

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Current as of June 20, 1968)

FROM: THE STAFF

THE STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION

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

Senate hearings have been completed.

Subcommittee Chairman Clark expects to complete mark-up the week of June 24th of a bi-partisan public service employment bill. No decision has been made on strategy - whether to amend the Manpower Act extension or test Emergency Employment in a vote strictly on its merits.

Status of House Legislation

The Select Subcommittee on Labor has scheduled its last hearings for June 26th and 27th. No decision has been made on marking up the bill.

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 House passed the Conference report (the bill as agreed to by the Conferees) on June 20th by a vote of 268 to 150. The Senate completed favorable action on it on the 21st, clearing it for the President's signature.

The President has reluctantly agreed to accept the \$6 billion in budget cuts. Indications are a substantial amount of this will be out of non-essential defense and space programs. Although Ways and Means Committee Chairman Mills informed us that the full \$6 billion of cuts could be taken without affecting the urban and poverty programs, the House Appropriations Committee is proceeding to make significant cuts in these vital programs.

Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968

Senate

The Senate filed a clean bill, S.3497, and passed it substantially as introduced on May 28th.

House

The bill has been ordered reported by the full committee and the report should be filed on Tuesday, June 25th.

The House Committee dropped Title IV (bonding for New Communities) which the Senate had retained at a \$250 million level. This is one issue to be resolved in Conference.

Target date for House action is still mid-July.

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 8th. It is in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Offices. Final hearings are scheduled for June 24th to hear NASA officials. The Subcommittee will then begin mark-up.

The appropriations process for HUD is complicated by the fact that HUD is asking the Senate Committee to approve appropriations which are authorized in this year's pending Housing Act: \$1.4 billion for Urban Renewal (including projects in Model City areas) for Fiscal Year 1970 plus \$350 million in renewal grants for Model City areas for Fiscal Year 1969.

To avoid the need for a supplemental appropriation, the Administration would prefer holding up action on the Appropriations bill until the Housing Act of 1968 is passed and signed.

2. The Labor-HEW (including OEO) Appropriations bill has been completed by the full Committee in the House and is scheduled for House action on June 25th. Congressman Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.) amended the bill in the Committee to prohibit 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. Every effort should be made to strike this amendment on the floor of the House.

Severe cuts were made in the bill that will affect efforts in ghetto schools. One of these is the cut in the Teacher Corps, \$2.3 million below the approved level in 1968.

The Administration budget request was \$31.2 million (the House Committee approved \$15 million), but the Teacher Corps could continue its programs (including forward funding) with \$24 million.

3. The Regular Supplemental for Fiscal Year 1968 passed the House and has been reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senators Yarborough and Javits successfully managed to amend the bill in the Committee to provide \$25 million for Head-Start and \$75 million for Summer Jobs programs.

Many Coalition members assisted this effort by wires and telephone calls to key Committee members.

The bill is scheduled for Senate action after the Military Construction bill - probably June 25th. The House killed funding for these two programs when money for them was put in the Urgent Supplemental two months ago. Key members in the House who will likely be Conferees are Representatives Flood, Natcher, Neil Smith, Hull, Casey, Mahon, Laird, Michel, Shriver, and Bow.

If the Senate does not retain funds for these two programs in the Supplemental appropriations bill, it is unlikely any other effort will succeed.