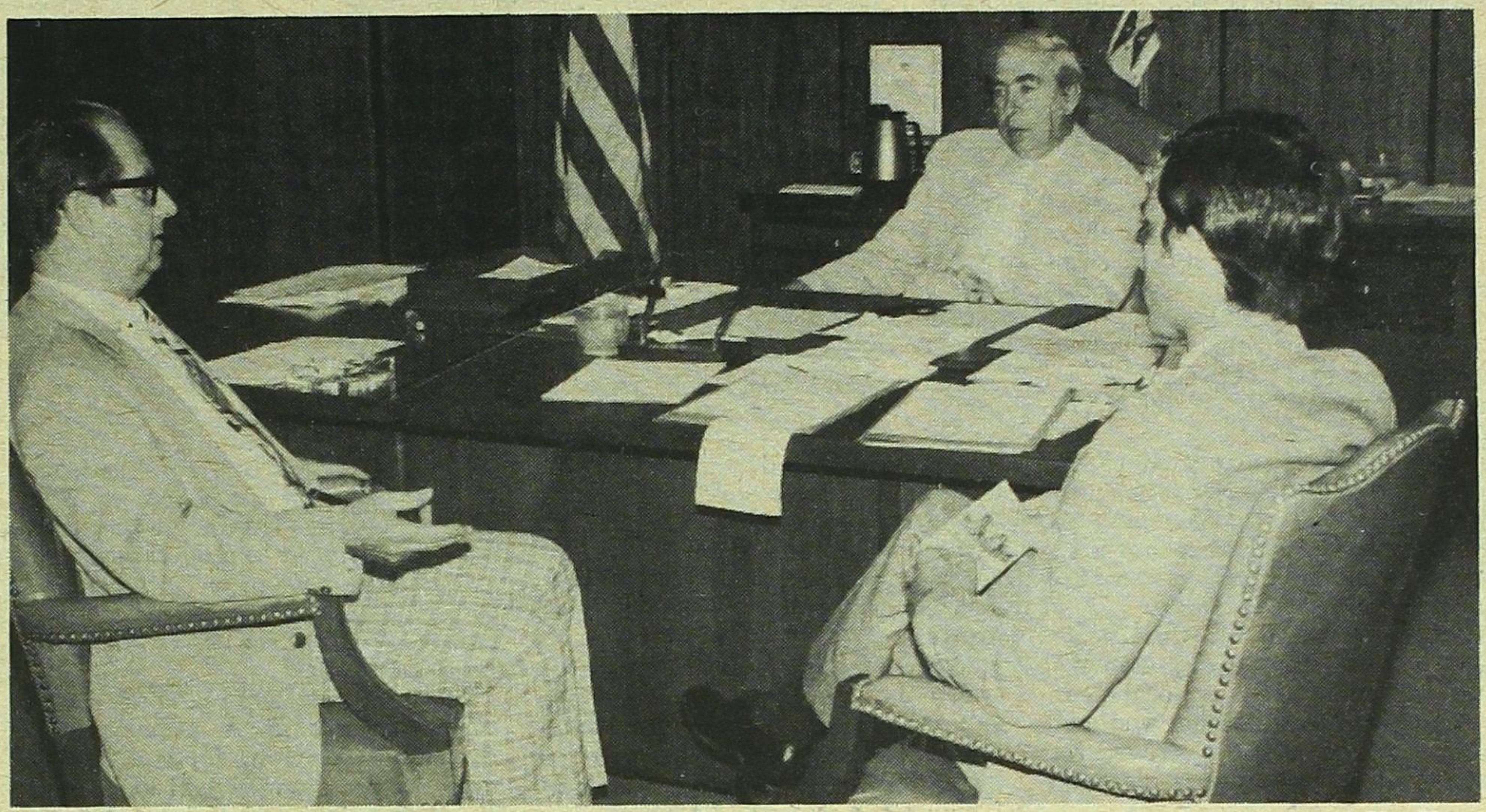
The accompanying chart compares the present funding levels, the original House and Senate recommendations, and the final fiscal '79 appropriations.

—Elliott Alman

(millions of dollars)

gram	Current Fiscal '78 Funding	House	Senate	Fiscal '79
er and Sewer Grants*	$250	$300	$265	$282.5
al Development Planning ants (Section III)	5	5	—0—	5
sing Rehabilitation Grants ction 504)	5	24	19	19
m Labor Housing Grants ction 516)	7.5	38	33	33
nical Assistance Housing ants (Section 525)	—0—	2.5	—0—	2.5
al and Self-Help Housing ants (Section 523)	9	16.5	13.5	13.5
al Community Fire Protection ants	3.5	3.5	—0—	3.5

e fiscal '78 funding level of $250 million for water and waste disposal ants was recently increased by a supplemental appropriation of 0 million approved Sept. 8.



Milwaukee County Executive William O'Donnell talks with Joe Golden, left, administrative secretary, and Jim Koppel, NACo staff, about the upcoming conference in Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE'S MODEL PROGRAM

Work Relief Seminar Set

MILWAUKEE COUNTY, Wis.—County Executive William O'Donnell is hosting a national welfare reform seminar here Oct. 26-27, which will feature Milwaukee County's innovative approach to work relief.

The county's work assistance program has been acclaimed for its success in involving private, social and governmental agencies to help general assistance recipients find jobs. Emphasis is on classroom as well as on-the-job training and professionals are used to help prepare and place participants in private industry jobs.

This approach differs widely from the traditional concept of work relief whereby a person is assigned a job merely to "work off" his general assistance payments. Such jobs tend to be menial or low-skilled and do nothing to improve the person's future job prospects.

In its first year of operation, nearly 60 percent of the county's general assistance recipients completed the work assistance program; more than 800 were placed in private sector jobs. Participants receive a $2.65 stipend for 22 hours of work a week, plus a bus pass and one meal a day.

Benefits to the county from the program include a lower welfare caseload and reduced costs for taxpayers. The county estimates that it saved over $8 million in the first year of the program. The number of persons on the welfare rolls dropped from 5,500 in May 1977 to less than 2,000 by July of this year, which the county executive attributes to his work assistance program.

Participating in the program are Job Service of Wisconsin, a state agency; Metropolitan Association of Commerce; Opportunities Industrialization Center; Jobs for Progress, Inc.; Curative Workshop; Goodwill Industries; Rehabilitation Council of Greater Milwaukee; DePaul Rehabilitation Center; the Urban League; and the YWCA.

The "Milwaukee Experience" has received state as well as national attention. A CBS television report on May 14 indicated that the program has the potential of becoming a "model" for the nation in dealing with welfare reform.

Check the registration form below for additional information. Contact Jim Koppel at NACo or Ello Brink of Milwaukee County, 414/278-4017.

—James Koppel

THE Milwaukee County Experience WELFARE REFORM SEMINAR Oct. 26-27

Pfister Hotel, 424 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

CONFERENCE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

Thursday, Oct. 26

5:30—Registration and reception
6:30—Dinner
7:30—Welcome, William O'Donnell, County Executive, Milwaukee
8:00—Overview of Work Assistance Program

Friday, Oct. 27

8:00—Continental Breakfast
9:00-12:00—Workshops and Panel Sessions
12:00-2:00—Lunch at selected agencies, Meeting with staff and clients
2:00-3:30—Questions and Answers, small group sessions
3:30—Future Directions
4:00—Adjournment

All reservations must be guaranteed.

Deadline for preregistration: Oct. 20
Registration fees: $50, $60 on-site
Single: $36.50, $37.50 (Towers)
Double: $46.50, $47.50 (Towers), $27.50 (Parlor room with sofa bed)

Name ____________________

County ____________________

Title ____________________

Address ____________________

____

Phone (______) ____________________

Please complete and send registration form and fee to:

WORK ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE
Office of County Executive
Milwaukee County Courthouse
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
Phone (414) 278-4211

AIR, WATER, SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

Conferees Set Environmental Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House-Senate conferees completed work last week on a compromise appropriations bill which sets spending limits for the Environmental Protection Agency for fiscal '79. Both Houses were expected to act on the Conference Report at press time.

Action on those portions of the EPA budget providing assistance to states, counties and cities was based on a "package" presented by House conferees and took less than 10 minutes. Serious discussion was held only on funds going to states for water quality enforcement, administrative expenses, and planning.

For the first time, funds have been provided under Section 175 of the Clean Air Act for local and areawide clean air planning. The conference committee approved $25 million for Section 175, plus an unspecified amount of an additional $29 million to be allocated between local clean air planning and solid waste planning under Section 4008(a)(1) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Allocation between the two programs was left to EPA's discretion.

Congress is also expected to approve an additional $10 million for clean air/transportation planning for the Department of Transportation's assistance to Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

EPA is expected to allocate the vast majority—perhaps $25 million—of the $29 million fund to local clean air planning. The remainder would be added to $11.2 million approved for state and local solid waste planning under Section 4008(a)(1). If the additional funds for solid waste planning are provided to county and city governments, this will be the first time that planning funds will not have been kept by state governments.

Conferees split the difference between the two Houses in approving $32 million for Section 208 water quality management planning for fiscal '79. This amount is to be added to $11 million carried over from EPA's fiscal '78 appropriation. The $11 million was "loaned" to the clean air program and implementation of an earlier agreement on inspection of sewage treatment construction between EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Most Section 208 plans are to be submitted for EPA approval by November. Planning funds are to be used at the areawide and local level to complete work on unapproved elements of plans and to provide planning assistance for implementing approved or conditionally approved plans. Appropriation subcommittee members in both Houses earlier expressed skepticism about the future of the 208 program and a more definitive review of its accomplishments and future need is expected next year.

Last spring, EPA and the Office of Management and Budget agreed to a five-year strategy for management of the 208 program. EPA's strategy called for $100 million per year for the five-year period, but no commitment on the funding level was agreed to by OMB.

The conference committee took the House-approved level for the Section 201 wastewater construction grant program in providing $4.2 billion for fiscal '79.

The accompanying chart compares levels approved by the House-Senate conference committee with earlier House and Senate action and the Administration's request.

Appropriations for EPA Assistance to Counties and Other Local Agencies

Program	Administration Request	House Action	Senate Action	Conference Committee Approved
Section 175 Clean Air Planning	$25 million (urban initiative)	$25 million, plus part of an additional $25 million to be shared with solid waste.	$60 million	$25 million, plus part of an additional $29 million to be shared with solid waste. (Allocation to be determined by EPA.)
Section 208 water quality planning	$50 million	$25 million	$39 million	$32 million
Wastewater construction grants	$4.5 billion	$4.2 billion	$4.25 billion	$4.2 billion
Local/state solid waste planning Section 4008(a)(1) RCRA	$11.2 million	$11.2 million, plus part of an additional $25 million to be shared with clean air planning	$ 11.2 million + 15 million = $ 26.2 million	$11.2 million, plus part of an additional $29 million to be shared with clean air planning. (Allocation determined by EPA.)
Resource recovery and solid waste implementation Section 4008(a)(2) RCRA	$15 million (urban initiative)	$15 million	$15 million	$15 million

COUNTY ACTION

County officials interested in participating in these grant programs should take the following action:

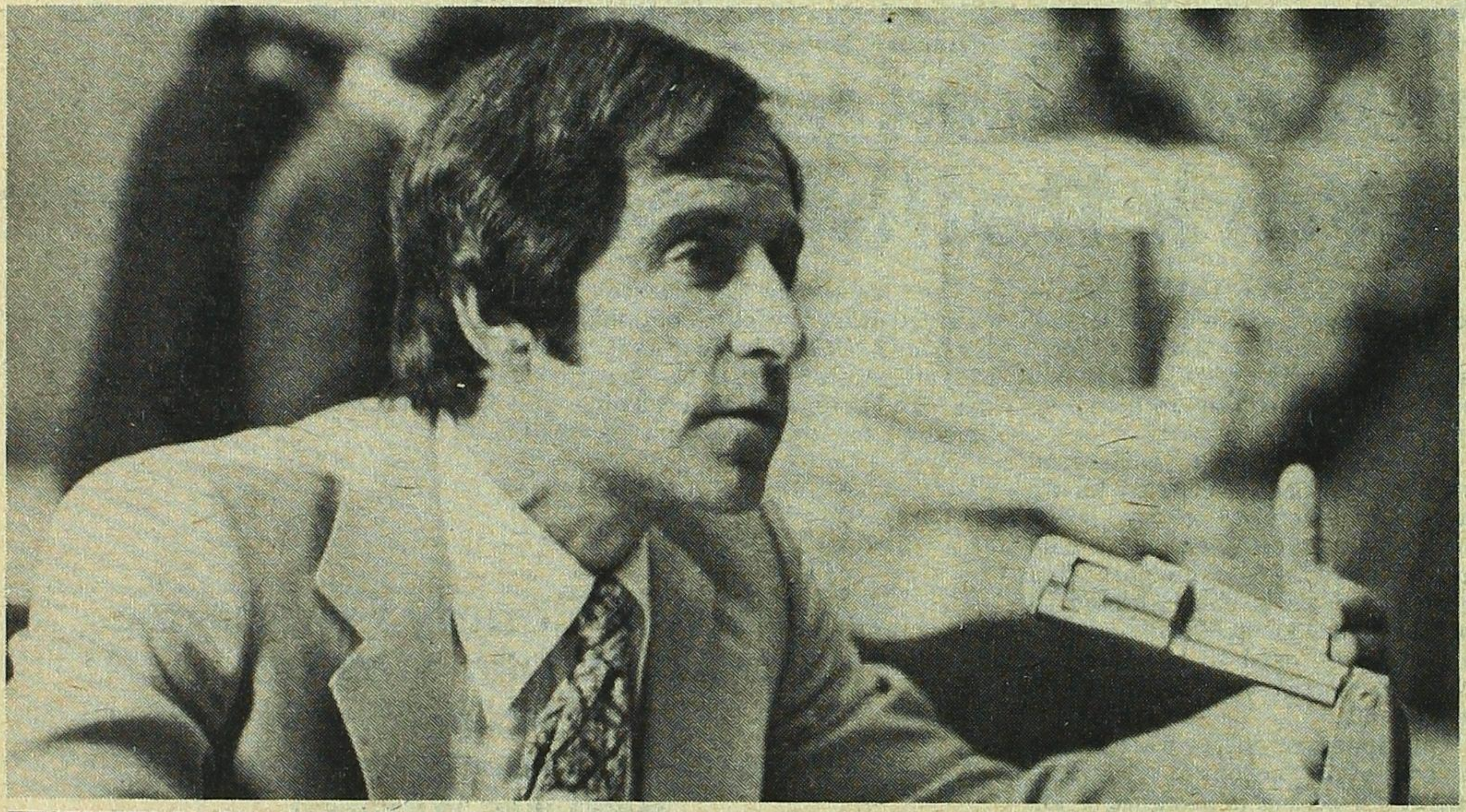
Clean Air Planning: Section 175 and transportation planning funds for revising local portions of state implementation plans (SIPs) will be granted to lead planning agencies designated by local governments and each state's governor.

Lead planning agencies are either counties, air pollution control districts, areawide agencies/councils of governments or Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Counties can participate by serving on the governing bodies of these agencies and working out cooperative agreements with lead planning agencies for assistance to conduct some of the planning and analysis of transportation control measures. Contact your lead planning agency, state air pollution control agency, or regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Section 175 grant regulations will be proposed shortly by EPA.

Solid Waste Planning: Funds under Section 4008(a)(1) are to be shared with the states. NACo will seek EPA approval of a funding arrangement which would require that the additional amount over $11.2 million would be designated for use by county and other local solid waste planning. Allocation of your state's share to local governments should be sought directly from your state solid waste agency designated to develop state plans.

Resource Recovery and Solid Waste Implementation: Funds under Section 4008(a)(2) of RCRA should be sought immediately. Contact your state solid waste agency or the regional EPA office for information.

Wastewater Construction Grants (Section 201): No change is expected in the grant application procedures for this program. Counties and other local governments must seek placement of each project on a state project priority list. After Section 208 plans are approved, each new project must be consistent with an areawide or state plan. Contact your state water pollution control construction grants agency.



TESTIFIES IN SENATE—Harvey Ruvin, commissioner, Dade County, Fla., stressed to a Senate Committee the need for local government involvement in energy planning and conservation activity.

Role for Counties Requested in Proposed Energy Planning Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Dade County (Fla.) Commissioner Harvey Ruvin has criticized proposed legislation for its failure to promote a role for local governments in comprehensive energy management programs.

Ruvin directed his remarks to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources which recently held hearings on the proposed State Energy Management and Planning Act of 1978 (SEMPA).

The bill would consolidate three existing grant programs: the State Energy Conservation Plans under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1976; the Supplemental State Energy Conservation Plans under the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1977; and the National Energy Extension Service Act of 1977.

Under the proposal, 50 percent of the state's funding must be used for energy conservation programs. The remainder can be used for planning, forecasting, and related activities. However, no federal funds can be used for building construction or equipment.

TO ACCOMPLISH the purposes of the act, the bill calls for $105 million a year for five years beginning in fiscal '79. While states are "encouraged" to make some of these funds available to local governments, there is nothing in the proposal which would require the involvement of local governments.

Ruvin stressed the role of local governments in energy planning and conservation actions, and offered some specific suggestions which would ensure that local governments are involved, including:

- A strong and well-defined role for local governments should be spelled out in the development of the state plan.
- A council, composed of an equal number of state and local officials, should be established and made responsible for the development of the state plan.
- A percentage of the funding should be passed through to local governments for the preparation of local energy management plans.
- Any local government which receives funds under this act should be required to prepare a local energy plan for submission to the state.

With the above changes, Ruvin pledged NACo's support for the act. Additional hearings, before the House subcommittee on energy and power, are tentatively scheduled for later this month. For more information, contact Mark Croke, legislative representative.

5 Seminars Will Focus on Safe Drinking Water Regs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed regulations to control organic contaminants in drinking water have stirred up much controversy in the last few months. Seminars will be held in five cities to discuss the technical and economic questions the proposed regulations raise.

Organic chemicals, both naturally occurring and manmade, are present in the drinking water supply of many communities, and may have an adverse effect on the health of humans. Local officials have tended to resist federal attempts at regulation, feeling the regulations would cost them more than their consumers would be willing to pay. At the same time, they are vitally concerned with delivering safe drinking water.

The federal regulations as proposed would set a maximum allowable level for some of the organic contaminants and require advanced treatment at the water plant for others. The regulations would directly affect communities with water supplies serving over 75,000, but require water systems serving over 10,000 to do some additional monitoring.

Public Technology, Inc., in cooperation with EPA, will be presenting two-day seminars across the country for water utility operators, government officials and consulting engineers to ensure that the technology currently available to address the organic contaminant problem will be known at the local level.

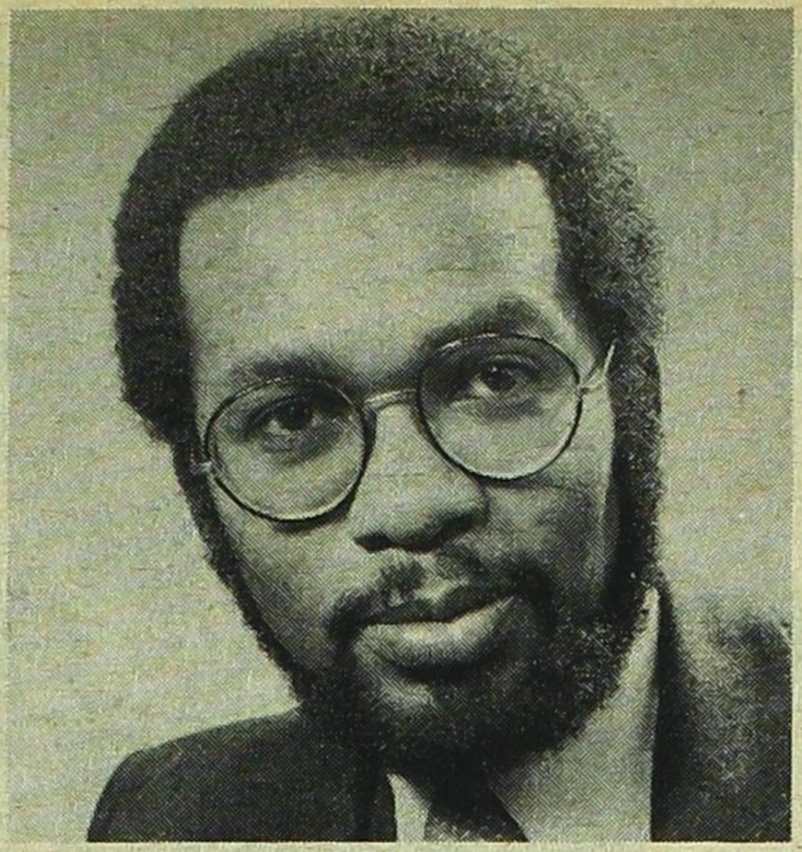
The seminar agenda, the same in all five cities, will provide participants with an overview of:

- The nature of the problem of organic chemicals in drinking water;
- The roles of local and state officials;
- Monitoring and treatment techniques; and
- Costs of treatment technologies.

There is no registration fee, but attendance will be limited to 250 applicants. Seminars will be held in Cincinnati Oct. 10-11; Los Angeles Nov. 14-15; Philadelphia Jan. 16-17; Atlanta Feb. 13-14; and Dallas March 13-14.

For more information, contact Wade Miller, Public Technology, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 202/452-7700; Thomas Hushower, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 202/472-6820; or Arlee Shulman at NACo.

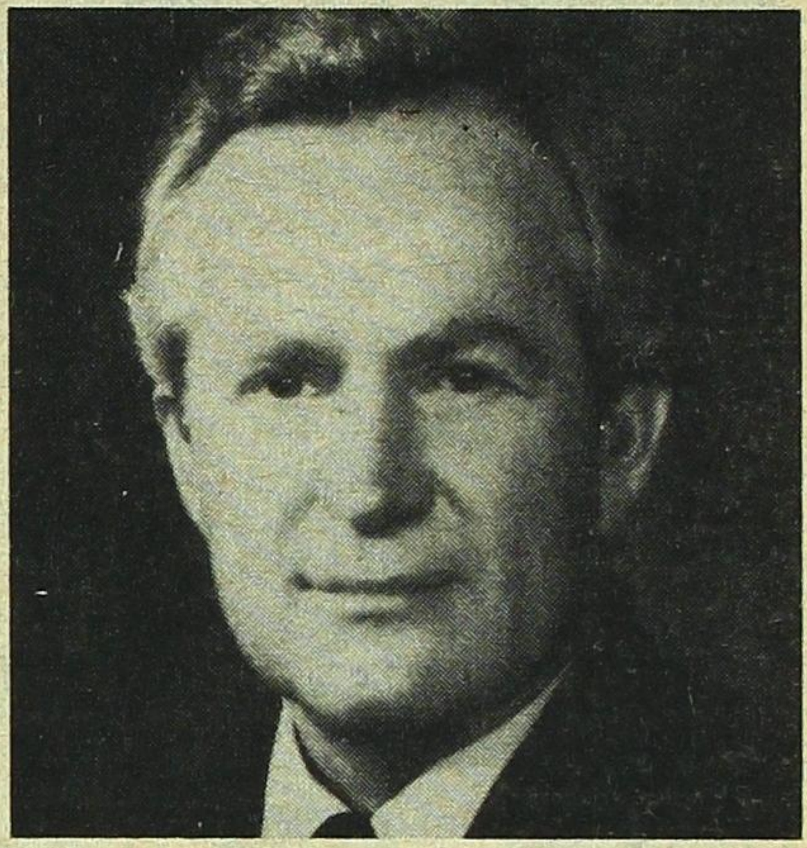
NACMO: Public, Private Exchange



Green

Levitan

Hall



Hand

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Ernest Green, assistant secretary of labor for employment and training, will address NACo's Seventh Annual Manpower Conference during a Monday luncheon Oct. 30 in Phoenix, Ariz. Green will be discussing federal employment policy under the new Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

Conference delegates will also hear from Dr. Sar Levitan, chairman of the National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics, at the Oct. 31 morning general session. He will highlight the preliminary findings of the commission. In addition, Robert Hall, assistant secretary of commerce for economic development, will comment on the economic impact of federal employment and training policy at the Tuesday luncheon.

Speaking at the Nov. 1 morning general session will be Lloyd Hand, president of the National Alliance of Business. Hand, along with other business representatives, will present his recommendations on how to establish, maintain and improve working relationships between CETA prime sponsors and private sector employers.

In addition to these major speakers, the conference will feature over 75 workshops divided into the following nine tracks:

- Legislation;
- Transition Issues;
- CETA in Coordination with Other Federal Programs;
- Balance of State/Rural;
- Management;
- Private Sector;
- Youth;
- Special Target Groups;
- DOL/Prime Sponsor Relationships.

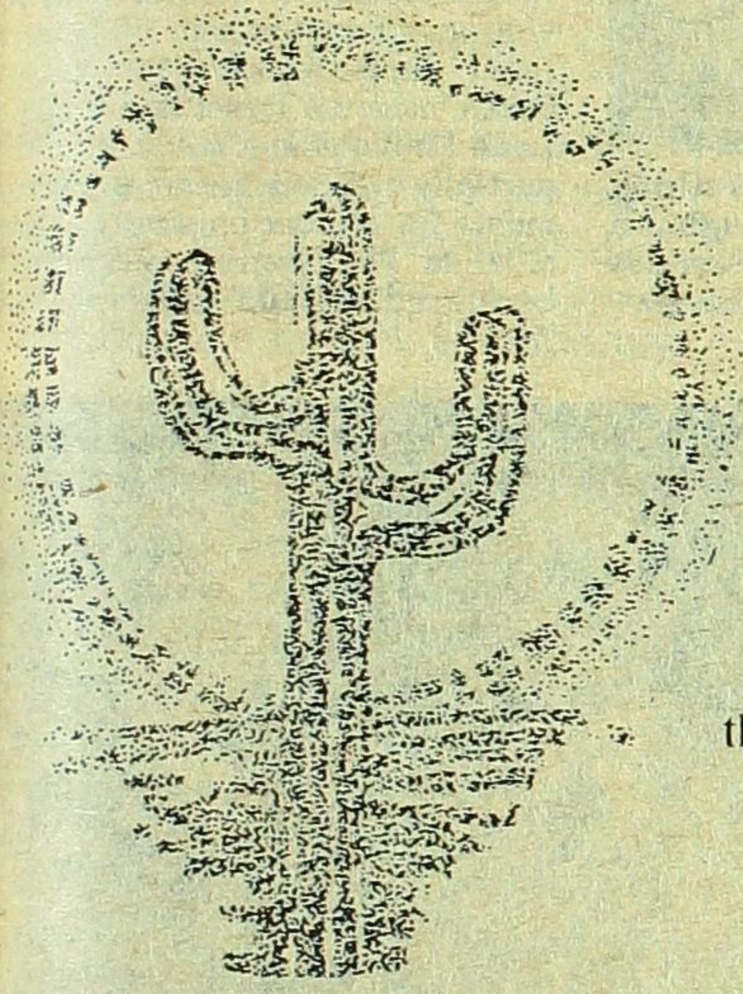
These workshops, widely considered the heart of the conference, will provide an opportunity for delegates to informally share their ideas and concerns on all different aspects of employment and training programs.

This year's manpower conference will be held in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Ariz. at the Adams Hotel Oct. 29-Nov. 1. An estimated 1,400 CETA directors, county elected officials, and other CETA and related professional staff will be attending the conference.

If you have not done so, please be sure to send in your conference registration form and hotel reservation information to the NACMO Conference Registration Center. The conference registration postmark deadline has been extended from Oct. 6 to Oct. 13. However, your hotel reservations must still be postmarked by Oct. 6 because the conference hotels (Adams/Hyatt) will not definitely commit themselves to hold rooms after this deadline. Be sure to send in your conference registration form, with the $80 registration fee and the hotel registration information completed to ensure preregistration rates and hotel accommodations.

For more information on conference and hotel registration, contact the NACMO Registration Center at 703/471-6180.

Conference Registration/Official Housing Form
1978 NACo Manpower Conference
Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 1978
Maricopa County (Phoenix), Ariz.



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

How to Save Money:

- Delegates who preregister can save $10 on the conference registration fee and be eligible for special conference room rates.
- Be sure advance registration forms and payment are postmarked no later than Oct. 13, 1978 and sent to: NACMO Conference Registration Center, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.
- All advance registrations must include payment of the conference registration fee by check, voucher or equivalent, made payable to National Association of Counties/Manpower.

What Happens If You Miss the Oct. 13 Deadline?

- Delegates who miss the Oct. 13 deadline can register on-site and will have to make their own hotel reservations. The NACMO Registration Center (703-471-6180) will provide information on hotel room availability.
- Telephone requests for conference registration or housing reservations cannot be accepted at any time by the Conference Registration Center.

What About Cancellations?

- Refunds of the conference registration fee will be made if cancellation is necessary, provided written notice postmarked no later than Oct. 20, 1978.

Advance Conference Registration:

Delegates to NACo's 7th Annual Manpower Conference can both preregister for the conference and reserve hotel accomodations by completing this form. Please use **one** form for **each** delegate registering. Deadline: Oct. 13

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

(Spouses must register to attend social events. No separate tickets will be sold.)

Name ______________________________
Last First Middle Initial

Title ______________________________

County ______________ Prime Sponsor (If Appropriate) ______________

Address ______________________________

City __________ State ________ Zip ________ Telephone (______) __________

Name of *Registered* Spouse ______________________________
Last First

Housing Reservation:

Indicate hotel preference by circling rate under type of room:

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

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

Name of Individual ______________________________

Co-occupant If Double or Twin ______________________________

Arrival Date/Time ______________ Departure Date/Time ______________

Special Hotel Requests ______________________________

Credit Card Name ______________ Number ______________

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

No room deposit required. Rooms may be guaranteed for after 6 p.m. arrival in writing by your county or by sending one night's deposit to the NACMO Conference Registration Center, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. For further information call 703/471-6180.

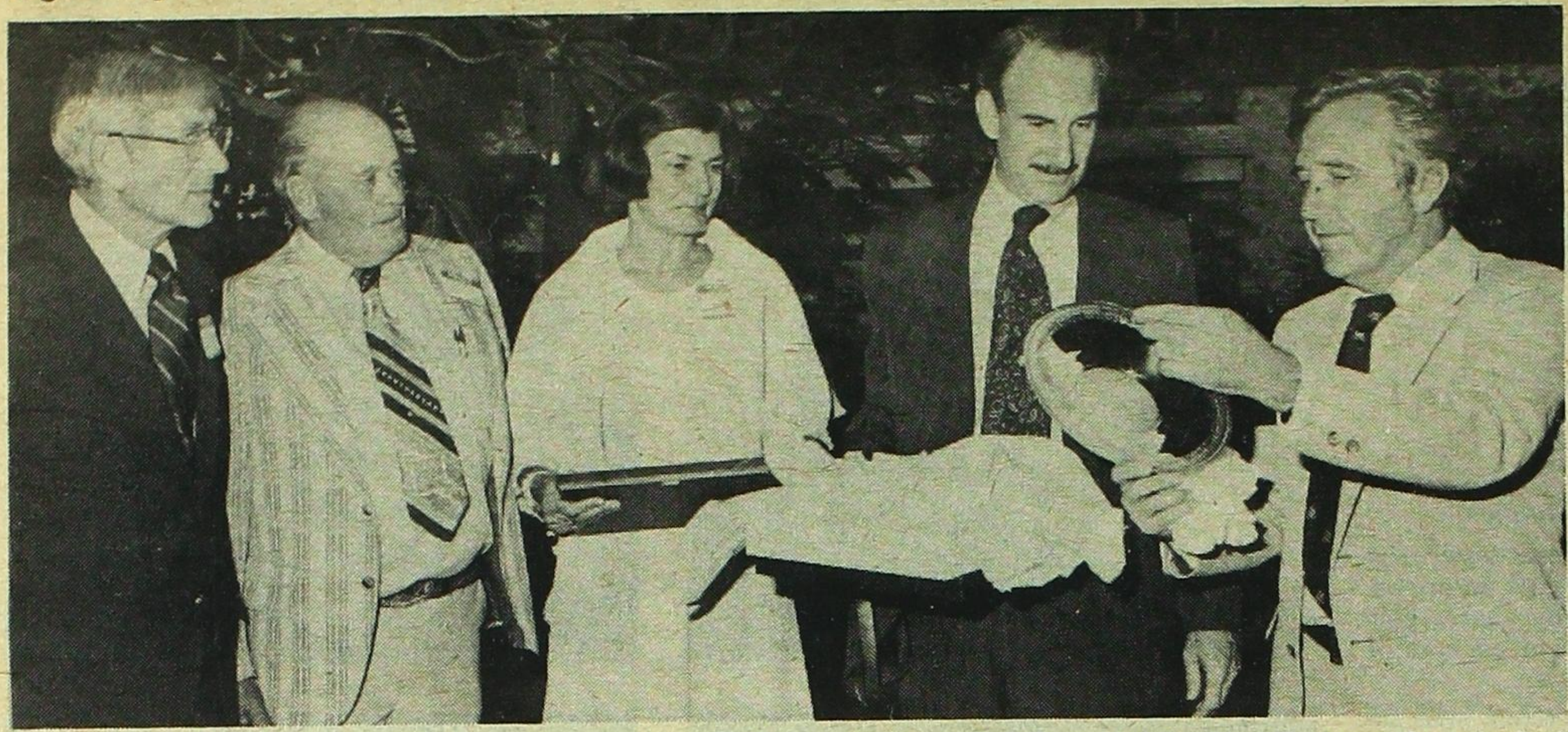
For Office Use Only

Check # ______________

Check Amount ______________

Date Received ______________

Date Postmarked ______________



REP. FRANK EVANS CITED—Rep. Frank Evans (D-Colo.) receives a NACo award for his efforts as the principal sponsor of the Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes Act. The award was presented by NACo Executive Director Bernard F. Hillenbrand, right. From left are: Rep. Jim Weaver (D-Ore.), who was floor manager of the legislation; Dale Sowards, commissioner, Conejos County, Colo. and vice chairman of the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee; and Mrs. Eleanor Evans.

PAYMENTS-IN-LIEU RALLY

Doubt Over Added Lands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—County officials here for a NACo rally on the Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes Act were told that legislation to expand the program may be dead for this year. The bills appear to be caught in the crush of business remaining before the 95th Congress.

Of the two, legislation that would add fish and wildlife refuges to the program appears to have the better chance. The bill, H.R. 8394, has passed the House and is awaiting Senate approval. Sponsored by Reps. Bo Ginn (D-Ga.) and Bill Steiger (R-Wis.), the bill would provide up to $14 million in payments annually to more than 200 counties.

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) has circulated a "dear colleague" letter asking for support for the bill. This holds out promise for Senate action before Congress adjourns.

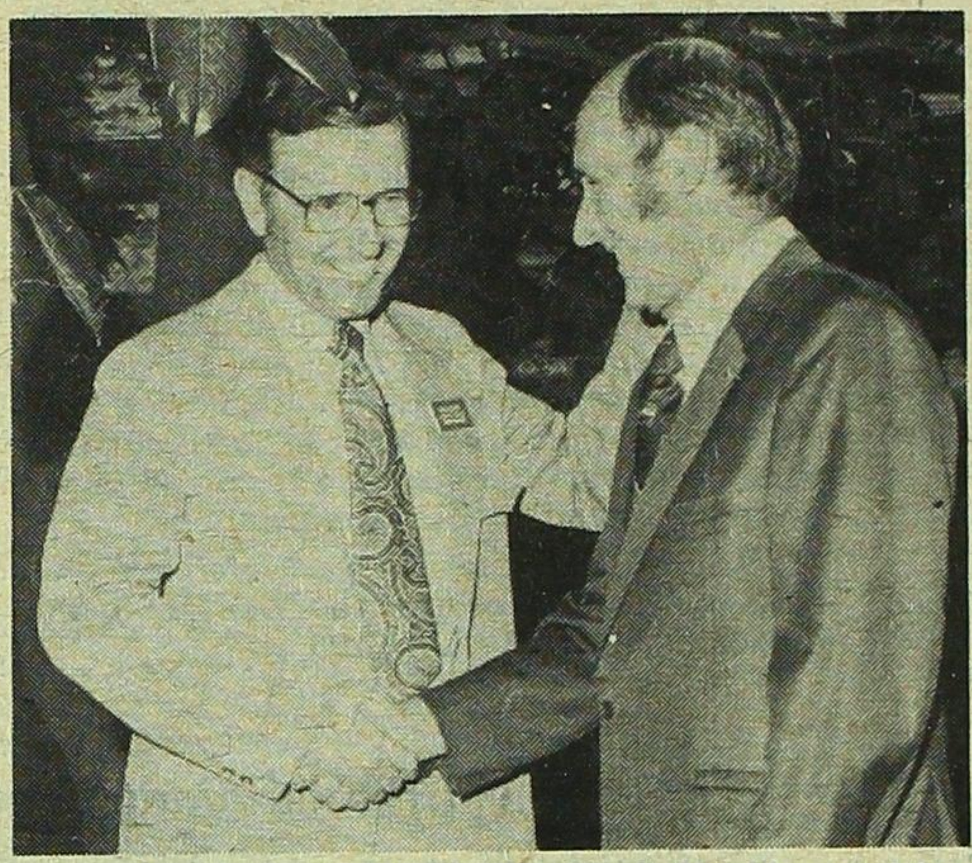
The second bill would add inactive military lands and certain national parks to the payments-in-lieu of taxes program. Sponsored by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), the bill has passed the Senate but is hung up in the House Interior Committee.

County officials were told that the Interior Committee may not be able to schedule a vote on this bill because of other legislative commitments. County officials should ask their congressmen to contact Rep. Mo Udall (D-Ariz.), chairman of the House Interior Committee, in support of this legislation.

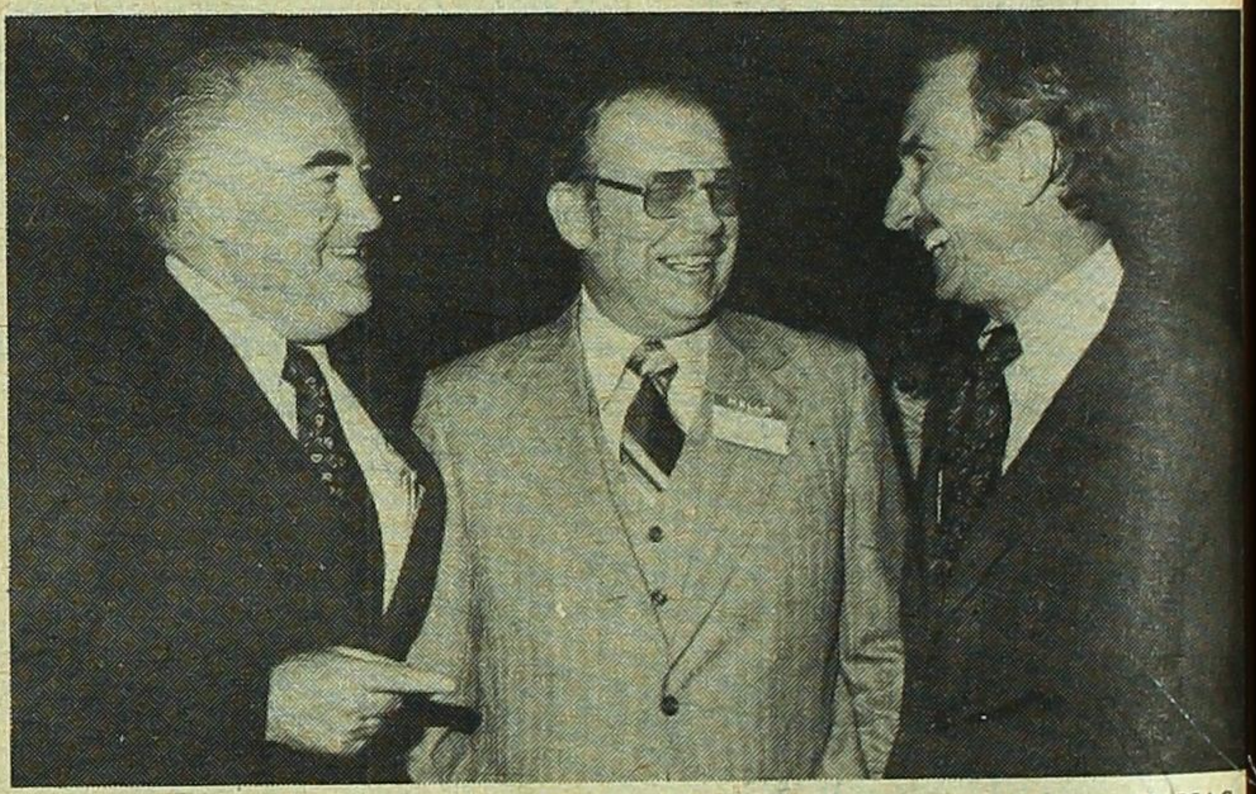
NACo will continue to work for action on both these bills in this congressional session.

In 1976 Congress passed the NACo-sponsored legislation to provide payments-in-lieu of taxes to local jurisdictions for national parks, national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands, in order to partially compensate county governments for the tax immunity of federal lands. The program is expected to be funded at $105 million for fiscal '79.

SPONSORS OF PAYMENTS AMENDMENT—NACo Executive Director Bernard F. Hillenbrand, right, thanks Reps. Bo Ginn (D-Ga.) and Bill Steiger (R-Wis.) for their sponsorship of legislation to provide payments-in-lieu of taxes to counties containing fish and wildlife refuges. Seen from left are Rep. Ginn, John Carlson, president, NACo Western Interstate Region, and Rep. Steiger.



FAREWELL TO BUCKLER—Clark Buckler, retiring executive director of Colorado Counties, Inc., right, is congratulated for his long service to Colorado counties and NACo by Lew Entz, president, Colorado Counties, Inc. and commissioner, Alamosa County, Colo.



PAYMENTS-IN-LIEU MOVERS—John Carlson, president of NACo Western Interstate Region and mayor of Fairbanks-North Star Borough, Alaska (center), thanks Rep. Don Clausen (R-Calif.), left, who was minority floor manager of the payments-in-lieu of taxes legislation, and Rep. Frank Evans (D-Colo.) for their roles in enacting the original Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes Act.

Matter and Measure

NEW CONTRACT WITH FHWA

Bill Maslin is back at NACo and will be directing a new contract with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) which was signed Aug. 31. He will be assisted by Marlene Glassman. Here's a message from the two of them:

Under this new contract we will continue our efforts to improve communications among levels of government. The new 12-month contract helps us to continue activities we began under the last contract with FHWA which we completed in June. Basic activities include:

- Commenting on FHWA proposed regulations through our ad hoc regulations simplification committees;
- Conducting five workshops in individual states on ways to simplify federal-aid procedures;
- Determining and using new ways to disseminate information and improve technology transfer.

We have begun workshop planning and will keep you informed of locations and subjects. We are conducting preliminary discussions with several states.

Working with Deane Anklan, NACE research committee chairman and members of the research committee, we will expand and complete memberships on our ad hoc committees. These committees were established to comment on FHWA notices of proposed rulemaking in various subject areas, such as right-of-way acquisition, environmental assessment and safety programs.

As you know, on your behalf we have urged FHWA to provide counties with opportunity to comment early on draft regulations. Therefore, FHWA is expecting your input. We urge you to comment on the regulations we send you as NACE officers, members and ad hoc committee members. We must have a better response than we have been getting, especially in light of proposed regulations FHWA will issue after new highway legislation. We can't emphasize enough the need for you to comment on FHWA's proposals.

In addition, we will continue work to improve the process of technology transfer. Please let us know of technological innovations you use in your county for road construction and maintenance. As you have said, we need to collect information on administrative and management practices you successfully employ. Again, we can't work without your help and without information from you. We ask that you please respond to our requests for information.

Be sure to read this column for information on project activities as well as other items of interest. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to a successful year of contract efforts.

—Bill Maslin
Marlene Glassman, NACoR

ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ASPHALT

According to Joseph R. Coupal Jr., Asphalt Institute president, "In contrast to reported shortages of some other road construction materials, there is an adequate supply of asphalt to meet normal requirements in the United States."

After surveying major refiners of petroleum asphalt, Coupal said, "Supplies of asphalt for the near future appear to be ample and, barring some unforeseen occurrence, such as interruptions in the delivery of foreign crude oil, they will be adequate to meet current and future needs." However, other factors could negatively affect the asphalt supply, such as problems with transportation, unexpected production disruptions in a few localities and government regulations or mandates. Yet, the Asphalt Institute is unaware of current government proposals that could cause a shortage.

FHWA ADMINISTRATORS

Karl S. Bowers is the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) new administrator. Bowers had served as acting administrator and previously as deputy administrator. He is a native of South Carolina where he served as judge of Magistrate's Court for Hampton County and as commissioner of the state highway commission. Administrator Bowers is a graduate of Virginia Southern College. He also attended the University of South Carolina and Armstrong College in Savannah.

FHWA's deputy administrator is John S. Hassell Jr. He had served since August 1977 as FHWA's associate administrator for planning. Prior to joining FHWA, Hassell was employed by the Georgia Department of Transportation where he served as chief of the Systems Research Branch and chief of the Policy and Planning Section. Hassell is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, where he received bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering.

Job Opportunities

Assistant Executive Director, Broward County, Fla. Salary $22,000. Assistant to chief executive officer of the Broward County (Fla.) CETA Prime Sponsor Consortium. Appointed by a three-member consortium council to serve at its pleasure. Duties include implementation of council policy, as well as administration of programs and operations encompassing nine departments and 250 staff. Master's degree in public administration, business administration or related social or behavioral sciences and a minimum of two years' experience in the administration of manpower, training and employment or related federally funded programs and/or equivalent combination of training and experience. Resume to: Sal Gintoli, Personnel Director, Broward Employment and Training Administration, 330 North Andrews Ave, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33301. Closing date Sept. 30.

Executive Director, Anne Arundel, Md. To direct the county housing authority. Resume to: Anne Arundel County Housing Authority, Board of Commissioners, Box 1256, Glen Burnie, Md. 21061. Closing date Nov. 1.

County Administrator, Richmond County, Ga. Salary $28,000 to $35,000. Requires a thorough knowledge of public administration with particular emphasis on local government organization, administration and operation. Requires a master's degree in public or business administration and five years of increasingly responsible experience. Resume to: Richmond County Personnel, 126 Municipal Building, Augusta, Ga. 30902.

Transportation Planner-Coordinator for Developmentally Disabled, Monmouth County, N.J. Salary $15,000 to $17,000. One year grant, beginning Oct. 2. Experience with transportation services and/or a master's degree in planning or related field. Contact Community Services Council for Monmouth County, 601 Bangs Ave., Asbury Park, N.J. 07712.

Program Manager, Solid Waste Management, Middlesex County, N.J. To manage small staff. Perform analysis under federal grant to implement resource recovery. Minimum requirements: undergraduate degree in engineering, planning or environment and experience in solid waste management. Resume to: Department of Solid Waste Management, 134 New St., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901.

Solid Waste Planners, Middlesex County, N.J. One will develop a solid waste plan including collection, disposal, recycling and resource recovery. One will develop regional hazardous waste management plan with specific emphasis on the economic and environmental aspects. Minimum requirements: undergraduate degree in engineering, planning, or environment and experience in solid waste or hazardous waste management. Resume to: Department of Solid Waste Management, 134 New St., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901.

Public Official Liability Insurance

ACo President Charlotte Williams announces the endorsement by the ACo Board of a new Public Official Liability Insurance Program. Roy Orr, ACo 2nd Vice President, chaired the committee which reviewed and recommended the program which is open only to counties which are members of NACo.

Basic Policy

Coverage:

There are three general areas where public official is open to personal liability.

For a general wrongful act: A facetious but realistic definition of a wrongful performance is any act which a court decides is wrong. Examples of court upheld wrongful acts which have involved public officials include the following:

- Inadequate or improper delivery of government services;
- Improper procedures in denial of beverage licenses;
- Inadequate or improper handling of employee disciplinary problems;
- Inadequate or improper procedures in zoning decisions; and
- Incidents involving the refusal of services.

For an act alleging discrimination: These are based in federal law, specifically Sections 1928 and 1981 of Title 42 of the United States Code.

For an act alleging denial of civil rights: These are also based in federal law, specifically Section 1983, Title 42 of the United States Code. Of particular importance is that this act requires that the individuals involved, rather than a local government, be held accountable.

To All County Officials:

THE PURPOSE of this announcement is to introduce a new NACo member service—a Public Official Liability Insurance Policy available to all counties which are members of NACo. This insurance program has been reviewed by a NACo Board of Directors Committee, chaired by Second Vice President Roy Orr, and overwhelmingly approved by the NACo officers and directors in August.

I URGE YOU to read this page and learn about the program which was put together from what our members have told us they wanted. Many of them have experienced spiraling premiums, insurance cancellations, or complete unavailability of coverage for liability insurance. This program represents the best personal liability insurance coverage we can obtain for public officials, while assuring broad availability to all types of counties. For some, this program is an effective alternative; for others, it is a positive opportunity.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, the Public Official Liability Insurance Policy is specifically targeted for the protection of a public official's personal assets. Because of the increasing areas in which public officials are personally liable, the coverage is not inexpensive. Today, there is no such thing as cheap liability insurance. The underwriters, however, have accepted the idea of a group program as a means of reducing the economic risk in the product. They are cautious and watching the program carefully. We join with them in urging that you look at insurance as a last step in a good risk management program. We urge you to send representatives from your county to risk management seminars and to assign responsibility for communicating risk reduction information to all of your personnel.

The NACo liability insurance program is specifically aimed at counties. Most member counties will be issued the insurance after application. However, those with a history indicating a very high risk may be denied.

IT IS ALSO important to understand that this program is broad-based, jointly conducted by NACo, the National League of Cities, and the International City Management Association. This broad-based aspect has proven to be an effective tool in negotiating various insurance policies. In the long run, the project will demonstrate to the insurance industry that local government is a good investment, and we encourage you to examine it.

—Bernard F. Hillenbrand
Executive Director
National Association of Counties

Eligibility Requirements

Any county which is a member of the National Association of Counties, subject to the approval of the policy by the insurance commissioner in those states where policy filing is required.

Who Is Insured:

1. County executive or other chief elected official;
2. Members of the board, council, or other governmental legislative body;
3. Other administrative officials, whether elected or appointed;
4. County manager, assistant manager, or other appointed chief administrator of the county;
5. Other appointed administrative department heads;
6. County attorney or other head of the legal department; and
7. Volunteer civic representatives serving on government boards and commissions acting within the scope of their authority by and on behalf of the other insureds as defined in the policy.

Who Is Not Insured:

The following individuals, boards, commissions, authorities, units, or administrative departments or agencies: (a) school; (b) airport; (c) hospital; (d) county owned gas or electric utility; (3) heads of sheriff or other criminal law enforcement departments; (f) fire marshall or other head of fire department or departments; (g) judicial officials.

Limits of Coverage: $1,000,000 basic maximum each year (all costs) with potential for applying for additional insurance up to $10,000,000 annually.

Premiums: Premiums will be based on a local government's population, experience, and related risk factors. The minimum premium is $3,157. Rates will vary from local government to local government.

Self Insured Retention: Small counties assume the first $5,000 of risk. This retention rises with the population of the county.

Agency and Insuring Companies

The insurance contractor is Unimark-McDonald, a division of Unimark Companies of Dallas. The chairman of the board of Unimark, Inc. is a former city councilmember and is well acquainted with the public official liability problem. The insurance company is the Republic Insurance Company of Dallas, Tex. In some states, one of this company's affiliates will issue the policy.

Local Insurance Agent

Generally the insurance can be purchased directly through the mail from Unimark-McDonald. In some cases it may be necessary to deal with a local agent. In these cases the local agent may negotiate his fee with the local government above and beyond the basic premium.

Legal Counsel

The national firm of Kroll, Edelman, Elser, and Wilson is a highly specialized liability and defense firm, representing the insurance companies. They are charged with protecting the financial integrity of the program by participation in the legal defense, providing risk reduction assistance, and by developing a strategy to prevent inappropriate legal precedent.

One of the spinoff benefits to this program is the inclusion of a highly qualified national law firm which becomes concerned about the overall liability of public officials and will be watching it from a national perspective.

For Additional Information

1. Write or call
   Attention: Kathey Phillips or
   Sheryl Rogers
   Unimark-McDonald
   2525 Stemmons Frwy.
   P.O. Box 35948
   Dallas, Tex. 75235
   Telephone: 214/638-8070
   Toll free: 800/527-7708
   except in Texas, 800/492-4214
2. Write or call:
   ICMA Public Service Center
   1140 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
   Washington, D.C. 20036
   Telephone: 202/293-1892

This information summarizes part of a program sponsored by the International City Management Association, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties. It is *not* to be considered as a solicitation for insurance nor as a comprehensive description of the insurance contracts or policies outlined. Individuals desiring authoritative information should contact our insurance contractor Unimark-McDonald.

A Weekly Report

Legislative Countdown

by Bernard F. Hillenbrand, NACo Executive Director

The stunning defeat of liberal Gov. Michael Dukakis in the Massachusetts primary by a candidate who ran on a Proposition 13-type platform demonstrates again the decidedly conservative swing of the American public.

What does this mean for counties? All of the polls indicate that there is overwhelming national support for tax limitations similar to California's Proposition 13. This almost certainly means there will be voter-approved restrictions on new county revenue or that county commissions will make voluntary cuts to head off citizen unrest.

The problem is that there is no evidence that the citizens want any curtailment of services that they have come to expect. Citizens want clean air, community jobs programs, comfortable retirement, adequate housing, fine highways, safe drinking water, and a vast assortment of other good things.

Most of these expectations have been incorporated in national commitments—mandates thrust upon local government by federal laws.

In short, county officials face the dilemma of trying to respond to national and state mandates on a shrinking local tax base. This makes the question of allocating federal tax dollars critically important to counties.

As we have emphasized time and again on this countdown page, we must get appropriate congressional action now on these large national money bills or we face dire local consequences.

Former President Ford and a host of other Republican officials are storming the country by airplane, building national support for sharp reductions in federal income taxes. That theme will almost certainly be the prevalent one when the new Congress returns next January. The Kemp-Roth bill to cut billions from the federal income tax lost by only 30 votes in the House in a recent floor test. It is very likely to pass in some form in the next Congress (if not in this one).

What to do? Again, there is a very real possibility that Congress will go home without fiscal relief for welfare, public works, countercyclical aid, Title XX social services or welfare relief.

Now is the time to inform your congressional delegation of where you stand and what is likely to happen locally if federal funding is suddenly cut. Next January will simply be too late!

COUNTERCYCLICAL

The Senate appears ready to act this week on rescuing the countercyclical program of aid to state and local governments.

The current program expires Sept. 30. Since the final checks were issued in July, no more money will be forthcoming unless the program is reauthorized. Legislation set for the Senate floor would extend the program two years, with a projected distribution of between $600 million to $700 million annually to state and local governments where local unemployment rates are above 4.5 percent.

The program itself will be "triggered" by a national unemployment rate of 6 percent or over. Unlike the current act, which becomes inoperative when the national rate falls below 6 percent, the new proposal contains a section to continue aid when the national rate waivers between 5 percent and 6 percent. For every increase of one-tenth of a percent above 6 percent, an additional $30 million would be provided.

Following Senate action, the bill will be sent to the House where there is no similar measure. It is likely that House supporters will attempt to move the bill, as it is, to the House floor for a vote.

County officials should contact their senators and representatives and urge they vote for H.R. 2852.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public works legislation was dealt what probably is a fatal blow last week when conferees on the Second Concurrent Budget resolution agreed to a total ceiling on federal spending for fiscal '79, but argued over whether the ceiling includes funding for public works.

The conferees were deadlocked for over a week on public works funding. The Senate conferees held firm to no funding (reinforced by a Senate floor vote to uphold the Senate position), while House conferees held out for a compromise figure near the $2 billion figure included in the House version of the budget resolution.

In approving the overall ceiling for community and regional development, a category from which public works funding would come, the House conferees indicated that up to $728 million could be made available for public works by taking funds otherwise available for Small Business Administration disaster relief funds. Senate conferees do not share this view and, thus, there is a stalemate over whether funds are, in fact, available for public works.

Left sitting in the Senate subcommittee on community and regional development is a two-year, $2 billion Labor Intensive Public Works Proposal from the Administration, while the House Public Works and Transportation Committee has pending a two-year, $6 billion public works bill.

ENERGY IMPACT AID

After weeks of work and at least eight different drafts, the staff of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has completed its version of an energy impact aid bill. Sponsored by Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio), the bill has been modified to include a combination of grants, loans and loan guarantees to communities hard hit by skyrocketing energy development. The bill is now very close to one sponsored by Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), which NACo considered better for counties. Once reported from the Governmental Affairs Committee, a rapid compromise between the two versions is expected.

The committee is scheduled to work on the bill this week. It is vital that members of the committee be contacted and urged to give their support to the bill.

FISCAL RELIEF, TITLE XX

The Senate Finance Committee is deeply embroiled in battles over various parts of the tax bill. When finished, members will consider a host of amendments, including fiscal relief for welfare costs and a three-year increase in funding for social services programs under Title XX of the Social Security Act.

The Senate Budget Committee is opposed to the Title XX three-year increase, so pressure is strong on Finance members to provide only a one-year increase. The House has already overwhelmingly approved a three-year, $750 million increase in Title XX. A three-year guarantee is essential for counties who have been forced to pick up additional costs or cut back because of the present funding ceiling.

On fiscal relief, the Finance Committee will consider a block-grant funding proposal for welfare costs introduced by Sens. Long, Moynihan and Cranston, but the outlook for committee action is uncertain. The bill provides for 100 percent of the fiscal relief ($400 million in 1979; $1 billion in 1980) to be passed through to counties who fund Aid to Families with Dependent Children (see page 1

In the House, a fiscal relief bill sponsored by Reps. Rangel and Corman would provide $400 million in fiscal relief for welfare costs. County officials should urge House members to support this bill (H.R. 13353) when it comes up for a floor vote. The bill provides fiscal relief incentives to states that reduce errors and this is important in gaining support among House members.

Remember that the fate of welfare reform in the next Congress is uncertain, and counties need immediate fiscal relief for property taxpayers from welfare costs.

HIGHWAY/TRANSIT

The House is expected to finish up its highway/transit bill this week, setting the stage for speedy approval of the Senate's public transportation bill. It seems that even with Rep. Jim Howard's agreed-to $1 billion highway spending cut, plus another $400 million a year in public transportation reductions, the total House bill will still not be readily accepted by the White House.

Bernie Hillenbrand

Time Is Running Out