

Gardner Describes Priority Programs for Federal Action

Action Council Chairman John W. Gardner has described "jobs, housing and education" as top priority items for federal action. He was interviewed on the CBS "Face the Nation" program Jan. 26.

Legislative and administrative actions urged by Gardner included:

--Adequate funding of the Housing Act of 1968, the elementary education program for children from low-income families and manpower programs.

--Vigorous enforcement of school desegregation guidelines.

--Economic development of the black community.

--Extension of the tax surcharge.

--Support for private enterprise activities in the inner city as a supplement to federal programs.

Gardner said his task as head of the Action Council is to make vivid to people throughout the nation the problems that confront the cities and the steps leading to solutions. This in turn will bring the Congressional action that is needed, he said.

ACTION COUNCIL LETTER

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN OF THE
URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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Senate Hunger Committee Is Extended With Full Funding

The special Senate committee studying hunger in the United States has been extended through this year and given \$250,000 for its investigations. Meanwhile, Administration officials have responded to the committee hearings by initiating actions to combat malnutrition problems.

The impact of the committee's hearings, which have been going on since December, was clear when Senators on February 18 took the

URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL WORKS ON LEGISLATION

The Urban Coalition Action Council was formed, and incorporated separately from the Urban Coalition, in the spring of 1968 to mobilize public support for needed urban legislation. The Action Council is a nonprofit tax exempt organization. Gifts are generally not tax deductible to the donor.

The Action Council works closely with many other interested organizations and individuals in pressing for Congressional action to meet the urgent needs of the cities. Legislation it has supported includes the Housing and Urban Development Act, fair housing, the tax surcharge, and a public service job program as well as private enterprise's efforts to hire and train the hard-core unemployed.

It has sought, and continues to seek, more adequate funding of education, housing, manpower and antipoverty legislation.

This is the first issue of the Action Council Letter. It will be published on a timely basis to report legislative developments in the urban field.

rare step of rejecting the recommendations of the Senate Rules Committee. It had cut the hunger committee's fund request to \$150,000.

Sen. George McGovern (D--S.D.), chairman of the hunger committee -- officially, the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs -- said the Rules Committee cut would nullify his plans to collect full statistics showing "the inadequacies of our present food programs." Without a roll-call vote, the Senate agreed to the full \$250,000 McGovern had asked for the study.

So far, the highlight of committee testimony has been a preliminary report by a government survey group on the prevalence of hunger in four states studied for a National Nutrition Survey. Dr. Arnold E. Schaefer, chief of the nutrition program of the Public Health Service, testified January 22 that investigations had uncovered widespread malnutrition in low-income areas. He said that 16 to 17 percent of the persons examined were in need of medical attention for problems associated with starvation.

Earlier, the outgoing Secretary of Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman, testified that the government would have to spend \$1 billion more than the \$1.1 billion now being spent if hunger is to be wiped out. Freeman said a crucial problem is "to get the food to where it is needed."

Administrative Actions

Describing federal programs for the poor as "woefully inadequate," HEW Secretary Robert H. Finch announced February 17 that he had ordered a Department-wide review of possible preventive and remedial actions to deal with malnutrition and its consequences.

Finch also asked for full data on the relationship between mental retardation and improper

nutrition in children's early years.

The first free food stamps for the poorest of the poor were authorized by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin February 19. The pilot project in two South Carolina counties, if approved by local officials, will provide free stamps for persons who cannot pay the \$3 required in those counties for stamps that can buy \$45 of food in local stores.

The action had been urged on Hardin by McGovern and Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D S.C.), who had made his own investigation of hunger in his state.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

ESEA -- The House Education and Labor Committee has been holding hearings since January 15 on a bill (HR 514) to extend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for five years. Committee Chairman Carl D. Perkins (D Ky.) reportedly plans to have the full Committee consider the bill as soon as hearings end, with the hope that the House will pass the bill before Easter.

HUD Appropriations -- The first appropriation hearings of the year have begun before the House Subcommittee on Independent Offices and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The supplemental appropriations requested for these agencies by President Johnson before he left office are the subject of the closed-door hearings being held by the Appropriations subcommittee.

Subcommittee hearings on the proposed fiscal 1970 budget for these agencies, covering the fiscal year that begins July 1, will start in late March.

Relocation and Land Acquisition -- Sen. Muskie's Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations has begun hearings on his Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition bill (S 1).

Urban Affairs Council Meets With Action Council Leaders

Chairman John Gardner and a group of Action Council leaders met February 17 with President Nixon and his Urban Affairs Council to discuss a number of proposals. The list was not made public, but Gardner told newsmen that among the proposals were federal standards for welfare payments, expansion of pre-school and early education programs and revitalization of the attack on poverty. Full funding of the 1968 Housing Act and manpower programs also were urged, Gardner said.

While the President made no commitments, "the reaction was favorable, I believe," Gardner added.

A statement by the President was released by the White House. It described the meeting as "most

productive," warmly praised the Urban Coalition's efforts, and called on business leaders "to lend active support to the Urban Coalition."

Council Studies -- The first product of studies by the Urban Affairs Council was made public February 19 when President Nixon sent Congress a message asking for a one-year extension of the present anti-poverty agency. That would allow time for a comprehensive study of the future of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Mr. Nixon said.

As a first step, however, he has ordered the transfer of several activities from OEO to regular departments. The Head Start program for pre-school children, neighborhood health centers and the foster grandparents plan will be delegated to the HEW Department by July 1. The Job Corps will be administered by the Labor Department.



The President's Council for Urban Affairs: standing from left to right, Secretary Shultz, Budget Bureau Director Mayo, Counsellor Burns, Attorney General Mitchell, Secretaries Volpe and, hidden, Finch, Vice President Agnew, Secretaries Hardin and Romney, Executive Secretary Moynihan, Secretary Stans.

Among other issues now under study by the President's Council on Urban Affairs is whether to extend the Model Cities program to more than the 150 cities now participating in it. They have received funds to prepare plans for a concerted attack on all aspects of blight in selected inner city areas and will receive additional federal aid when their plans are completed. The 1968 Housing and Urban Development Act authorized inclusion of additional cities in the program, but the fiscal 1970 budget submitted by President Johnson before leaving office recommended funds only for the 150 programs now under development. Mr. Johnson proposed \$750 million for supplementary grants in fiscal 1970 and an advance appropriation of \$1.25 billion for the next year, to aid the cities' long-term planning.



John Gunther of the U.S. Conference of Mayors talks with Wayne Smithey of the Ford Motor Co. while, in the back, Mark Keane of the International City Managers Association and Tom Hannigan of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers talk together.

Action Council Discusses New 91st Congress

Members of the Action Council staff met January 8 with Washington representatives of Policy Council members to discuss the outlook for urban legislation in the new Congress. With little change in membership from the previous Congress, the 91st Congress is not expected to make radical changes in existing programs but will need considerable encouragement to move forward fast enough on current problems, it was generally agreed

at the meeting.

The most urgent need is for full appropriations to carry out major programs for the cities that previous Congresses have authorized, many participants said.

Among those participating in the meeting was a good cross section of the Action Council's constituents. Included were representatives of municipal groups, business, labor unions and spokesmen for civil rights and religious organizations.

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Ronald J. James, an attorney in Waterloo, Iowa, and former executive director of that city's Commission on Human Rights, joined the staff of the Urban Coalition Action Council Feb. 17. A graduate of the University of Missouri, James worked for Congressmen Rumsfeld (R Ill.) and Bromwell (R Iowa) while studying for his law degree at American University.