

January 3, 1968

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steering Committee
FROM: Task Force on Legislation
SUBJECT: Legislative Program for 1968

The two major Congressional issues in the Congress this year of paramount interest to the Coalition will be:

- 1) The Proposed Emergency Employment Program; and
- 2) Housing for low and moderate income families.

On the issue of the Emergency Employment Program (the Public Service Employment Program) the President has indicated that the Administration will propose appropriate legislation if adequate resources cannot be made available in private industry.

Congressman Perkins of Kentucky, Chairman of the House Education Committee, promptly supported such legislation and offered to introduce an appropriate bill in the House of Representatives. The program being discussed is basically patterned after the recommendations made by the Coalition in its August 1967 Convocation.

Senator Clark of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Labor Committee's Subcommittee on Employment has indicated that he will reintroduce a new and improved version of the Clark-Javits-Prouty Bill which nearly passed the Senate last year. Senator Clark expects to announce hearings on the measure before the end of February.

All of the major urban development programs such as public housing, urban renewal, mass transportation, etc., must be extended and anti-poverty legislation must also be refunded.

Also major legislative recommendations are in the process of being formulated by the Kaiser Committee on Urban Housing. The Task Force recommends that the Coalition can most realistically expect to make itself helpful in achieving improved housing programs by deferring any action on its own until it has had a chance to study the Kaiser Committee Report.

But the Coalition and its members should act immediately to marshal support for an Emergency Employment program as endorsed by the August Convention. This can be done most effectively by communicating support for such legislation to members of Congress. Chairman Perkins should be encouraged to introduce an appropriate bill.

All Senators should be urged to join Senator Clark as a co-sponsor for the Clark-Javits-Prouty Bill.