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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



TO: Milton Friedman

FROM: KEN COLE

FYI _____

COMMENT _____

Per your request.

REMARKS OF HON. KENNETH R. COLE JR.
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, WASHINGTON, 27 FEB 1974

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME/TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON.

BECAUSE/I THINK THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU/ AND ORGANIZATIONS
LIKE YOURS/ ARE THE ONES/ THAT REALLY MAKE AMERICA WORK./

BECAUSE IT'S RIGHT THERE/ WITH YOU/ IN THE COUNTIES/
AND OTHER LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT/ THAT THE RUBBER/
OF THE PRESIDENT'S NEW FEDERALISM/ REALLY HITS THE
ROAD/ IN AMERICA./

SO YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT/ TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS
TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH/ I JUST LEFT HIS OFFICE/ AND HE
ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT/ TODAY/ HE ASKED ME TO THANK
YOU/ FOR YOUR SUPPORT/ IN THE PAST/ AND TO REMIND YOU/
THAT SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT/ AND TOUGHEST BATTLES/
STILL LIE AHEAD./



I'D LIKE TO TAKE/JUST A FEW MINUTES/TO GIVE YOU A
SHORT PROGRESS REPORT/ON THE PRESIDENT'S/DOMESTIC
POLICY/

IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE/BACK IN 1971/
PRESIDENT NIXON OUTLINED/WHAT HE CALLED/THE "NEW
FEDERALISM"/AND SET OUT/SOME GOALS FOR IT/



THE "OLD" FEDERALISM WAS THAT UNIQUE SEPARATION AND
DIFFERENTIATION OF POWERS DEvised BY THE FOUNDING
FATHERS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DIDN'T
GET TOO BIG AND TO MAKE SURE THAT INDIVIDUALS HAD
AS MUCH OF A HAND AND AS MUCH OF A VOICE AS POSSIBLE
IN RUNNING THEIR OWN LIVES AND SOLVING THEIR OWN
PROBLEMS

THAT WORKED FOR AMERICA FOR A CENTURY AND MORE IT
MADE AMERICA GROW AND IT MADE AMERICA GREAT IT MADE
AMERICA THE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL NATION IN THE
WORLD AND IT MADE AMERICANS FAMOUS FOR THEIR
SELF-RELIANCE AND INDEPENDENCE.



THEN ABOUT FORTY YEARS AGO/WE BEGAN TO TINKER AROUND
WITH THAT FEDERALISM/ A LOT OF WHAT WAS DONE/WAS
NECESSARY/AND IMPORTANT/ BUT A LOT OF IT/WAS TRIAL
AND ERROR/EXPERIMENTATION./

THE WORST THING WAS/THAT IT BEGAN TO CREATE A PSYCHOLOGY
OF DEPENDENCE/AND AN ATMOSPHERE OF EXPECTATION/ WHICH
MADE PEOPLE LOOK TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT/FOR SOLUTIONS
TO THEIR PROBLEMS./

THE MYSTIQUE OF BIG GOVERNMENT/BEGAN TO GRIP AMERICA/
PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER/BEGAN TO THINK THAT
MAYBE/ WITH ALL ITS MONEY/AND ALL ITS POWER/AND ALL ITS
TALENT/ JUST MAYBE/THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD
UNDERSTAND LOCAL PROBLEMS/BETTER/THAN LOCAL PEOPLE/.....



.....THAT JUST MAYBE AN APPOINTED BUREAUCRAT IN
WASHINGTON D.C. COULD SOLVE A LOCAL PROBLEM BETTER
THAN A LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIAL COULD

WHEN RICHARD NIXON BECAME PRESIDENT JUST FIVE YEARS
AGO HE HAD PROMISED TO REVERSE THIS FOUR DECADE
TREND TOWARDS BIG GOVERNMENT AND TO START MOVING
POWER OUT OF WASHINGTON AND GET IT BACK TO THE PEOPLE
WHERE THEY LIVE AND WORK AND EARN THEIR LIVING AND
PAY THEIR TAXES

HIS SOLUTION WAS A NEW KIND OF FEDERALISM THE NEW
FEDERALISM WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NECESSARY FEDERAL
FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE DICTATED BY COMPASSION AND COMMON
SENSE FOR A NATION OF 211 MILLION PEOPLE.



BUT JUST LIKE THE FOUNDERS' FEDERALISM / PRESIDENT
NIXON'S / NEW FEDERALISM / AIMED / AT LETTING THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE / CHOOSE THEIR OWN PRIORITIES / AND HAVE A HAND / IN
SOLVING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS /

TURNING AROUND / FORTY YEARS OF BIG GOVERNMENT / ISN'T
SOMETHING YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH / OVER NIGHT / THE
STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS / ARE AS BIG AS THE POLITICAL ONES /
AND BELIEVE ME / THE POLITICAL ONES AREN'T SMALL /
BUT WORKING WITH THE CONGRESS / AND LARGELY THANKS TO
YOUR SUPPORT / WE ACHIEVED THE PASSAGE / OF GENERAL
REVENUE SHARING / I HAPPEN TO THINK / THAT THIS WILL GO
DOWN / AS ONE OF THE HALF DOZEN / MAJOR DOMESTIC /
PRESIDENTIAL LEGACIES / IN OUR HISTORY /



GENERAL REVENUE SHARING HAS ALREADY PUT \$11 BILLION
OF NEW MONEY TO WORK IN OUR 38,000 UNITS OF STATE
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THIS YEAR OUR COMMITMENT OF FEDERAL AID TO STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL RISE TO \$52 BILLION. THIS
REPRESENTS ONE OUT OF EVERY SIX DOLLARS THAT WILL BE
SPENT. IT IS A \$3 BILLION INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR
AND IT IS PART OF AN AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE OF 17%
FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

WE'RE VERY PROUD OF THIS RECORD, BECAUSE WE THINK THAT
IT REALLY MEANS SOMETHING.



IN MANY RESPECTS / THE NEW FEDERALISM IS AS MUCH / A
MATTER OF PSYCHOLOGY / A WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS /
AND A WAY OF GOING ABOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS / AS IT
IS / A MATTER OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATION / OR SPECIFIC DOLLAR
AMOUNTS /

BECAUSE IF WE CAN REALLY RESTORE / AND REVITALIZE / THE
INSTITUTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT / ALL ACROSS THIS
COUNTRY / AND IF WE CAN GET PEOPLE IN THE HABIT / OF
SOLVING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS / ONCE AGAIN / THEN THE
FEDERAL LEGISLATION / WON'T LAG LONG BEHIND /

I'M NOT SAYING THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULDN'T BE USEFUL /
BUT IN FACT / IF YOU TAKE A LONG VIEW OF WHERE WE ARE /
AND WHERE WE WERE / I THINK THAT WE HAVE COME A LONG
WAY / TOWARDS MAKING THE NEW FEDERALISM / A REALITY /



FOR EXAMPLE, WE WORKED WITH THE CONGRESS/AND NOW WE
HAVE A MANPOWER TRAINING ACT/WHICH EMBODIES ALL THE
IMPORTANT POINTS/AND PHILOSOPHY/ABOUT PUTTING THE
POWER OF DECISION-MAKING/BASED ON LOCAL CONDITIONS/AND
LOCAL PRIORITIES/INTO THE HANDS OF PEOPLE/AT THE LOCAL
LEVEL/

THREE OF THE FOUR TITLES/UNDER OUR WELFARE REFORM
PROPOSALS/HAVE BEEN PASSED/AND WE ARE NOW COMMITTED/TO
WORK WITH THE CONGRESS/ON THE THORNY REMAINING PROBLEMS/
BUT THE PRESIDENT SPELLED OUT VERY CLEARLY/IN HIS
STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE LAST MONTH/THE NEW FEDERALIST
PRINCIPLES/WHICH WILL UNDERLIE OUR APPROACHES/TO THIS
CRUCIAL QUESTION/OF WELFARE REFORM/



HE SAID / THAT ALL AMERICANS / WHO CAN WORK / AND WHO WANT
TO WORK / SHOULD FIND WORK / MORE REWARDING / THAN THEY
FIND WELFARE /



HE SAID THAT CASH ASSISTANCE / IS WHAT LOW-INCOME PEOPLE
NEED MOST / AND CERTAINLY / WHAT THEY NEED MORE / THAN SOMEBODY
IN WASHINGTON / MAKING THEIR DECISIONS FOR THEM /

HE SAID THAT NO NEW WELFARE SYSTEM / SHOULD IMPOSE / ANY
ADDITIONAL TAX BURDENS / ON ANY AMERICAN /

AND HE INSISTED / THAT WHATEVER SYSTEM WE DEVISE / BE
CHARACTERIZED / BY A FAIR SIMPLICITY / WHICH WILL MAKE IT
EASY TO UNDERSTAND / AND WHICH WILL KEEP IT HONEST /

WE HAVE SEEN THE PASSAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK
GRANTS WHICH EMBODY THE PRINCIPLES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
SPECIAL REVENUE SHARING

AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CRACK THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY AND THIS MEANS THAT
WE CAN GIVE LOCAL JURISDICTIONS THE IMPORTANT OPTION
OF DECIDING ON HOW TRANSPORTATION MONEY CAN BE SPENT
MOST PRODUCTIVELY FOR THEIR OWN LOCAL NEEDS.

HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, AND ~~U.S.~~ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ARE GOING TO BE THE PRIME PRESIDENTIAL TARGETS FOR
THIS NEW SESSION OF CONGRESS



THE PRESIDENT'S NEW HEALTH CARE PROGRAM IS BASED UPON
HIS DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE THREE EQUALLY IMPORTANT
NEW FEDERALIST PRINCIPLES

THE FIRST IS THAT NO AMERICAN SHOULD BE DENIED THE BEST
HEALTH CARE POSSIBLE JUST BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD IT

THE SECOND PRINCIPLE IS THAT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM OF
CHOICE AND THE COMPETITION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE
EVEN MORE IMPORTANT WITH HEALTH CARE THAN IN MANY
OTHER AREAS

AND THE THIRD PRINCIPLE IS THAT THIS CAN AND SHOULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT INCREASING THE ALREADY GREAT
BURDEN OF TAXES THAT AMERICANS ARE PAYING



UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE PLAN / EVERY
INDIVIDUAL WHO CAN AFFORD IT / WILL PAY AT LEAST / SOME
SMALL PART / OF HIS HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM / AND IN
EVERY CASE / THE DOCTOR WILL BE WORKING FOR HIS PATIENT /
AND NOT / FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT /

WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S BETTER SCHOOLS ACT / AND BETTER
COMMUNITIES ACT / ARE PASSED / THEY WILL FINALLY
TAKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE BUSINESS / OF
BEING THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD / AND THE LOCAL SLUM LANDLORD /
AND LET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE / GET BACK INTO THE ACT /



ONE OF THE IMPORTANT INNOVATIONS/IN THE PRESIDENT'S
BETTER SCHOOLS ACT/WILL MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO YOU MEN
AND WOMEN/IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT/ THAT IS/"FORWARD
FUNDING"/,WHICH,/AS YOU KNOW,/MEANS THAT YOU WILL
KNOW/AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR/EXACTLY HOW
MUCH MONEY YOUR SCHOOL BOARDS CAN COUNT ON/ THE OLD
CATCH-AS-CATCH-CAN SYSTEM/OF WAITING UNTIL THE END
OF THE SCHOOL SESSION/TO FIND OUT WHETHER CLASSES WILL
HAVE TO BE CURTAILED/OR CUT/OR CANCELLED/IS INTOLERABLE/
AND UNFAIR/ AND THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN WILL PUT
AN END TO IT/

ALSO,/IN THE PRESIDENT'S BETTER COMMUNITIES ACT/ FOR THE
FIRST TIME,/URBAN COUNTIES WOULD BE INCLUDED/AS PROGRAM
BENEFICIARIES/ FINALLY RECOGNIZING/YOUR TRUE ROLE/AS
DELIVERERS/OF COMMUNITY SERVICES/



I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THESE BILLS IS GOING TO MAKE
BETWEEN GETTING THEM PASSED AND NOT GETTING THEM PASSED.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL
AND NOT GET BOGGED DOWN WITH SEMANTICS WHEN THE
IMPORTANT THINGS ARE THE PRINCIPLES AND THE PHILOSOPHY
OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

OUR PRINCIPLE AND PHILOSOPHY IS THAT THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES
IN AMERICANS AND HE BELIEVES THAT AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE
THE POWER TO DECIDE WHERE TO SPEND THE MONEY THEY EARN
AND WHERE TO LIVE AND WHERE TO SEND THEIR KIDS TO SCHOOL



WE BELIEVE THAT ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO EXPAND THE
 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE FEDERAL
 TAXPAYER WHY HE OR SHE SHOULD FOOT A BIGGER BILL
 THAN THEY ALREADY DO BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT BIGGER
 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MEANS PLAIN AND SIMPLE

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS MEN AND WOMEN LIKE YOU
 REGARDLESS OF YOUR POLITICAL PARTY WORKING AT THE
 LOCAL LEVEL AT THE COUNTY LEVEL ALL ACROSS THIS
 COUNTRY WHO MAKE OUR AMERICAN WAY OF GOVERNMENT
 SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL



THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES IN YOU AND HE BELIEVES THAT
 YOU SHOULD HAVE THE MEANS AND THE CLOUT TO REALLY MAKE
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE YOU MIGHT
 SAY THAT WITH THE NEW FEDERALISM THE PRESIDENT IS
 PUTTING HIS PHILOSOPHICAL EGGS IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 BASKETS

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU / THAT GOVERNMENT IS ALIVE AND WELL /
IN WASHINGTON / AND THAT WE ARE SPENDING OUR TIME / AND
EFFORTS / TRYING TO MAKE GOVERNMENT EVEN MORE ALIVE / AND
EVEN BETTER / OUT / ALL ACROSS THIS COUNTRY /

IN A VERY SMALL NUTSHELL / THAT'S WHERE WE'VE BEEN /
WHERE WE'RE AT / AND WHERE WE WANT TO BE /

AND WE WANT YOU / RIGHT THERE WITH US / WE'RE COUNTING
ON YOU / BECAUSE YOU ARE THE PEOPLE / WHO WILL ULTIMATELY
PROVE / WHETHER WE'RE RIGHT / AND WHETHER THE NEW FEDERALISM
CAN WORK / OR NOT. /



YOU HAVEN'T LET US DOWN IN THE PAST / AND I KNOW THAT
WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON LEAVES OFFICE / IN 1977 / ON THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY / OF THIS GREAT NATION / THAT THANKS
TO YOUR HELP / WE SHALL BE ABLE TO PASS ON / TO OUR
SUCCESSORS / AND TO OUR CHILDREN / A REVITALIZED VERSION /
OF THE FEDERALISM / THAT THE FOUNDING FATHERS GAVE US /
AND THAT HAS PLAYED SUCH A BASIC PART / IN MAKING AMERICA
THE GREAT / AND GOOD NATION / THAT IT IS /

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.





OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Date Feb. 28, 1974

TO: The Vice President

FROM: Mr. Miltich

INFORMATION

ACTION

APPROPRIATE HANDLING

OTHER



COMMENTS: Here are notes from

Milt Friedman for your remarks before
the National Association of Counties,
together with Ken Cole's speech and
other material. Milt said Cole gave
the speech he was preparing for you.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
1974 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, NATIONAL ASSN OF COUNTIES



Counties eager for Vice President to define his emerging role as liaison with local governments. Will he take over where Agnew left off ? (Agnew took active role that Counties want continued) Counties want definition of new Vice President's position on Domestic Council as it concerns them in their efforts to strengthen local governments. Has the President's concepts of links with counties changed during the transition ?

Counties want Vice President to reaffirm interest in counties and clarify his new official status in dealing with them .

Wart Vice President to recall previous efforts for Counties and work with John Brewer (introducing Mr. Ford) . Recall enactment of revenue sharing.

Need to continue working together. Most recent victory on manpower legislation . Administration worked with Bernie Hildebrand and Counties' Washington staff to get bill through . Now working together on Community Development Bill. Hope for enactment this year

Your delegates now on Hill seeking action on manpower funding , community development, transit, and rural development funding .

*Brewer -
Reputation of Service in Congress.
Same Policy as V.P.
Example - General Revenue Sharing*

New budget provides more dollars for counties in

Law enforcement

Manpower jobs

Transportation

Health



Stress movement away from categorical grants to block grants,
more flexibility . Recall role as major floor sponsor of block grant
in crime .

Reassurance that Vice President will build on past record as
minority leader with insight into County needs .

Vice President's attitude toward pre-consultation . Will he
be accessible to Counties prior to announcement of Administration
initiatives ?

mys

(WARNING --- Conference is angry about tabling this week
of Land Use Policy Legislation . Consulted with Casselman and Domestic
Council with prevailing view that Vice President avoid comment/of internal
Congressional nature of temporary impasse .)

NOTICE -- Ken Cole addressed Counties on Wednesday , stressing
President's New Federalism and Nixon role . Counties ask that Vice President
~~XX~~not repeat . (Text attached) .

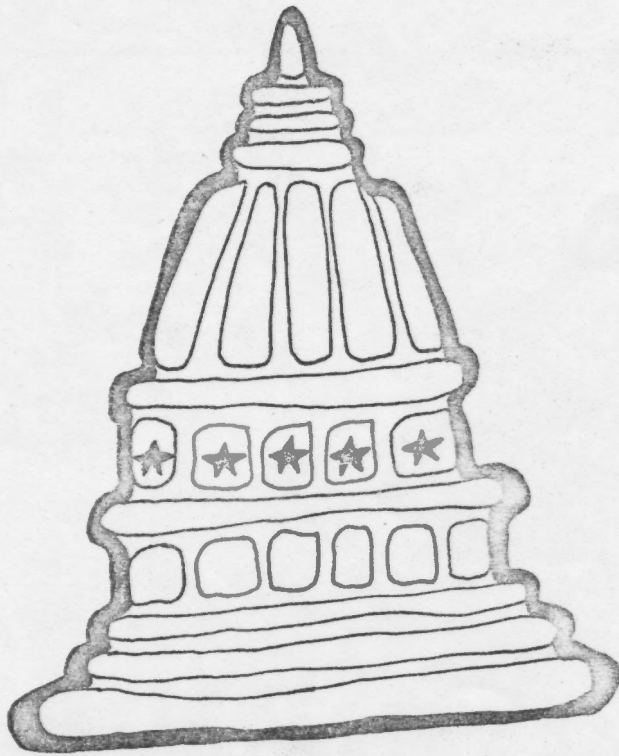
Also attached list of their legislative priorities with items they asked
Vice President to comment on .

234-8440
~~Stinson~~ Stinson

6272
Gannon



NACO
1974 NATIONAL
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES



Energy Legislation

The National Association of Counties is appalled by the federal government's lack of action on the worsening energy shortage. Congress and the Administration are continuing to squabble over emergency energy legislation. After eight months of attempts to reorganize federal agencies and formulate a consistent national program, there is still internal division and confusion.

It is now time to act. NACo believes the highest priority of the Congress has to be the enactment of comprehensive energy legislation. The time for further debate is over. The country cannot afford either congressional delays or threats of Presidential vetoes of this vital legislation.

General Revenue Sharing and Congressional Budget Reform

NACo urges the Congress to exempt future revenue sharing programs from the provisions of the Congressional Budget Reform bills and, therefore, the necessity of going through an annual appropriations process. The present versions of the Congressional Budget Reform bills, in both the House and Senate, would require that General Revenue Sharing go through an annual appropriations' process after 1977 just like any other federal grant program. Counties are trying desparately to move away from government by reaction and into government by planned action which requires a more stable and dependable financial base than presently exists.



Community Development Block Grants

As the Congress considers legislation consolidating various community development categorical programs into a single block program, NACo strongly recommends: that counties be eligible recipients of a guaranteed formula share of community development block grant funds; that the legislation authorize and provide financial incentive for multi-jurisdictional community development applications from units of general purpose local government; and that the Congress promptly enact community development block grant legislation at an adequate funding level.

Rural Development Funding

NACo urges the Congress to give top priority to appropriating the full annual amounts for the following grant programs authorized by the Rural Development Act of 1972: \$300 million for rural water and waste disposal grants; \$30 million for rural water and waste disposal planning grants; and \$10 million for rural comprehensive planning grants.



Manpower Funding

NACo congratulates the Congress for enacting the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973. This legislation provides the basic vehicle to respond to the manpower needs of county residents. In view of rising unemployment in part due to the energy crisis, NACo urges Congress to promptly appropriate sufficient additional funds in the FY '74 supplemental appropriations for Title II. NACo also urges Congress to carefully review the level of unemployment in providing sufficient funds for the 1975 appropriations.

Transit Operating Funds

NACo urges Congress and the Administration to agree quickly on legislation giving counties and cities transit operating cost assistance. At least \$800 million per year is needed. In transit assistance and other local transportation decisions Congress should define local officials as ones locally elected, publicly accountable with capability to raise matching monies for federal funds.

Clean Water Funding

The National Association of Counties calls on the President to release the full \$18 billion appropriated by Congress for planning and construction of sewage treatment plants and sewage collection systems. NACo calls on the Environmental Protection Agency to speed up its funding and review process to provide local governments with the money now available.

Social Services Revenue Sharing

NACo supports the social services revenue sharing proposal (HR 3153) and urges the House Ways and Means Committee to conduct hearings as soon as possible so that the definitions and programmatic components of social services will be clearly identified. In the meantime, the status of the current regulations needs to be clarified by Congress so that services delivery will not be crippled by the absence of definitions.

Public Health Services

NACo supports continuation of public health services, planning and health manpower programs and urges the adoption of a federal-state-local cost-sharing program that reimburses states and counties for specified categories of public health services.

Land Use Policy Legislation

NACo urges passage of the land use bill reported by the House Interior Committee (HR 10294) which contains NACo amendments strengthening local planning and reflects NACo's policy. NACo urges defeat of amendments to be offered on the House floor which would attempt to gut the thrust of the legislation. NACo urges the Senate to agree to all NACo amendments in the House-Senate Conference Committee.

Economic Development Act

NACo strongly recommends that the Congress assure continuation of the grant and loan program of the Public Works and Economic Development Act through FY '75 at a substantial level of funding. NACo reserves judgment at this time on the proposed "Economic Adjustment Assistance Program" until its details are made public.

Child Welfare Services Funding

NACo urges the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees to recommend a substantial increase in Title IV-B to better match local resources. There is currently authorized \$226 million for Title IV-B child welfare services - those services guaranteeing protection and care to all children. The 1975 HEW budget request is \$46 million or only eight percent of total state, local and private agency spending (\$600 million).



*Appalled
Rules Committee
Tabled
Land Use
Legislation
Land Use
Policy &
Planning
Assistance
Act*

Welfare Reform

NACo urges expeditious development of welfare reform legislation, including a national work security program to replace public assistance for employable persons. This program should provide income maintenance during periods of unemployment or training with an adequate minimum cash floor. This program should also provide support for individuals unable to work because of disability or the need to care for dependent children.

National Health Insurance

NACo endorses the principle of a single universal comprehensive health insurance system for all people. Comprehensive health benefits must be made available to all citizens regardless of socio-economic differences. The program should also cover expenditures related to public health and insure an adequate supply of manpower that will be needed to provide services covered under a national health insurance program.



Counties and the Congress A Partnership for Progress

County officials and Congress share the same goals in wanting to serve their constituents better, being responsive to their needs and working to improve government at all levels. It is a continuing, interdependent partnership.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization representing county government in the United States. Its membership spans the spectrum of urban, suburban and rural counties which have joined together for a common purpose of strengthening county government to meet the needs of all Americans.

NACo is governed by its member counties through a weighted voting system based on population. The counties elect a Board of Directors annually. Twelve policy steering committees meet several times a year to develop policy recommendations for the member counties. The organization's official policy positions are documented in the *American County Platform*.

NACo works closely with Members of Congress and Congressional Committees in gathering information on local needs and the views of county and local officials. This research is directed towards constituent services as much as legislation. In addition to the 70 staff members headquartered in Washington, D.C., NACo works closely with state associations of counties in 46 states. All total, there are 250 people ready to serve the Congress.

National Association of Counties
202/785-9577

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