

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Current as of August 2, 1968)

FROM: THE STAFF

THE STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION

The Emergency Employment and Training Act of 1968 (Public Service Employment)

The measure has not been reported by the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

The extension of the Manpower Development and Training Act has been ordered reported by the Committee, and action on the measure has been delayed. Majority Leader Mansfield has indicated he will call it up in September. When the bill is considered by the full Senate, a bipartisan coalition comprised of Senators Clark, Javits and Prouty will attempt to amend it by adding the Emergency Employment Act to it.

The House Select Subcommittee still has no plans to mark up the JOBS bill.

The MDTA extension measure has received a rule by the House Rules Committee clearing it for floor action, but will not be acted on until Congress returns after the political conventions.

Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968

On August 1st, the President signed into law the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. Representatives of the Urban Coalition Action Council were present by invitation for the ceremony.

A summary of the more important provisions of this very significant new act is to be found at the end of this weekly report. The Urban Coalition will be preparing a more detailed analysis of the law focusing on the new

potential it presents for local action. This analysis will be distributed to local coalitions and made available to other parties on request when completed.

THE STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES

The proposed schedule of action on Appropriation bills 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 8th and the Senate on July 12th. It now goes to the Conference Committee, which has waited until the HUD authorization bill was enacted into law. It will meet sometime in September although no meeting date has been set.
2. As previously reported, the Labor-HEW (including OEO) Appropriations bill passed the House on June 26th. The Whitten Amendment, passed by a Teller (unrecorded) vote, prohibits 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.

The House approved serious cuts in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aid to schools in impoverished areas), the Teacher Corps and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee has marked up the bill. The Committee did not restore much of the education funding. The following list indicates how the Committee acted on the requests made by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to restore funds cut by the House:

	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Title I, ESEA	\$126 mil	\$50 mil
Drop Out Prevention	30 mil	10 mil
Bilingual Education	5 mil	10 mil
Teacher Corps	9.6 mil	2.3 mil

In addition, the Committee kept the OEO appropriation at the low level approved by the House and retained the Whitten Amendment.

New language was added to the Whitten Amendment by the Committee. It is believed that this language will substantially ameliorate its impact.

The bill is scheduled for the Senate floor on September 4th.

It is very important that every effort be made in the Senate to restore the House cuts in the HEW and OEO requests, and to defeat the Whitten Amendment, even though it has been amended. If you wish more information on the specific cuts in the HEW and OEO appropriations, please contact The Urban Coalition Action Council office.

NOTE:

Due to the Congressional recess for the party conventions, the Action Council will not issue further weekly reports until the Congress reconvenes in September.