

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Current as of May 23, 1968)

FROM: The Staff

The Status of Substantive Legislation

The Emergency Employment and Training Act of 1968

Senate hearings will have been completed as of Friday, May 24.

The Subcommittee is expected to start mark-up sessions next week. Subcommittee Chairman Clark is anxious to move ahead and bring the measure to the floor of the Senate by the end of June. No problems are anticipated in developing an employment bill mutually acceptable to Chairman Clark and Senators Javits and Prouty. However, the original strategy of taking the employment amendments to the floor as part of the Manpower Act extension is now being reevaluated.

Administration Position

Secretary of Labor Wirtz testified in opposition to the bill saying that such legislation could not be enacted until a "national will to do more about these problems has been created." Indications are that the Administration will actively oppose the bill on the floor of the Senate.

Coordination with House of Representatives

House and Senate leaders are working together in an effort to develop bills substantially identical in all major respects.

Status of House Legislation

The Select Subcommittee on Labor expects to schedule additional hearings during the early part of June. Several groups in favor of the legislation, including the Farmers'

Union, have yet to testify. Witnesses representing the private business sector will be invited, as well as individuals and organizations experienced in problems of job creation.

Hearings on extension of the Manpower Development and Training Act (MDTA) have been completed. The Subcommittee is scheduled to go into Executive Session for three days beginning Monday, May 27, and may decide to report out the MDTA bill alone at that time.

The Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of 1968 (formerly the Tax Adjustment Act of 1968)

As previously reported, the Senate-House Conferees agreed on a 10 percent tax surcharge with \$6 billion in budget cuts.

The final Conference Report, however, has been delayed pending provision of additional back-up material on the tax exempt revenue bond financing provision.

Majority Leader Carl Albert has announced that the Conference Report will not be debated on the floor of the House until some time after Memorial Day. When the Conference Report is debated, no amendments will be permitted -- the House must vote the report up or down.

However, Representative Burke of Massachusetts, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, will seek to amend the Conference Committee bill on Wednesday, May 29, before it is brought to the floor for final action by offering a motion instructing the House Conferees to insist that spending cuts be held to the \$4 billion which President Johnson has said is acceptable.

The Burke motion deserves Action Council support.

Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968

Senate

The Senate has completed hearings on the measure and has filed a clean bill, S.3497. Debate was scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 23.

While the bill apparently enjoys generally favorable support in the Senate, spending issues are certain to be raised by more conservative members. The Administration will need all possible resources to sustain the Banking and Currency Committee recommendations and pass the bill substantially as reported out.

House

The Housing Subcommittee of the House Banking and Currency Committee began mark-up of its version of the bill on Tuesday, May 21. Mark-up sessions are expected to be completed by the middle of next week. Indications are that the House Committee will report out a bill substantially similar to the measure approved by the Senate Committee.

House debate will not begin until after Senate action on the bill has been completed.

The Status of Appropriations Measures

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

1. The Housing and Urban Development Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 1969 passed the House on May 8. Subcommittee hearings have been completed in the Senate.
2. The Labor-HEW-OEO Appropriation Bill is still in mark-up in the House Subcommittee. Expectations are that the bill will not be reported out until around mid June. It probably will not be debated on the floor of the House until after the Fourth of July.
3. The Regular Supplemental Appropriation Measure for 1968, we understand, is still held up pending receipt of the Federal Pay Supplemental.

The chances of seeing the Urgent Supplemental Conferees report out the additional \$75 million for OEO Summer Programs and the additional \$25 million for the year-round Head Start are growing increasingly dim. If the Congress is to approve these badly needed additional funds, efforts to persuade "swing" members from the House Appropriations Committee will need to be intensified.