This Week

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COUNTY NEWS

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

NACo

Vol. 11, No. 38 | October 1, 1979 | Washington, D.C.

HOSPITAL COST CONTAINMENT—Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), center, is seen during committee markup with Reps. James Florio (D-N.J.), left, and Al Swift (D-Wash.).

Commerce Says OK to Hospital Cost Bill

Following more than one week of wrangling, members of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, on a 23 to 19 vote, last week ordered reported to the House floor an amended version of the Administration's Cost Containment Act of 1979. Implementation of cost controls is regarded by the Administration as a necessary first step toward consideration of proposals for national health insurance.

The Administration's proposal to contain hospital spending, projected to save some $22 billion in federal tax dollars and $6 billion in state and local money over the five-year period 1980-1984, calls for a mandatory program of cost controls to go into effect, should a voluntary program fail. Voluntary limits on annual cost increases would be linked to the actual rate of inflation, with a guarantee of a minimum allowable increase of 11.6 percent for 1979.

Favorable action by the Commerce Committee was not needed for consideration by the full House, since the Ways and Means Committee had already reported its version of the bill. However, the committee's support is regarded as an important victory by the Administration and could provide added impetus for the bill's final passage.

On the Senate side, the Administration bill was ordered reported by Human Resources in June. That bill is expected to be offered as an amendment on the Senate floor to Sen. Herman Talmadge's Medicare/Medicaid Reform Act, which contains far more limited provisions for cost containment.

Last year, a cost containment bill died in House Commerce, but passed on the Senate floor. This year, the bill will be voted on by the full House and Senate within the next few weeks. Even with the inclusion of a sunset provision and a "one-house veto," giving either House 30 days to block implementation of mandatory controls, should the voluntary effort fail, the outlook for passage of the bill is far from certain.

NACo, ALONG with other public interest groups, strongly supports the Administration's bill, which contains NACo-supported provisions to prevent the "dumping" of charity and uninsured patients on public hospitals. But the issues which the bill calls into question are tough ones for the Congress to address head on.

On the one hand, the bill's passage is expected to generate billions of dollars in savings over the next five years. At a time when the need for budgetary savings and anti-inflationary measures is more critical than ever, this argument would seem to be all that is needed to win the necessary support.

Moreover, as Rep. Waxman pointed out in committee markup of the bill, in light of the current budget crunch, no other major piece of health legislation has a chance of passage this year. The only positive steps that can now be taken are to hold down costs. Waxman is chairman of Commerce's health subcommittee and is co-sponsor along with Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) of a national insurance proposal.

Those who oppose the bill, however—hospitals, physicians, and other groups—argue that it would lead to rationing of health care and to further regulation in the health industry. They point out that a voluntary effort to contain costs has reduced the rate of cost increases and, therefore, the bill is unnecessary.

At a time when anti-regulatory sentiment is high, that argument has many proponents. Yet the voluntary effort to contain costs, which was initiated by the hospital industry in response to this bill, works on the same principle. It is felt that the pressure of impending legislation has provided the necessary impetus for the success of the voluntary effort.

"Under this bill, the voluntary effort can go forward as long as it succeeds," noted Waxman.

All NACo members are asked to contact their congressmen to urge passage. For further information, contact Janet Smith at NACo.

Abortion, Pay Hike Snag Funding for '80

Last week the House by the narrow margin of 208-203 passed the continuing resolution for fiscal '80, H.J. Res. 404, which provides funds for all federal agencies through Dec. 31 at levels contained in the various fiscal '80 appropriations acts. This resolution also contains funds for a 5.5 percent pay raise for members of Congress and federal executive employees.

In sharp contrast, the Senate version of H.J. Res. 404 limits the duration of the resolution to Oct. 31 and cuts Congress out of the pay raise. Also by sticking to more "liberal" abortion language, the Senate version sets up another confrontation between the two bodies on the difficult question of federal funding for abortions.

In addition, the Senate version cuts non-defense related travel of federal employees to $750 million.

At press time it was unclear whether Congress could resolve their differences before the fiscal year runs out, Oct. 1. A continuing resolution is needed to fund agencies whose appropriation bills have not passed. This includes most of the government.

THE ABORTION issue has also prevented agreement on the conference report on the Labor-HEW Appropriations Act for 1980, H.R. 4389. Both the House and the Senate have passed the conference report, with the Senate rejecting the House's abortion language, 54-53, and insisting on its own language by a vote of 57-31. The Senate language is the same compromise language the Congress approved last year in the Labor-HEW bill after much delay.

The House language reads: "None of the funds provided for in this act shall be used to perform abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term."

The Senate language is slightly more liberal and reads: "None of the funds provided for in this act shall be used to perform abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term; or except for such medical procedures necessary for the victims of rape or incest, when such rape or incest has been reported promptly to a law enforcement agency or Public Health Service; or except in those instances where severe and long-lasting physical health damage to the mother would result if the pregnancy were carried to term when so determined by two physicians.

"Nor are payments prohibited for drugs or devices to prevent implantation of the fertilized ovum, or for medical procedures necessary for the termination of a ectopic pregnancy. The Secretary shall promptly issue regulations and establish procedures to ensure that the provisions of this section are rigorously enforced."

—Jon Weintraub

Bulletin

The House passed, by a vote of 212-206, Budget Chairman Robert Giaimo's substitute to the Senate-passed version of the Second Budget Resolution, S.Con. Res. 36. The Giaimo substitute set the deficit at $29.9 billion and now goes to conference with Senate whose deficit is $31.6 billion. The second budget resolution sets ceilings on the funds that Congress can appropriate.

LAST MINUTE RUSH

Title XX to Senate

The Child Welfare and Social Services Amendments of 1979, H.R. 3434, which passed the House Aug. 1 by an overwhelming margin, was taken up by the Senate Finance's public assistance subcommittee on short notice last week. A crowded calendar following the month-long August recess forced Senate consideration of the bill in the last days of the federal fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Unless the bill is enacted, the national Title XX spending limit will revert from $2.9 billion to $2.5 billion.

Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.), chairman of the subcommittee, held only three hours of hearings on Sept. 24 and scheduled full committee markup for two days later. NACo and other public interests groups

See SENATE, page 6

Carter Vows Transit Help

NEW YORK, N.Y.—President Carter in a speech last week before the American Public Transit Association said that he is "more committed than ever" to providing assistance to the nation's public transportation systems. The assurance of additional aid marks a year-long turnaround by the President in his support for energy-efficient public transit.

The President again linked $16.5 billion over 10 years for transportation to passage by Congress of a "windfall profits" tax. Without the windfall profits tax package, which is currently locked up in the Senate Finance Committee, no new public transportation would be available, he warned.

The President promised to revitalize many of the nation's older transit systems, like New York, so that they will be able to keep up with citizen demand for efficient public transit. He also announced that Ted Lutz, former general manager of Washington, D.C. Transit Authority and former administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, would be his choice to resume the UMTA post again.

The new Secretary of Transportation, Neil Goldschmidt, who was sworn in last week, also called for the quick enactment of the President's windfall profits tax so that new transportation funds could be made available. Goldschmidt announced that he would create a more "streamlined federal bus procurement program" to get more buses on the street in the next 10 years. This would include a bus reserve fleet of approximately 1,000 buses that the government could make available to needy communities.

Bradley

Bradley to Address CICs

Sen. William Bradley (D-N.J.) announced last week that he will speak to the opening general session of the 15th annual federal aid briefing, sponsored by NACo/the Council of Intergovernmental Coordinators. The conference takes place Oct. 23-26 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Sen. Bradley, a member of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, will talk about fiscal assistance programs for local governments, including general revenue sharing and targeted countercyclical aid.

Other key speakers are Sen. James Sasser (D-Tenn.), chairman of the subcommittee on intergovernmental affairs and David Walker, associate director of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR).

Sen. Sasser will discuss pending legislation which would encourage the consolidation of grant programs and sort out the often confusing and conflicting rules that govern the use

See AGENDA, page 2

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:____

Agenda Released for Federal Aid Briefing

Continued from page 1
of federal money by state and local governments.

Walker will talk about the history and the future of the grants-in-aid system.

The following is a brief outline of the conference agenda:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 23:** NACo/CIC board meeting followed by reception, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 24:** Registration, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; general session with Sen. Bradley, 9-10:30 a.m.; program sessions on grant reform and auditing, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; luncheon speaker: Sen. Sasser, 12:30-2 p.m.; roundtable, 2:15-4:15 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 25:** Registration, 8 a.m.-12 noon; program sessions on economic development and environment/energy/parks, 9-10:15 a.m.; sessions on CETA, transportation/airports and environment/energy/parks (repeated) 10:30-11:45 a.m.; luncheon speaker: Walker, followed by business meeting, noon-2 p.m.; sessions on emergency management, welfare/social services and LEAA/OJJDP, 2:15-3:30 p.m.; sessions on LEAA (repeat), health resources and emergency management (repeat), 3:45-5 p.m.
- **Friday, Oct. 26:** program sessions on financial management and how to read the *Federal Register*, 9-10 a.m.; session on public transportation, 10-11:15 a.m.; general "wrap up," 11:30-12:15.

Sasser

Walker

Judiciary Extends IRAP; County Load Questioned

The House Judiciary Committee last week rejected, 16-9, the Danielson amendment, supported by NACo, which would have continued for two years 100 percent federal payment of welfare and Medicaid costs of Indochinese refugees before requiring states and counties to begin picking up nonfederal costs. Instead the committee reported out H.R. 2816, the Indochinese Refugee Assistance Act, with a provision extending assistance for current refugee recipients to Sept. 30, 1980, after which assistance would be limited to four years from date of entry into the United States.

The vote followed questions about the ratio of refugees on assistance, which implied that only California, among the high-impact states, has a high ratio of refugees on welfare. According to Administration lobbyists, who initiated the questioning, 55 percent of California's refugees are on assistance, while only 16 percent in Virginia and 12 percent in Texas are receiving welfare.

While admitting before the committee that the data base is "controversial," Administration representatives further told NACo that the number of refugees in a given state relative to their number on welfare is not known. The figures were based on telephone reports from states and did not uniformly reflect numbers of individuals versus cases on welfare.

NACo is polling the 10 states most seriously affected to examine the rate of dependency—a difficult task, since refugees move about and "official" counts are usually months behind actual figures.

H.R. 2816 is now being considered in the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on international operations, where Ambassador Dick Clark testified against the Judiciary Committee provisions extending assistance beyond the Ad- ministration's proposed cutoff of 2 months from date of entry into th United States.

"We continue to believe" sa Clark, "that the two-year limit on f federal reimbursement —befo moving to the usual federal/sta cost-sharing mechanism—affords reasonable period for the refuge and the states to make the tra sition." The reason, he said, is th continuing full reimbursement wou cost $100 million in additiona federal funds in fiscal '80 alon These are costs that counties an states must should starting Oc 1, if IRAP is limited to two yea from date of entry as proposed b the Administration.

Under a blanket resolution whi passed the House Sept. 25, state and counties will continue to b reimbursed at 100 percent for IRA until Dec. 31, or until authorizi legislation is passed.

NACo will continue to press f preventing refugee costs to fall counties.

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Energy Mobilization Board: Senate Committees Differ

Early last week the Senate Com- ittee on Energy and Natural esources reported its version of the nergy Mobilization Board, sticking ose the the version proposed by the dministration.

At the same time, eight members f the Senate Committee on Govern- ental Affairs joined its chairman, n. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), in ponsoring an alternative EMB roposal.

The EMB is part of the President's nergy package and would be sponsible for speeding up the ap- roval of energy projects which are the the national interest. As roposed, the board would accelerate e development of nonnuclear mestic energy resources, foster ordination and integration of deral, state and local approval ac- ons, and establish decision-making metables for designated projects.

One major difference between the o versions involves the signation of projects, establish- ent of decision deadlines, and en- rcement of the deadlines.

The new Governmental Affairs oposal would ensure the par- ipation of state and local govern- ents in the designation process d the consistency of designations th national energy policy. The Secretary of the Department of Energy would be required, every six months, to prepare a list of suggested priority energy projects and to submit this list to the EMB. After consulting with the affected state or local governments the board could then designate up to eight projects in any year, with as many as 24 under consideration at any one time.

ONCE A PROJECT was designated, the board could establish deadlines, again in consultation with state and local governments, for decision-making. However, the deadlines established by the board would be subject to judicial review for "reasonableness."

Once the deadlines were established, the board would be empowered to move for compliance with the deadlines and, if a federal, state or local agency failed or was reasonably likely to fail to meet a deadline, the board could begin action through the court of appeals to force a decision.

Unlike the Energy Committee's proposal, the actual decision is not removed from the state or local agency. In addition, the board does not have to wait until a deadline is missed before it could take action.

Under the Governmental Affairs version, the board would be able to require consolidated environmental impact statements at the federal level, and like requirements at the state and local level. In addition, the board could not automatically waive substantive requirements imposed after a project had begun construction, but would have to seek specific exemption authority.

The new proposal would also require the EMB members to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Appointees would serve full-time and be subject to all laws on conflict of interest.

Of the two Senate bills under consideration, it is clear that the version proposed by the Committee on Governmental Affairs offers considerably more protection to the prerogatives of state and local governments.

A final vote on a Senate EMB will almost certainly come before the middle of this week. The House is still trying to work out a compromise between two versions with final floor action not anticipated until mid-October. County officials are asked to contact their congressional delegation and urge support for the EMB proposal adopted by the House Interior Committee.

Will Aid be Enough?

As freezing weather descends through the northern states, Congress is beginning to consider proposals to soften the impact of high energy costs on low-income and elderly families.

Eight federal aid bills have been submitted. The Carter Administration also released a proposal Sept. 12. Neither the Administration's proposal nor any of the bills, however, seems to be sufficient to meet anticipated increases in fuel costs.

The Administration's proposal and S. 1724, proposed by Sen. Harrison A. Williams (D-N.J.) make the most money available—$1.6 billion. However, the Administration's proposal would provide a maximum of $232 in New York, where the average increase in energy costs for a household is expected to be between $400 and $500 over last year.

NACo is concerned that the federal government is expecting counties to pick up the difference between the actual increases and the amount of federal assistance.

Alfred B. DelBello, county executive, Westchester County, N.Y., brought these concerns before the House subcommittee on public assistance and unemployment compensation which began consideration of the Administration's proposals late last week.

NACo will also submit a statement this week to the Senate Human Resources Committee, which opened hearings on S. 1724.

Among NACo's other concerns are:

- The need for a flexible federal approach which can build upon existing delivery systems now being created by states;
- The need for federal assumption of all administrative costs for this winter's program which will be hampered by a late start-up date;
- The need for a windfall profits tax to finance the assistance program.

Presently the Administration says that low-income energy assistance will be funded by an "Energy Security Fund" which, in turn, will rely on the windfall profits tax. However, the assistance program will not have to wait for the passage of the tax to be started.

Contact Ron Gibbs at NACo for more information.

Comparison of Low-Income Energy Assistance Bills

ll/Sponsor/Committee	Adm. Agency	Funding	Eligible Recipients	Administration
ministration (not yet introduced, ll go to Senate Finance and House ays and Means)	HEW	$2.4 billion annually for four years, of which $400 million is for crisis assistance	AFDC and SSI recipients; others with income levels below 125 percent of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) poverty level	Each household gets one energy allowance, paid in two installments. SSI recipients get payment with checks during winter heating season. State welfare departments would develop payment assistance list for other recipients. Payments uniform within state, but vary geographically depending on population and degree days. Crisis assistance block grants to states.
1724-Sen. Harrison Williams N.J.) (referred to Labor and man Resources)	HEW	$1.6 billion for fiscal '80; $5 billion for each of subsequent four years	Households below 125 percent of BLS poverty level	90 percent to states by formula based on degree days plus state's aggregate fuel expenditures; 10 percent discretionary to states. State must prepare plan, including how funds to be spent, number of people eligible, agreements with suppliers, outreach activities.
1270-Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) ferred to Labor and Human sources)	HEW and Community Services Administration	$40 million for fiscal '80, '81, '82 for crisis intervention; "such sums as may be necessary" for remainder	Food stamp recipients; AFDC recipients; SSI recipients	HEW contracts with each state to administer and distribute. Supplier entitled to payment upon presentation of records to any Federal Reserve Bank.
1603-Sen. Charles Mathias Md.) (referred to Labor and man Resources)	Agriculture	"Such sums as may be deemed necessary"	Food stamp recipients. Temporary help for victims of disaster disrupting normal fuel distribution. Secretary of Agriculture sets uniform standards of eligibility	Home heating coupons distributed with food stamps monthly during state's entire heating season. Valid only during heating season. Households can be charged standard monthly percentage of income for coupons.
771-Sen. Lowell Weiker Conn.) (referred to Labor and man Resources)	CSA	$100 million annually for fiscal '80, '81, '82	Food stamp, AFDC or SSI recipients. Director establishes uniform national standards limited to households whose income is a "substantial limiting factor" in purchasing fuel	Local agency must submit plan. Distributed as food stamps are: households must pay one-third of total coupon value.
1331-Sen. Joseph Biden Del.) (referred to Labor and man Resources)	Federal Emergency Management Agency	$150 million annually for fiscal '80, '81, '82	Senior citizen households and those receiving food stamps in states where an energy emergency has been declared. Each eligible household receives flat sum	State grants based on severity of winter and number of eligible households. State must submit outreach plan for senior citizens. Distribution through food stamp program.
1725-Sen. Gaylord Nelson Wis.) (referred to Labor and man Resources)	CSA and HEW	"Such sums as may be necessary"	Households with incomes not exceeding 85 percent of BLS lower living standard	State allocations based 35 percent on degree days, 35 percent on energy usage and cost, and remainder on combination of eligible population measures. Separate programs for weatherization, energy assistance and crisis intervention, and energy conservation education.
R. 5039-Rep. Martin Sabo Minn.) (referred to Agriculture mmittee and Interstate and eign Commerce Committee)	Agriculture	$970 million in fiscal '80	Food stamp recipients	Fuel stamps provided in Dec., Jan., Feb., and March, amount depending on amount of food stamps household receives, to maximum of $50 monthly.
R. 5241-Rep. James Shannon Mass.) (referred to Education d Labor; Interstate and Foreign mmerce; Ways and Means)	HEW and CSA	$4 billion annually, includes $40 million for crisis intervention. Also income tax credit for middle-income households	All households below 125 percent of BLS poverty standards; over 60 households below 150 percent of BLS poverty standards	Money distributed to states on basis of regional energy costs, number of elderly, number of poor, degree days and age of housing. Income tax credit for home heating oil for households under $20,000 income up to $300 credit. Applies to all "primary residential fuel," including propane, natural gas, electricity, heating oil.

COUNTY OPINION

Capital Punishment

by Bernard F. Hillenbrand, Editor

At one time in history citizens were entertained by going to the colosseum to watch Christians being eaten by lions.

How times have changed. Nowadays conservationists are saving endangered species like lions. The replacement amusement is watching Jimmy Carter being chewed up in the presidential arena.

Political pundits would have us believe that the President has plunged to the depths of the public opinion polls because he is "no leader." And there seems to be a great chorus of voices chanting for a new person to take up the leadership reins.

But here we must stop and ask ourselves whether the microscopic scrutiny that has been turned on every president since Lyndon Johnson is focused on presidential actions or personal foibles.

Through the miracle of modern technology we can watch a president drop out of a six-mile run because he is tired and be bombarded by "analyses" for days afterward. The spectacle of the President "battling" a rabbit is beamed across our nightly TV screens and we are treated to the latest antics of the colorful First Family in our daily newspapers.

Now that we've all had some chuckles at the expense of our President, we think it's time to put aside the question of whether or not Mr. Carter should jog, and get down to the serious business of dealing with problems like inflation, energy and national security.

We think that it's time members of Congress are measured against the same tough leadership standards that the public and the press have subjected Mr. Carter to.

For weeks Congress has been locking horns over federal spending, trying to deliver a budget for 1980 even more "austere" than the President's. Meanwhile the new fiscal year is at hand.

Since mid-July Congress has been wrangling over the many pieces of the President's bold energy package. But as temperatures begin to drop, there is no assurance that needy Americans will get help in time to pay for their high heating bills.

And now some senators are dragging their feet on SALT even though the President has told us that ratification of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty will lessen our chances of destroying mankind in a nuclear exchange.

President Carter still has 16 months left in his first term of office and he along with Congress must work to unscramble a logjam of programs during this time. Many pieces of legislation vitally important to counties are hanging fire in the 96th Congress—revenue sharing, welfare reform, hospital cost containment, public transportation, grant reform, to name a few.

We are not at all suggesting a halt to presidential criticism; rather, we are suggesting that we pick the right things to criticize. We need to keep a very sharp eye out for our own collective good, and remember that now is the time to build national unity for dozens of actions critical to our own future.

The President has admitted mistakes but has pledged his diligence in trying to come to terms with the tough problems facing our nation today. We must remember that under the Constitution, for the next 16 months, Jimmy Carter is the only person who can legally be in the presidential arena, albeit covered with blood and sweat.

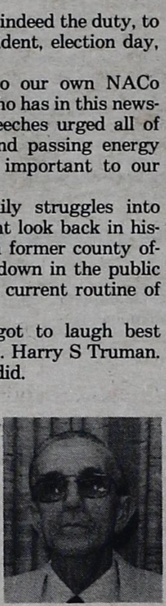
We have the opportunity, indeed the duty, to pass judgment on the President, election day, 1980.

Until then, let's listen to our own NACo President Frank Francois who has in this newspaper and in his public speeches urged all of us to put our efforts behind passing energy legislation and other bills important to our county future.

To put Mr. Carter's daily struggles into proper perspective, we might look back in history to another president, a former county official, who was very much down in the public opinion polls and up in the current routine of comics.

In November 1948 he got to laugh best because he got to laugh last. Harry S Truman. A leader he was and lead he did.

In Memory



Al Foster, assistant to the President of our Mississippi Association of Supervisors, one of the quietest and more effective leaders in county government, has passed on.

He was a native of Atmore, Ala., born Sept. 17, 1907, but spent most of his life in Monroe County, Miss.

As any official in Mississippi will tell you, Al's experience as a state senator, banker, businessman, farmer and civic leader was put to very effective use in representing county government in that state.

Above all, Al came together as a real man. We, who knew and loved him, will feel his loss very keenly.

Modest Aging Gains Must Clear Hurdles

Modest increases in funding for services provided under the Older Americans Act in fiscal '80 can be expected if three hurdles are overcome.

Fiscal '80 appropriations for aging services are contained in H.R. 4389, the Labor-HEW appropriations bill. This bill must first be released from the debate between the House and the Senate over abortions. The House objects to relaxed standards on funding abortions.

Second, the bill must survive possible cuts demanded by the House Budget Committee which is trying to reduce current appropriations in order to keep down the national debt.

Finally, the bill must be approved by President Carter who requested less in his budget than Congress has appropriated. In the case of the Older Americans Act, the President asked for $93 million less than has been appropriated by the Congress.

If the bill is not approved by the President in time for the new fiscal year, a continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 399) has been drafted by the House appropriations committee to allow services to be continued until a final appropriations bill can be enacted. This resolution now awaits action by the full House and then the Senate. Ironically, the resolution carries the same higher funding level for aging services as the present appropriations bill, H.R. 4389.

Whatever the final outcome, county officials should not expect these funds to increase existing services other than home-delivered meals and part-time employment for older workers.

A large part of the increase—$5[illegible] million—was obtained at the last minute by Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.) in order to allow counties to maintain current levels of service in the face of inflation.

The other two major increases are:

• An increase of $46.3 million ([illegible] percent) over fiscal '79 to increase the number of part-time community service jobs to older workers under Title V of the act. This should increase the number of jobs nationwide by 5,000 to make a total of 52,500.

Analysis

• An increase of $47.5 million ([illegible] percent) for nutrition services, primarily for home-delivered meals.

Appropriations for surplus food commodities, however, were reduced slightly. The final fiscal '7[illegible] appropriation was $57 million, which includes $27 million that was part of a supplemental allocation of $6[illegible] million (P.L. 96-38) enacted in July 1979. The fiscal '80 appropriation [illegible] $50.5 million.

On the other hand, volunteer programs for the elderly under ACTION may be increased significantly. The fiscal '79 appropriation was $62 million. In fiscal '80, $83.3 million has been allocated: $47 million to Foster Grandparents, $26 million to Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) and $10 million to Senior Companions.

Below is a comparison between final fiscal '79 appropriations and appropriations now included in both H.R. 4389 and H.J. Res. 399.

Older Americans Act Funds

(all sums in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal '79	H.R. 4389 and H.J. Res. 399
Title III		
State Officers	22.5*	22.5
Local Services and Planning	196.6*	246.9
Nutrition Services:		
Congregate	272.5*	270
Home Delivered	——	50
Title IV		
Research Projects	44.3	54.3
Title V		
Part-time Jobs	220.6*	266.9
Title VI		
Grants to Indian Tribes	0	6

*Includes fiscal '79 supplemental appropriations.

Letters to NACo

To NACo President Frank Francois:

I want to thank you for attending the NACo Interstate Region Board Meeting earlier this month. In your report of that meeting published in the Sept. 24 edition of *County News*, you have done an excellent job of capturing the intensity of feeling of many of the county officials from public land counties in the West.

The so-called "Sagebrush Rebellion" is symbolic of the frustration of state and county officials in the West who would at least like a partnership approach to management of the federal lands. The federal agencies have virtually ignored this desire and as a result, state and federal legislation has been introduced to transfer the lands to the respective states.

Your commitment for NACo to continue to fight for recognition of the principle of local government involvement in decision-making is appreciated.

I hope every county official in the nation reads your report. I know county officials in the West appreciate your efforts.

—Cal Black, President
NACo Western Interstate Region

CETA Funds Late, Allocation Data Due Soon

abor Department officials hope be able to tell prime sponsors at their CETA funding levels for al '80 are early this week, but blems in collecting the necessary a could delay release of "planning imates" even further. Counties t are not CETA prime sponsors l have to wait even longer for rd on how much CETA money y can expect.

Because of congressional delay on bor-HEW appropriations, it is hly unlikely that prime sponsors l receive new fiscal '80 funds until d-October even if they find out w much to expect earlier. Meanile, the Labor Department has en some key steps to help counties p their programs going while y wait for new funds.

Field memorandum No. 446-79 thorizes prime sponsors to use ry-over and to borrow carry-over m other titles if necessary to conue operations during October. It o authorizes the regions to use y de-obligated funds they have for ergency bail-outs, where the me sponsor simply cannot conue to operate. In both cases, the me sponsor must pay back the propriate title once fiscal '80 apations are available.

Most regional offices have aldy wired prime sponsors to assess ilable carry-over versus operating els for October in order to deterne which primes may need "bailts."

Data problems centered on estites of carry-over of funds from cal '79 and the identification of as of substantial unemployment SUs), which are used in the form- Carry-over estimates for Titles D, VI, YETP and YCCIP were e into the DOL national office on pt. 18. They are expected to be in d in useable form by late this ek. "Excess" carry-over, defined in field memorandum No. 425-79, will be added to fiscal '80 appropriations levels when the formulas are run and subtracted from formula amounts when new money is distributed into letters of credit. In general, the biggest problems are arising in public service employment (PSE)—where appropriations are significantly less than last year and carry-over looks like it will be significantly less than anticipated—and the administrative cost pool.

Because the totals, formulas and data have changed, neither counties nor DOL can predict what a county's PSE levels will be for next year. ASU data is expected to be useable about Sept. 28, so the first possible date to hear about potential levels is Oct. 1. Most prime sponsors are expected to operate their PSE programs conservatively—no precipitate lay-offs, no nonessential hires—from Oct. 1 until they get a real allocation figure. Since many PSE workers will be going off the payroll Sept. 30, the reduced level should be safe for most prime sponsors for a couple of weeks. Individual counties may need, however, to negotiate with the state or consortium prime sponsor to cover this period.

Administrative cost pool carryover causes a different kind of problem. First, the instructions are difficult to decipher. Secondly, it requires that prime sponsors decide before Oct. 1 to shift program funds into the cost pool if that may be necessary and if the maximum allowable has not already been contributed to the cost pool. Once the new fiscal year starts, carried over program funds cannot be converted to administrative costs. Administrative funds can always be converted to program dollars.

ambery Sets ACETA Rules

at Bambery, president of the tional Association of County ployment and Training Administors, a NACo affiliate, has annced the approved NACETA tion procedures which will be owed at the business meeting at Eighth Annual Conference in isville (Jefferson County), Ky. 14-17.

Credentials will be open from 2- m. on Sunday, Oct. 14, and 7:30 -noon on Monday, October 15. No dentials will be issued or changed er noon, Monday.

Only registered delegates are ible to receive credentials.

In general, there is one vote per nty. Normally, elected officials not be the voting delegates, ext when there is no CETA staff son from that county registered.

State employees are not eligible vote. Balance of state county ployees are eligible to vote on bef of the county they are employed or represent.

Voting status has nothing to do h NACo or CETA service fee mbership.

The voting is on a one vote per nty basis.

Credentialed delegates must be the business meeting in order to e. If a credentialed delegate leaves voting delegate area he/she cantransfer their vote to anyone else, that vote must be forfeited.

Ballot votes are expected on officers and perhaps the issues ers. A vote on constitutional ndments is not expected since e were no changes proposed by closing date set out in the contion.

Senate Takes Up Title XX, Child Welfare Bill

Continued from page 1
were not included among the witnesses, although a written statement was submitted for the record in support of H.R. 3434.

Amendments are being sought in markup to reinstate the child welfare entitlement funding deleted on the floor of the House and delete a cap on Title XX training funds in the House bill, which the Administration is seeking to strengthen in the Senate bill.

THE SENATE VERSION of the bill, known as Senate Amendment S. 392 to the Administration bill S. 966, would set the training cap at 4 percent above prior expenditures. It would also place a spending cap on foster care services and impose a means test of 150 percent of median income for parents seeking adoption subsidy for hard-to-place children. The amended bill has the blessing of the White House and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and was worked out with Sens. Alan Cranston and Daniel Moynihan, who introduced it jointly. Cranston, the Senate's key child welfare expert, introduced S. 966 last April on behalf of the Administration, but sought refinements and improvements which resulted in a bill closer to the House-passed H.R. 3434.

H.R. 3434 contains an increase to $3.1 billion in the spending ceiling, up from $2.9 billion set last year as the temporary level for 1979. The Finance Committee will consider instead a Moynihan bill, S. 1884, which continues the $2.9 billion level for fiscal '80, but increases the spending level to $3.5 billion by 1986.

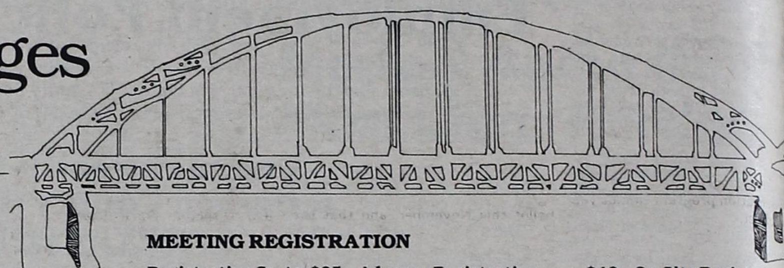
The Senate Finance Committee, in marking up H.R. 3434 immediately after subcommittee hearings, is apparently pushing the bill for immediate floor action. But the unanimous consent needed for approval is doubtful since it is a major spending bill. Despite earlier budget recommendations sufficient to cover most of the bill's provisions, the Finance Committee considers "savings" amendments to offset spending essential for full passage. Some amendments likely to be considered for that purpose are more in the welfare reform area than child welfare or social services: counting step-father income to determine eligibility of children for welfare; prorating of welfare benefits when children on aid live with non-needy relatives; revising the earnings disregard in AFDC, and fiscal sanctions against states submitting late fiscal statements for payment to ineligibles.

These amendments would save $3 to $4 million annually in federal costs. Sen. Russell B. Long, chairman of Senate Finance Committee, is exp[...] ted to amend into the Senate vers[...] a Title IV-D child support meas[...] which failed in conference last M[...] It would make permanent 75 perc[...] federal matching for n[...] welfare child support services, a[...] possibly reimburse counties retro[...]tively for 1979 services.

Title XX funding is not included [...] the continuing resolution aut[...]orizing spending of federal fun[...] pending the passage of the appr[...]priations bill, because authorizati[...] for the program itself does not e[...]pire. After Oct. 1, states could co[...]tinue to spend the $2.5 billion [...] current law.

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.
- Region 5 and Region 1 meetings begin the first day with a "get acquainted buffet luncheon at 11:30 a.m.; workshops start at 1:30 p.m. Region 7 meetings begin at 3 p.m. on day one. Second day schedules run from 8:30 a.m.-noon for Region 5 and Region 1 and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Region 7.
- 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.

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.

MEETING REGISTRATION

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

Name ____________ Last ____________ First ____________

Title ____________

County ____________

Address ____________

City ________ **State** ________ **Zip** ________ **Telephone**(area cod[...]

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** ____________

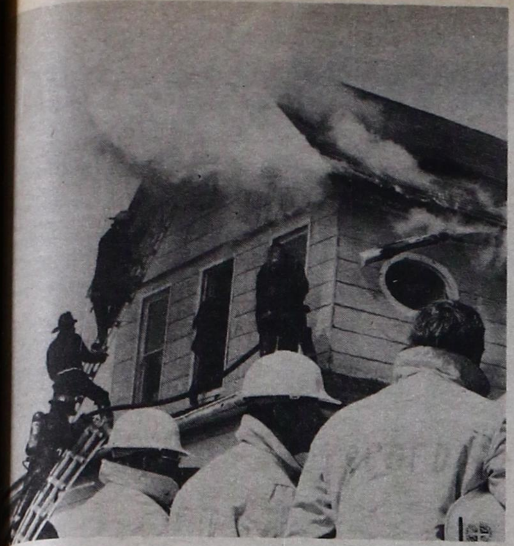
☐ **Check here if you have a housing related disability.**

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** ____________



NACoR STUDY

County Fire Plans Sought

NACoR's Fire Protection Project is compiling a fire protection planning guide for county officials and is conducting a nationwide search for examples of successful multijurisdictional coordination of fire services.

Nearly one-half of the nation's counties have direct fire protection responsibility and more spend millions of dollars supporting local paid and volunteer fire districts. Yet little attention has been given to putting together a countywide fire protection system which includes public education, sprinklers, smoke detectors, inspections and other prevention measures, emergency medical services, centralized communications, arson control task forces and other consolidated services.

In fact, while an International City Management Association study has found that about 1,200 local communities are currently engaged in planning for fire prevention and control, few of them are counties.

Although county officials are demanding that their fire departments operate more efficiently without sacrificing public safety, counties have a harder time than cities when it comes to putting together a planning team to assess local fire risks, determine an acceptable cost level and allocate resources. Many independent local jurisdictions and districts must cooperate in the planning.

Under a grant from the U.S. Fire Administration, NACo's research arm will be making counties aware of what other jurisdictions have been doing to coordinate and manage fire protection resources and is looking for examples of how planning procedures have overcome barriers and restraints to coordination among jurisdictions.

Please send information on coordination of local fire services to Duane Baltz, NACoR Fire Protection Project, at NACo headquarters.

A Near Miss for Farmland Bond

KING COUNTY, Wash.—Al-ugh a whopping 77 percent of the ers who turned out for a recent ntywide primary election agreed $50 million bond issue that would toward rescuing prime farmland, preservation program cannot yet into effect.

Under county law, 40 percent of number of voters who partici-ed in the last general election t approve a monetary referendum primary. The turnout on Sept. narrowly failed to reach this mark.

he farmland preservation meas-that will be used to purchase development rights to between 00 and 16,000 acres of land was ceived by King County Executive n Spellman, NACo second vice sident, and received the endorse-t of the Seattle Chamber of Com-ce, the King County Labor Coun-nd many other organizations.

pellman and other Proposition supporters, including the Save Local Farmlands Committee, paigned for the referendum ques-because of their concern for the re of agriculture in the county. e 1959, over half the farmland in county has been lost to urban-ion, yet King County agriculture provides 3,800 full-time jobs and unts for $55 million in annual s. The facts demonstrating that ing was at a turning point con-ed an overwhelming proportion he county electorate that addi-al jobs, income and open space ld be lost unless the measure was pted to provide permanent pro-ion for agricultural lands.

he King County measure was ired by, and patterned after, the eer farmland preservation pro-n in Suffolk County, N.Y., which featured in a special one-page ty *News* supplement Sept. 24. nables the county to purchase landowners, who voluntarily icipate in the program, the right evelop their property for non-cultural purposes. Farmers con-e to own and operate their farms, may sell or give them to their dren. In effect, farmers are com-sated for the public benefit of ing the land open, undeveloped productive. Proposition One is expected to cost King County taxpayers about $9.00 annually on a home assessed at $50,000 until the bonds are repaid in 30 years.

County Executive Spellman anticipates that the County Council will agree to put Proposition One on the ballot this November, and that the electorate will once again cast their votes to preserve King County agricultural lands.

For additional information about the King County agricultural lands preservation program, contact: John Spellman, County Executive, King County Courthouse, Seattle, Washington 98104; or Edward Thompson Jr., Director, Agricultural Lands Project, NACoR, 1735 New York Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Correction

article on the 1978 Jails Cen-n last week's *County News* said "40 percent of persons being in locally operated jails are ting trial or sentencing." It ld have said that 40 percent had accused but not convicted of a e.

Farmland Study Launched

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Council on Environmental Quality are undertaking a major new study of the disappearance of farmland in the United States. Each year for the past decade, about 3 million acres of American farmland have been permanently converted to nonagricultural uses. The new National Agricultural Lands Study (NALS), a $2 million, 18-month effort, will address the causes of farmland conversion, the national and local implications of this disturbing trend, and solutions that can be implemented by all levels of government.

An important part of the study will be public participation. The NALS study team, headed by Robert J. Gray, former administrative assistant to Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.), will actively seek the opinions and experience of a broad range of officials, citizens and public interest groups in formulating recommendations for the President by January 1981. The NALS has announced that it will hold a series of 17 regional workshops, located throughout the United States, to enable county officials, as well as other citizens and organizational representatives, to present their views on the disappearance and conservation of farmland as it affects their locality.

Participation will be limited to about 100 persons at each workshop so that the discussions are productive and a balanced representation of all interests is achieved. The NALS will soon send invitations to attend the workshops.

NACo enthusiastically supports the National Agricultural Lands Study and its efforts to involve the public. The involvement of county officials in this study is particularly important, because farmland conversion can affect local communities and their economy. If you are interested in attending the NALS workshop in your area, contact the appropriate workshop coordinator without delay. Workshop locations, dates and coordinators are listed below.

Workshop Location	Dates	Coordinator
Memphis, Tenn.	Oct. 31-Nov. 2	Jay Chance 601/325-5813
Dallas, Texas	Nov. 7-9	Jay Chance 601/325-5813
Dubuque, Iowa	Nov. 7-9	Ronald C. Powers 515/294-8397
Allentown, Pa.*	Nov. 8-9	Sam Leadley 814/865-0455
Burlington, N.C.	Nov. 12-14	Jay Chance 601/325-5813
Fargo, N.D./ Moorhead, Minn.	Nov. 13-15	Ronald C. Powers 515/294-8397
Denver, Colorado	Nov. 14-15	Russel Youmans 503/754-3621
W. Lebanon, N.H.	Nov. 15-16	Fred Schmidt 802/656-3236
Ashland, Mass.	Nov. 19-20	Fred Schmidt 802/656-3236
Salt Lake City, Utah	Nov. 19-20	Russel Youmans 503/754-3621
Vancouver, Wash.	Nov. 27-28	J.B. Wyckoff 503/754-4821
Phoenix, Ariz.	Nov. 29-30	George W. Campbell 602/626-2141
Ft. Wayne, Ind.	Dec. 3-5	Ronald C. Powers 515/294-8397
Sacramento, Calif.	Dec. 4-5	William W. Wood Jr. 714/787-3326
Carlisle, Pa.	Dec. 4-5	Sam Leadley 814/865-0455
Tallahassee, Fla.	Dec. 5-7	Jay Chance 601/325-5813
Kansas City, Mo.	Dec. 10-12	Ronald C. Powers 515/294-8397

*Allentown, Pa., location subject to change.

Veto Prevents California Weighing BLM Land Claim

California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. vetoed a bill last week which would have thrust the state in the midst of what has become known as the "sagebrush rebellion." The bill authorized a study of the feasibility of joining Nevada in claiming vast parcels of land presently controlled by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The "sagebrush rebellion" was launched in July when the Nevada legislature passed a law claiming ownership of 48 million acres of BLM property, an area slightly larger than the total acreage of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Delaware combined. The Nevada action could force a Supreme Court review.

BLM presently controls nearly 16 million acres in California, which comprises about 16 percent of the state but is less than half the total acreage owned by the federal government in the state.

In a related matter, California has filed suit challenging the adequacy of the Forest Service's RARE II Environmental Impact Statement as the basis for the Administration's recommendation for the allocation of 41 California roadless areas to nonwilderness use. The case involves 991,247 acres of forest land. The suit, *State of California* v. *Bob Bergland* (U.S. Secretary of Agriculture), was filed on July 25 in the U.S. District Court in Sacramento. Oct. 15 is the date set for the oral argument on a request by the state for a summary judgment.

If the court adopts summary judgment procedures, there would be no trial and a decision in the case would be made after consideration of the affidavits, the administrative record and briefs. A number of timber industry associations and companies have requested court permission to intervene as co-defendants with the Department of Agriculture.

Forest Service Positions Filled

Forest Service Chief R. Max Peterson has filled three top positions in the agency. Philip L. Thornton will become deputy chief for programs and legislation; Einar L. Roget will become deputy chief for state and private forestry, and J. Lamar Beasley will become associate deputy chief for programs and legislation.

Thornton, who will fill the position vacated by Peterson when he became chief, has been the deputy chief for state and private forestry since 1974. In his new position, Thornton will be responsible for the development of the Resource Planning Act assessment and program; the Forest Service's budget; legislative affairs, policy analysis, and environmental coordination.

Roget, who will assume the deputy chief position left vacant by Thornton, has been the associate deputy chief for programs and legislation since January of 1976.

He will be responsible for the Forest Service's cooperative programs with state foresters and nonfederal forest landowners and for insect and disease management.

Beasley, the new associate deputy for programs and legislation, has been the director of the resources program and assessment staff since 1976, with responsibility for implementing the Resources Planning Act. In his new position, he will assist deputy chief Thornton with the overall operation and administration of the program area.

Return of Idaho Lands Supported

BOISE, Idaho—The Idaho Association of Commissioners and Clerks (IACC) voted unanimously last week to endorse the concept of state and federal legislation transferring federally owned lands to the respective western states. The legislation, S. 1680, sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), and Nevada bill AB 413, calls on the federal government to transfer control of up to 460 million acres of federal public domain land now administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

Support of the "sagebrush rebellion" was adopted on a resolution presented by Bob Anderson, commissioner, Caribou County, chairman of the Idaho County Public Lands Committee. Anderson reported that 64 percent of the land in Idaho is owned or controlled by the federal government and claimed that the transfer will enable states in the West to determine their own destiny by having control over their own lands and resources. The resolution is similar to a position adopted earlier this month by the NACo Western Interstate Region.

In other action at their 69th annual business meeting, chaired by IACC President Howard Bergeson, commissioner, Owyhee County, the association approved a resolution calling on the state legislature to delay by one or two years the Idaho 1 percent property tax limitation law. A panel of county representatives reported that counties will be facing cuts of one-third to one-half of the local government services now provided unless the tax limitation is delayed or unless the state provides alternate revenue sources.

Ann Cover, commissioner, Twin Falls County, was elected IACC president, and Fred Cantamessa, commissioner, Shoshone County, vice president for the coming year.

Washington Briefs

Community Development

Housing Authorization Bill. A House-Senate conference committee is still considering 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. Conferees will reconvene the week of Oct. 8.

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 soon.

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

Continuing Resolution. The House passed the continuing resolution for fiscal '80, H.J. Res. 404, by the narrow margin of 208-203. The resolution provides funds for all federal agencies through Dec. 31, 1979 at the levels provided in the various appropriation acts for fiscal '80. At press time the Senate had passed a more restrictive continuing resolution. Under its bill, funding would be continued only for one month, through Oct. 31. The Senate's resolution also cuts travel for federal agencies, eliminates the 5.5 percent pay raise for members of Congress and objects to the House language on abortion. The resolution awaits conference.

Labor-HEW Appropriations. By a vote of 69-22, the Senate passed the Labor-HEW Appropriations Act for fiscal '80, H.R. 4389, while rejecting the House's abortion language, 54-33 and insisting on the Senate's language, 57-31. The conference bill, which has been passed by both Houses, awaits a compromise on the abortion language before it can be signed into law.

Welfare Jobs. The House employment opportunities subcommittee will hold hearings on the jobs portion of the Administration's welfare reform bill Oct. 9.

> ### Energy Hotline
>
> The White House in cooperation with NACo and other public interest groups has activated a clearinghouse on energy information for county, city, and other local officials. The President's Clearinghouse for Community Energy Efficiency was begun last week with a toll-free hotline telephone number.
>
> The idea for the hotline grew out of the President's speech to NACo's Annual Conference July 16 in Kansas City. In that speech, the President urged local officials with the cooperation of the federal government to set ambitious conservation goals and develop action programs to meet those goals.
>
> The clearinghouse will provide information on county and city energy programs, federal energy programs, and other information on achieving energy conservation and developing alternative sources of energy.
>
> Call Toll-free hotline: 800/424-9040—Continental U.S.; 800/424-9081—Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico; 252-2855—Washington, D.C., Metro Area only, or write: The President's Clearinghouse for Community Energy Efficiency, Suite 185, 400 North Capitol Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Environment and Energy

Integrated Environmental Assistance Act. This Administration proposal consolidates planning grant programs for water quality, clean air and solid waste management and authorizes an additional $15 million to assist with integrating environmental programs. Senate hearings are scheduled for Oct. 16. House hearings have not been scheduled. Final consideration during this session of Congress is doubtful.

Energy Mobilization Board. Staffs of both the House Interior and Interstate and Foreign Commerce committees are negotiating a compromise between the two reported EMB versions. The Senate Energy Committee has reported its version of the EMB, and Sens. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.) and Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) have introduced an alternate version (See story page 3.) A final vote on a Senate proposal is expected this week.

Energy Impact Assistance. The Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittee has again delayed markup of the Interior appropriations bill. Under consideration is the Farmers Home Administration's energy assistance program. The Administration has completed a budget amendment which requests $75 million for next year's program. At the urging of Sen. Walter Huddleston (D-Ky.), funding for this program will be included in the staff recommendations to the committee.

Local Energy Management Act. Rep. Phil Sharp (D-Ind.) has prepared an amendment to the DOE authorization bill for fiscal '80 which would help foster an exchange of successful local energy programs. The bill still awaits floor action. Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) has introduced the Community Energy Efficiency Act of 1978. This proposal combines elements of the Local Energy Management Act with a large investment in community-based conservation and renewable resource applications. Proposed first year funding is $500 million, accelerating to $1.7 billion by the fourth year of the program. Funds would be provided both for planning and community outreach activities as well as retrofitting buildings and installing alternate energy systems.

Health

Hospital Cost Containment. House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee has reported out 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. See article on page 1.

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.) began late last week. 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.

Health Planning. House has passed conference report for S. 544, Health Planning Amendments. Not yet passed in Senate.

Land Use

Agricultural Land Protection Act. House bill H.R. 2551 and Senate bill S. 795 would provide demonstration grants to counties to carry out agricultural land protection programs, and would require federal agency actions to be consistent with those programs. The full House Agriculture Committee is expected to consider the bill during the second or third week of October. Consideration of the bill by the Senate Agriculture subcommittee on environment, soil conservation and forestry (No. 1) still pending.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Appropriations. Fiscal '80 appropriations for the fund will be considered during the week of Oct. 16, by the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Interior as part of the markup on the Interior Department's appropriation bill. Sen. Mark Hatfield has agreed to offer an amendment which would restore $159 million to the state and local side of the fund cut by House. The fund assists states and local governments purchase and develop park and recreational facilities consistent with State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans.

Public Lands

Payments-In-Lieu of Taxes. T Senate subcommittee on approp tions for the Interior Departm postponed its vote on H.R. 4 until some time this week. The Ho approved bill includes $108 mil for the payments-in-lieu of taxes p gram. NACo is urging the Senate add $7 million for a total of $1 million, so that full payments c be made for both the new enti ment lands approved by Congre last year and to restore the sh fall in the '79 payments. This wo provide $102 million for fiscal payments and $13 million to resto the fiscal '79 shortfall that occurr this year because of a comptrol general ruling.

Welfare/Social Services

Indochinese Refugee Assista Program. H.R. 2816 is pending c sideration before House Fore Affairs Committee. Markup expe in mid-October. As reported by House Judiciary Committee, the extends existing IRAP for one y and thereafter limits assistance four years from date of entry. ministration actively opposes th provisions in favor of cutting assistance to refugees in the U more than two years. Counties continue to be reimbursed for servi provided to refugees until Dec. under a continuing resolution pass last week; or until H.R. 2816 S. 643, passed Sept. 6 by the Senate, are resolved.

Welfare Reform. Rules Commit has not yet take up the matter closed rule requested for H.R. 4 the Social Welfare Reform Ame ments of 1979, reported out of Ways and Means Committee S 13. Senate hearings are not expec until full House passage.

Social Services/Child Welf H.R. 3434 and S. 392 were b marked up in Senate Finance C mittee at press time. A number Senate amendments expected. article page 1.) Prospects of pass before Title XX ceiling exp unlikely.

Possible Areas for Air Studies

Twenty-one areas will be screened by the National Commission of Air Quality (NCAQ) as possible sites for comprehensive regional studies that will help form recommendations on future air policy.

These regions were selected after NCAQ invited the public to suggest possible sites for the regional studies, and were evaluated by 16 diverse criteria.

These areas will be further analyzed for availability for air-quality related information in the next two months. Final sites for four regional studies will be selected in November.

The Los Angeles/Southeastern Desert/Kern County area in California was selected earlier this year for the first regional study.

The studies will be used to analyze the capability of nonattainment ("dirty air") areas to meet national ambient air standards, and of attainment ("clean air") areas to address prevention of significant deterioration issues. The regional studies will constitute about 40 percent of the NCAQ's activities.

For the most part, the sites under consideration are large areas encompassing or cutting across several air quality control regions. In many cases, they include more than one state, or as many as six states. This was done in order to make sure that national policy recommendations are based on as representative a sample as possible, yet still spring from detailed knowledge of regional air, economic and institutional situations.

Specific boundaries for these areas have been set and are available upon request from NCAQ and NACoR. If your county is included in the list that follows, a NCAQ-selected contractor will be visiting state, EPA regional and possibly local air officials to determine the amount of air quality information available in each region.

Final selection will be made by the NCAQ commissioners, who are appointed by the President.

REGIONS TO BE FURTHER EVALUATED

Puget sound (Wash.)
Portland (Ore./Wash.)
Salt Lake City/Wasatch Front (Utah)
Four Corners (portions of Colo., Ariz., and N.M.)
Phoenix/Tucson (Ariz.)
Denver/Pueblo (Colo.)
Minneapolis/St. Paul (Minn.)
Quad Cities (Iowa/Ill.)
Milwaukee/Chicago/Gary (Wis./Ill./Ind.)
Metropolitan St. Louis (Ill./Mo.)
Cincinnati/Dayton (Ohio/Ky./Ind.)
Eastern TV (Ala./Tenn.)
Birmingham (Ala.)
Tampa/St. Peterburg/Lakeland (Fla.)
Pittsburgh/Steubenville/Wheeling (Pa./Ohio/W. Va.)
Buffalo/Niagara Falls (N.Y./Canada)
Massachusetts (entire state)
New York City metropolitan area to Hartford, Conn. (N.J./N.Y./Conn.)
Hampton Roads/Norfolk/Newport News (Va.)
Houston/Galveston (Texas)
Ohio River Valley/Western Pennsylvania (Ill., Ind., Ky., Ohio, Pa., W. Va.)