

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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May 16, 1968

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Current as of May 16, 1968)

FROM: The Staff

Action Council Legislative Goals

The present legislative goals of the Action Council's program for this year are:

Substantive Legislation

1. Passage of the Administration's tax increase as part of the Tax Adjustment Act of 1968. (H.R. 15414)
2. Passage of the Administration's Housing and Urban Development bill substantially as introduced.
3. Passage of the Emergency Employment and Training Act of 1968 as introduced by Senator Clark and alternately reconciled to similar bills introduced by Senators Javits and Prouty.

Appropriations

1. Full funding for OEO's Poverty Program with \$75 million in additional funds authorized for summer job programs and an additional \$25 million appropriated for year-round Head Start programs.
2. Full funding of programs, particularly Rent Supplements, Public Housing, Model Cities, and Urban Renewal.
3. Exemption of all education programs from budget cuts and additional funding for Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Teacher Corps.

The Status of Substantive Legislation

The Emergency Employment and Training Act of 1968

Senate hearings are already in progress. Spokesmen for the Poor People's Campaign appeared before the Committee on May 8. Further hearings ended May 15.

The following parties, among others, have been asked to appear before the Subcommittee and testify on the proposed legislation: the Secretary of Labor; the Secretary of Commerce; Mr. Leo Beebe, the Coordinator of the national JOBS Program; Mr. I. W. Abel of the United Steelworkers; Whitney Young; William Zisch; Robert F. Cannagen of General Dynamics; the National Association of Manufacturers; and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

The Subcommittee will hold its Executive Session during the last week in May. The target date for Senate floor action is late June -- before the July 4 recess.

The basic strategy is to amend the Administration's bill S.2938 (with 33 co-sponsors) which is, in effect, a simple extension of the Manpower Development and Training Act Program. The bill will be a Clark-Javits-Prouty compromise which, in effect, amends the National Manpower Act.

Subcommittee members expect the compromise manpower bill to be voted unanimously out of Committee.

Administration Position

All indications are that the Administration will take no action to support the Clark-Javits-Prouty bill.

Coordination with House of Representatives

At this point, the Senate has moved on the legislation without any specific reference to similar legislation which has been introduced in the House and has not made any effort to coordinate its activities with the House Education and Labor Committee.

The Status of House Legislation

The Select Subcommittee on Labor scheduled hearings on H.R. 12280, the Guaranteed Employment Act, sponsored by Congressman James O'Hara (plus 80 others), beginning Tuesday, May 7, for a week; to be continued May 20, for a week, with one additional week scheduled sometime during the month of June.

Witnesses who have testified before the Subcommittee are as follows: May 7, George Meany; May 8, Bayard Rustin and representatives of religious groups; and May 9, Ron M. Linton, representing John W. Gardner, Chairman of the Urban Coalition Action Council.

The Subcommittee has scheduled separate hearings on H.R. 15045 which is the Administration's bill introduced by Representative Elmer Holland to extend the Manpower Development and a Training Act. The hearings took place on May 15 and 16.

The outlook in the House for enactment of this legislation appears quite grim, according to House proponents.

The Tax Adjustment Act of 1968

The Senate-House Conferees agreed on a 10 percent tax surcharge with \$6 billion in budget cuts. They have completed action on the report and it is evident that if the \$6 billion is cut from the budget, it will seriously affect many of the programs in which the Coalition is interested.

Included in the Conference report are other important measures in the Social Security field.

(1) The freeze on aid to dependent children (AFDC) which would have gone into effect July 1, 1968 is postponed one year to July 1, 1969.

(2) Unemployed fathers will be entitled to receive AFDC (welfare) benefits for those weeks in a month for which they do not receive unemployment compensation. Under existing law they cannot receive payments under both programs in the same month.

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968

Hearings have been completed on both the Senate and House versions of urban development legislation.

The Senate filed the report on the bill (S.3497-S.Report 1123) on May 15. However, the Omnibus crime bill now before the Senate probably precludes action on the Housing bill for a week.

The Housing Subcommittee of the House begins its executive mark-up of the bill on May 21.

The subcommittee hopes to complete its mark-up of the bill that week, then go to full committee consideration the week of June 3. It should be reported out on or about June 15.

House floor action will most likely be delayed until the Senate has a chance to pass the bill.

Appropriations

The proposed schedule of action on the part of the Appropriations Subcommittees concerning legislation of interest to the Coalition is:

1. The Housing and Urban Development Appropriation bill for fiscal year 1969 was passed on May 8, in the House of Representatives. Our objective was to hold to the Committee reported bill with \$400 million for Model Cities, \$100 million for Urban Renewal add-on, and \$25 million for Rent Supplement. We achieved our objective.
2. The House Labor-HEW Appropriation bill for fiscal year 1969 is being marked-up in the subcommittee now with the hope of reporting it out of the full committee the first week of June.
3. The committee is holding up the Regular Supplemental Appropriation for 1968 until it receives the Federal Pay Supplemental. It is in this latter bill we hope to get funding included for Head Start and summer job programs.

The House Appropriations Committee is probably 20-40% more conservative by voting record than the House as a whole. To the extent that the Urban Coalition Action Council members, particularly those from the business sector, can persuade "swing" members of the House Appropriations Committee of the need for the OEO appropriations,

the Housing Appropriations, etc., and also persuade them that they are willing to see cuts in other less critical domestic areas, there is some possibility that the 90th Congress could close having provided the narrow minimum of resources needed to meet the most pressing urban needs.