

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Current as of July 12, 1968)

FROM: THE STAFF

THE STATUS OF SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION

The Emergency Employment and Training Act of 1968

The bill lies in the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. The Committee will hold one more executive session, but it is almost certain it will take no action on the measure this session.

The extension of the Manpower Development and Training Act has been reported by the full Committee (Labor and Public Welfare) and will be taken up on the Senate floor during the week of July 15th.

There may be an attempt to amend MDTA, adding the Emergency Employment Act to it, on the floor.

Status of House Legislation

The Select Subcommittee on Labor has no plans to mark-up the JOBS bill at this time.

The MDTA extension, unless there is objection, will be taken up on the Suspense Calendar (this avoids the need to get a rule from the Rules Committee). The Calendar is called the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month or the last 6 legislative days of the session. MDTA could be called up July 15th.

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

The ten percent tax surcharge and the \$6 billion in budget cuts is now Public Law 90-364. The President signed the measure on June 28th.

Prevailing sentiment in Congress is for making every possible effort to accomplish as much of the \$6 billion cut as possible. Many members view the cuts as basically a Congressional responsibility.

Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968

Senate

The bill has passed both houses and will now go to the Conference Committee. Conferees are scheduled to meet at 2:00 p.m., July 15th.

The problem sections for the Conference Committee will include a saving and loan section deleted by the House, flood insurance, the eligibility formula for the subsidization of home acquisition by persons with low and moderate incomes.

One particularly thorny issue is an amendment allowing for FHA funding and supervision of private hospital construction. This squarely crosses jurisdictional lines between the Banking & Currency Committees and the Labor and Public Welfare Committee which has always had jurisdiction over Hill-Burton hospital construction. HUD is not that interested in supervising such a program and HEW is opposed. One possible compromise is to let HUD finance construction and HEW provide all the technical assistance.

THE STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES

The proposed schedule of action on Appropriation bills concerning legislation of interest to the Action Counsel is:

1. The Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1969 passed the house on May 8th.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported the Independent Offices Appropriation (includes HUD funding). The earliest it might be taken up on the Senate floor is July 17th.

2. 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 also 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 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HEW (including OEO) hopes to complete mark-up of the bill by the middle of the week beginning July 15th. The full Committee will act the following week. Floor action is still at least two weeks away.

Restoration of House Cuts of OEO and HEW requests, including Teacher Corps, and defeat of the Whitten Amendment should be accomplished within the Committee. It is crucial that every effort be made in the Senate to restore the amounts cut by the House.

3. The Second (regular) Supplemental Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1968 went into conference where House conferees reduced the \$75 million requested for summer jobs to \$13 million and reduced the \$25 million requested for Headstart to \$5 million. The bill as amended by the conferees was subsequently passed by both the House and Senate and is now waiting the President's signature.