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THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Current as of June 27, 1968)

FROM: THE STAFF

THE STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION

The Emergency Employment and Training Act of 1968

Senate hearings have been completed.

The Subcommittee reported out a clean bill on June 26th. It is a bi-partisan measure which should be reviewed and acted upon by the full Committee during the week of July 8th - 12th.

The Subcommittee strategy dictated reporting out the Emergency Employment measure separate from the proposed Manpower Development and Training Act (MDTA) extension.

STATUS OF HOUSE LEGISLATION

The Select Subcommittee on Labor has scheduled its last day of hearings for July 1st. The final mark-up of the bill by the Subcommittee will probably be delayed until after the July 4th recess.

The Labor Committee reported out the MDTA extension on June 27th.

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

The bill contains a ten percent tax surcharge and \$6 billion in budget cuts. The measure passed the House by a vote of 268-150. The Senate approved the bill on the 21st and the measure is now awaiting the President's signature.

Congressional leaders are suggesting that \$3 billion of the \$6 billion cut will be approved by Congressional action.

Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968

SENATE

The Senate passed its version of the Act S-3497 on May 28th.

HOUSE

Banking and Currency Committee Chairman Wright Patman introduced clean bill HR-17989 on June 19th. The Committee's report was filed June 20th (House Report 1585).

Chairman Patman went before the Rules Committee on June 27th. An open rule (permitting floor amendments) and four hours of general debate were voted. The measure is expected to be on the floor in the House for action right after the July 4th recess (which concludes July 8th).

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 Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1969 passed the House on May 8. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Offices expects to complete its mark-up of the bill on the afternoon of June 27th. The full Committee will mark the bill up on June 28th.
2. The Labor-HEW (including OEO) Appropriations bill passed the House on June 26th. The Whitten Amendment which would prohibit the use of funds appropriated by the bill to force busing of school children, to abolish any school or to force secondary school students to attend a particular school against the choice of parents, passed fairly easily on a Teller (unrecorded) vote.

Serious cuts were made in many of the education programs in the Appropriations Committee and were upheld by the House. Hard hit were Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aid to schools in impoverished areas), the Teacher Corps and Office of Economic Opportunity.

Efforts will have to be concentrated on the Senate to restore these funds and defeat the Whitten amendment which would subvert the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

3. The Second (regular) Supplemental Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1968 easily passed the Senate on June 26th by an 87 to 2 vote. As passed the measure includes \$75 million for summer jobs and \$25 million for Headstart as actively sought by the Action Council.

The House on June 28th refused to accept the bill and called for a Joint Conference with the Senate naming as House Conferees:

House Appropriations Chairman George Mahon,
Congresswoman Hansen, Congressman Whitten,
Sikes, Natcher, Flood, Jonas, Laird, Langen,
Lipscomb.

The Conferees meet June 28th and if agreement is reached, the Conference report will be filed on July 1st. Floor action in the House would follow at the earliest on July 2nd.

LETTER TO CONGRESS

As authorized at the June 10 meeting of the Urban Coalition Action Council, the Council issued June 27th a statement of concern for action on the urban crisis in the form of a letter from Chairman Gardner to each member of Congress. The text of the letter is attached. Comparable communications from members of local coalitions to Senators and Congressmen are urgently needed.