

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Public Service Employment (The Emergency Employment and Training Act of 1968). The Public Service Employment will be offered in the Senate as an amendment to Manpower Development and Training Act extension. The move will be made by Senator Joseph Clark (D-Pa.), with the support of Senators Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) and Winston Prouty (R-Vt.). It is possible that the MDTA will be scheduled for Senate action late next week. The Clark-Javits-Prouty amendment would provide for at least 600,000 public service jobs in the next two years.

The MDTA passed the House on September 4, 1968 by a vote of 315 to 0.

Appropriations. Final decisions on appropriations for key housing, education and antipoverty programs will be made soon by Congress.

HUD appropriations will be decided on when House and Senate Appropriations Committee members begin their conferences on the Independent Offices Appropriations bill September 18.

At stake are the amounts for urban renewal, model cities, rent supplements, fair housing administration and urban planning and research (see Appendix A for details). Appropriations for the new programs in the recently enacted Housing Act will be sought in a supplemental appropriations bill that has not yet been sent to Congress.

The Senate passed the education, antipoverty and manpower training appropriation bill (for the Departments of Labor and HEW and the Office of Economic Opportunity) September 6. On the Senate floor major increases were voted over the House amounts for education of children from poor families (known as the Title I program), for OEO, the Teacher Corps and the new dropout prevention program.

Most of the Senators named to the conference committee that will decide the final appropriations -- possibly next week -- opposed the increases the Senate voted (see Appendix B for details).

HUD Personnel Cutback. The tax surcharge - budget cut law (the Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of 1968) requires the Executive Branch to cut back its total number of employees to the number on June 30, 1966. This is to be accomplished by filling three out of every four vacancies. HUD employment increased by only 900 after the 1965 and 1966 housing laws for rent supplements and model cities were enacted. This 900-person increase will be wiped out and no provision made for administering the new programs in the giant 1968 Housing Act.

The cutback is a harsh restriction on agencies such as HUD which have been assigned major new programs in the last two years. Congress has already taken steps to exempt the FBI, post office and air traffic controllers from the cutback.

APPENDIX A

Housing Funds. In the conferences on the HUD-Independent Offices bill, these are the major programs on which the House and Senate conferees must settle their differences. (The two programs for which the House did not grant any appropriations were not yet authorized by law when the House passed the funds bill, so money could not be voted at the time.)

| | Budget | House | Senate Committee | Senate Passage |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | (in millions of dollars) | | | |
| Urban Renewal | \$1,400. | --- | \$1,300. | \$1,250. |
| Urban Planning | 55. | 38.8 | 38.8 | 47.5 |
| Model Cities | 1,000. | 500. | 1,000. | 1,000. |
| Urban Research | 20. | 10. | 15. | 15. |
| Rent Supplement Contract Authority | 65. | 25. | 65. | 65. |
| Fair Housing | 11.1 | --- | 9. | 9. |

APPENDIX B

Education, Labor and Antipoverty Funds. The Senate debated the Labor-HEW Appropriations bill September 4-6 and adopted four key amendments providing more funds for education and antipoverty programs than the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House had recommended (see table below). No change was made in the House figure for manpower training programs, which is \$400 million, some \$13 million below the Budget.

These were the key amendments: Title I education funds were raised to the Budget figure of \$1.2 billion after Senator Hill (D-Ala.), the bill's manager, agreed that each state should receive as much money for this program in fiscal 1969 as it did for this year. The amendment was offered by Senator Hart (D-Mich.) and met no opposition.

Senator Pastore (D-R.I.) sponsored the amendment raising antipoverty funds \$215 million over the House and Senate Committee figure. Hill opposed the amendment and it was adopted on a narrow 37-26 vote. Although the Senate figure was \$92 million under the Budget, Pastore said it was acceptable to OEO.

Senator Nelson (D-Wis.), original sponsor of the Teacher Corps, presented the amendment increasing appropriations to the Budget level. Hill proposed that Nelson settle for \$24,667,000, a compromise sum mentioned by HEW officials, but Nelson stuck by his higher figure and the Senate went along with it.

The dropout prevention program, which was written into the 1967 antipoverty bill by Senator George Murphy (R-Calif.), will get its first appropriations if the House goes along with the Senate. Murphy's amendment raising the funds to \$20 million was adopted on a 42-21 vote.

Appropriations for the four programs, from Budget request to Senate passage:

| | Budget | House | Senate Committee | Senate Passage |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | |
| | (in millions of dollars) | | | |
| Title I Education | \$1,200. | \$1,073. | \$1,123. | \$1,200. |
| Teacher Corps | 31.2 | 15.0 | 17.3 | 31.2 |
| Dropout Prevention | 30. | 00. | 10. | 20. |
| OEO Antipoverty | 2,180. | 1,873. | 1,873. | 2,088. |