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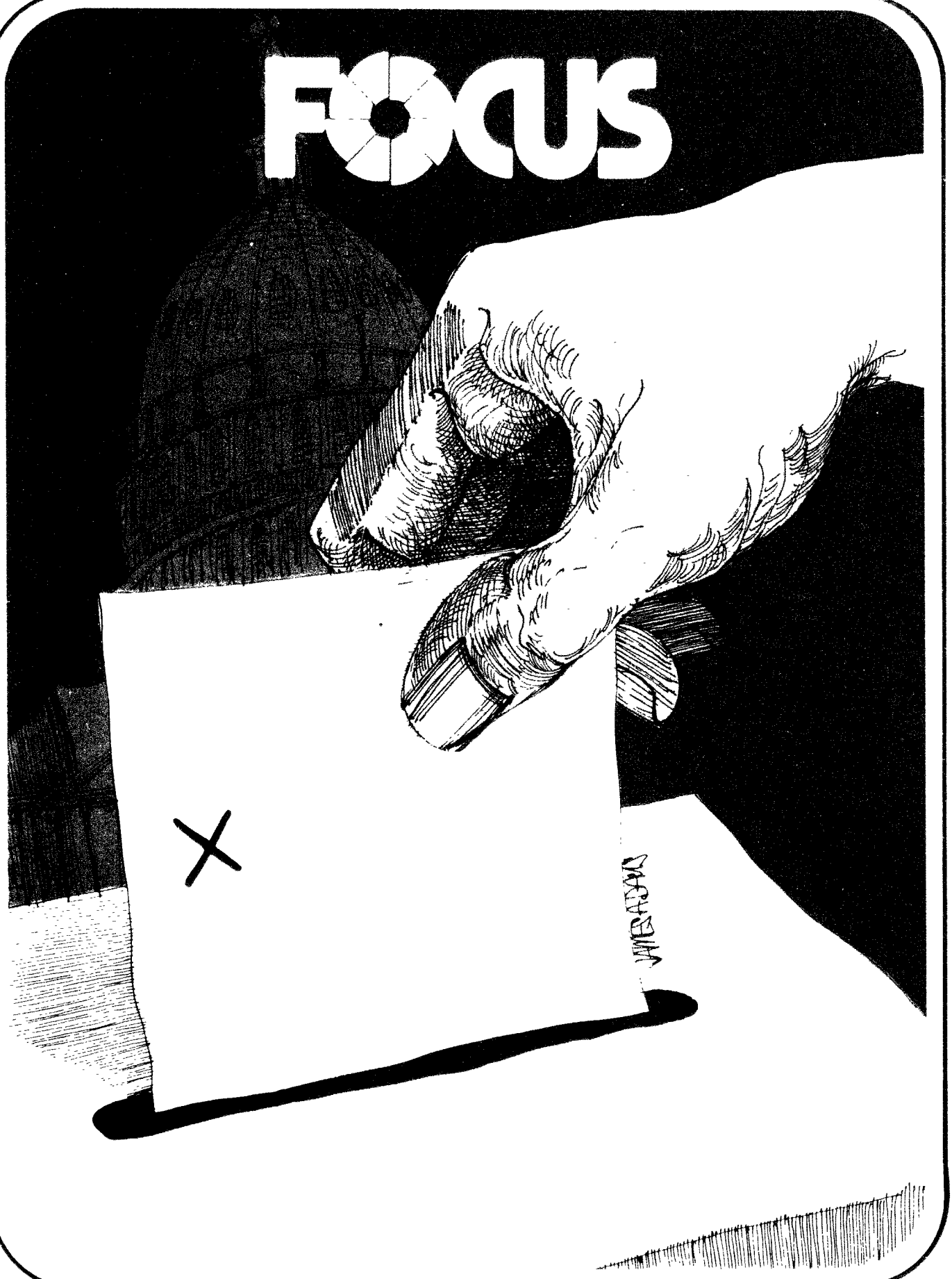

Joint Center for Political Studies

Perspective

BUDGETS MAKE POLICY (see page 3) and the federal budget is no exception. Consequently, we must view with alarm the policy implications inherent in President Nixon's proposed 1975 budget on drug abuse. The federal budget reflects the debatable notion that the heroin epidemic is over. It asks for fewer dollars, reorders spending priorities, and drapes a smothering "new federalism" shroud over a problem which, unfortunately, affects disproportionately a large number of black and Spanish-speaking Americans.

This budget takes on added significance when one weighs the racial implications in the nation's response to the drug abuse problem. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) sums up the response this way:

"Black leadership had been calling for federal help to combat heroin addiction for more than a decade (since the 1950s) and our appeals were ignored. But when heroin filtered out beyond the ghetto walls to the suburbs and the complexion of the junkies became white, the President declared a national crisis."

There followed a dramatic increase in federal drug abuse expenditures, from $82 million in 1969 to $760 million in 1974.

THE RESULT of this "massive" effort is a mixed picture. Some complain about waste, rip-offs, racial genocide, dehumanization. But there also is a positive side: the thousands of individuals helped, increased knowledge about the treatment of opiate dependence, program development, and about how to deal with the drug problem in schools, media, employment, and so on.

Another racist implication of this massive federal response lies in the fact that although the nation may have turned the corner toward solving the drug problem among whites, the problem continues in black and Spanish-speaking communities.

IT IS IN this context that one must review the President's proposed drug abuse budget, which reflects a decrease of nearly $15 million — from $760 million in 1974 to $745 million in 1975. While this drop may seem relatively small, it results in several major changes of emphasis in the federal response to the drug problem. For example:

1. There is a proposed *decrease* of $54.7 million for treatment and rehabilitation. This means institutional capabilities will suffer at the very time they are ready to make real headway on the drug problem.
2. There is a proposed *increase* of $10.2 million for programs which will be substantially turned over to the states but which will not be "categorically" designated for drug abuse activities. Consequently, as in revenue sharing, agencies may spend any amount *or none* of this money on drug abuse.
3. There is a proposed increase of $39.8 million for law enforcement, including jailing of users and imposing other forms of penalties which brand people as criminals. This "get tough" policy is one of the most alarming aspects of the proposed budget.

It is now up to Congress to decide what the federal response ought to be and how much money is to be appropriated. Before making its decision, Congress, through its committee staffs or the newly created Office of Technology Assessment, ought to determine the extent of drug abuse among minorities and the nature of program responses; investigate the absence of minorities in key policy-making positions dealing with drug abuse; assure that the monies actually get into communities where they are needed, and set aside special funds to encourage the development of a cadre of minority group experts — from scholars and researchers to program operators and street leaders — who can move against the drug problem in areas where others seem fearful of treading.

Because this has not been done the accusation of "genocide" has become a politicized response. But those who stand on their lofty podiums and pooh-pooh this accusation, without understanding its genesis or meaning, are equally guilty of playing politics with the lives and welfare of a great many human beings.

Eddie N. Williams
President

FOCUS

The monthly newsletter of the **Joint Center for Political Studies**, 1426 H Street N.W. Suite 926, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 638-4477 *JCPS sponsored by Howard University and the Metropolitan Applied Research Center, is a private, non-profit and non-partisan organization which provides research, education, technical assistance and information for the nation's minority elected officials. JCPS is funded by foundations, other organizations and private gifts. Contributions are tax exempt.*

president: Eddie N. Williams
director of governmental affairs: Clarence L. Townes, Jr.
director of research: Herrington J. Bryce
director of administration: Francis Chaney
director of public affairs: John H. Britton, Jr.
Focus editor: David L. Aiken

The budget connection. . . .

BUDGETS are crucial but few people read them. Average citizens tend to leave the task of worrying about them to accountants and planners. When newly elected officials without previous budget experience take office and are confronted with the need to shape a budget to reflect their own priorities, they, too, are often paddling in water that's over their heads.

Today there are more than 100 black mayors, almost 1100 city and town council persons, 200 county commissioners, and almost 800 local elected school board members. These and other minority elected officials have a special need to be familiar with the budget process, because of their special concern with the priorities of minority communities.

"In recent years, local government budgets have become increasingly important because of the shift in federal philosophy to decentralized programs involving greater local control, and because of the awakening of local governments to the need for sound financial planning and management," commented JCPS President Eddie N. Williams in explaining the need for help to local officials.

A three-pronged effort is underway to bring representatives of diverse interests into the budget-making process. The National Urban Coalition and other groups are monitoring local budgeting; other groups, such as the Center for Community Change, are attempting to promote citizen involvement in the budget process, and the Joint Center for Political Studies has contributed a publication aimed at increasing familiarity of the process among local elected officials. Two recent steps have been taken in this effort:

1. **THE JOINT CENTER** for Political Studies has published *Municipal Budgeting: A Primer for Elected Officials.* It's written by Jesse Burkhead, Maxwell professor of economics at Syracuse University, and Paul Bringewatt, commissioner of public works for the city of Syracuse, N.Y.

The book explains the process of designing budgets; describes the pros and cons of various types of taxes that can be levied to raise money; sketches the other sources of income for a town or city, and shows how a budget can be drawn to channel money to where it is most needed and will be most effective.

It is available for $3.00 per copy from the Publications Department of the Joint Center.

2. **THE NATIONAL** Urban Coalition and the Joint Center have co-sponsored a one-day workshop on the problems of municipal budgeting.

The session, held April 20 in Washington, D.C., was attended by minority and other elected and appointed officials from around the country with responsibility for budgets; members of public interest groups, scholars and others concerned with affecting budgets for the best interests of minority constituents.

Productive working sessions were led by Burkhead; Leonel Castillo, controller of Houston; Harry Hatry, director of state and local government research programs for the Urban Institute, and State Sen. Richard Newhouse of Illinois.

NUC and JCPS will issue a summary report of the workshop for use by city officials, community leaders, urban finance specialists and interested citizens. There are also plans for a follow-up meeting in the fall to assess progress made between now and then.

M. Carl Holman, president of the NUC, described some of the ways that citizens have been able to participate in the process of drawing up municipal budgets. Several local urban coalitions, he said, have delved into their city's budget process as a result of a project designed to monitor how federal general revenue sharing funds are being used at the local level. This project was undertaken by the National Urban Coalition, the League of Women Voters, the Center for Community Change and the Center for National Policy Review.

In Wilmington, Del., for example, the local urban coalition's study has provided information for a coalition of groups concerned with minorities and human needs and the governor's urban affairs aide.

IN THEIR BOOK, Burkhead and Bringewatt state a theme for budget-makers: "Municipal budget-making is a political process, an economic process and a management process. If elected government officials, and particularly mayors, are to be responsive and responsible, it is of greatest importance that they study and understand their local budget process and that they use budget-making at its full potential for economic, social and political purposes."

Among their many concrete suggestions:

Choice of a budget director is crucial. Such an official must be able to make difficult decisions and say "no" to programs or interest groups that are not top priority.

City councils should be briefed in advance of public announcement of the budget. If council members have had an opportunity to make suggestions, passage of the budget is smoother.

"Program budgeting," a type of accounting which shows the amount of money being spent for certain types of purposes no matter what department in the city bureaucracy controls them, can be a valuable tool in planning. However, it is difficult to apply when measurement of the outcome of expenditures is desired in certain areas. Also, it should be viewed as a long-range tool that will make its worth known over a period of years.

An effective budget system needs "movers and shakers" to question the way things are done, and they must be protected from retribution by those whose sacred cows may be gored in the process. But at the same time "the way things have always been done" often has reason behind it.

Section 5: the defense sums up

By David H. Hunter

Mr. Hunter, a Washington attorney, is a former assistant general counsel of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. He is the author of a book, Federal Review of Voting Changes: How to Use Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, recently published by the Joint Center, the Voter Education Project, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

IN THE SPRING of 1976 a young black man goes to vote in a county in the Mississippi Delta. He had registered to vote during a voter registration drive several years ago and has recently returned home after two years in the army. Much to his surprise, he is told that his name is not on the voter rolls, and he is not allowed to vote. He soon learns that there has been a purge of the registration rolls of the county and all voters have had to reregister. He therefore goes to the county courthouse to register again. There he discovers that he must pass a literacy test to be able to register. Finally, he learns that he has failed the literacy test, though he is a graduate of the local high school and had never had any trouble reading or writing while in the Army.

Are such events possible? Before the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, few blacks in the South would have been surprised to learn that a black had been unable to register or vote. This was changed by the Voting Rights Act. That Act, however, was designed as a temporary measure, and its coverage comes to an end in August of 1975 unless Congress acts to prevent it. Between now and then, there will be many hearings before congressional committees and much debate in Congress concerning whether the Act is still needed and should be extended; whether it should be modified to meet changed conditions, or whether it should be allowed to expire. The outcome of this debate will have an effect on the political life of the South — and of the entire nation — for decades.

Before the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, blacks had no share of political power in the South. Few blacks were registered, and, as a result very few elective offices in the South were held by blacks. Those that were obtained tended to be minor and in areas where blacks constituted an overwhelming majority of the population.

The methods used to maintain white political control since blacks had been effectively removed from the political arena in the latter part of the 19th century had gradually evolved, with new techniques replacing those which courts had held unconstitutional. By 1965, the chief means used to keep blacks away from the polls were literacy tests and other tests and devices used as a precondition for voter registration — usually unfairly administered; other obstructive tactics by voting registrars, and the atmosphere of physical and economic intimidation that made blacks aware that politics was an activity that should be left to whites.

THE VOTING RIGHTS Act of 1965 dealt with these problems and provided the tools for assuring that blacks could no longer be excluded from the political life of the South. The special remedies of the Act apply to those states, or parts of states, which met a test designed to isolate the areas with the most serious problems. These included the states of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia and most of North Carolina, as well as certain areas in the North and West: the state of Alaska and a few counties in Arizona, Hawaii, and Idaho.

In these places several new rules applied: First, no literacy tests or other similar test could be applied. This removed the major means used to keep blacks from registering. Second, federal examiners could be sent to a county to register voters, so an uncooperative local registrar could no longer stand in the way of a voter registration drive. Third, the federal government could send observers to elections to document the fairness of elections and incidents of harassment, intimidation, or violence.

Finally, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act prevented the jurisdictions that were covered (i.e., the states and all local governmental bodies in those states) from instituting any new practice or procedure that affected the right to vote until they had obtained a determination from the Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that the new practice was not discriminatory either in its purpose or in its effect. Thus, the Act contained a safeguard against new forms of discrimination which had not even been thought of yet.

In 1970 Congress realized that five years had not been enough time to overcome all the obstacles to black political participation which had accumulated over the past century. A coalition of southern congressmen and the Nixon administration and its supporters in Congress sought to remove the most important provisions of the Act. But a major legislative struggle took place which ended with Congress extending the Act for five more years.

While extending the Voting Rights Act, Congress also expanded it. First, it enlarged the formula for coverage to take in several additional areas outside the South: three boroughs of New York City; several counties with substantial Mexican-American or American-Indian populations in Arizona and California; several election districts in Alaska, and one county each in Idaho and Wyoming. Secondly, the ban on the use of literacy tests, and similar barriers to registration, was extended to the entire country on a trial basis. This ban expires in August of 1975.

AS THE YEAR of decision for the Voting Rights Act approaches, where do we stand? The progress that has occurred since 1965 has been substantial. Blacks in the South have come, for the first time since Reconstruction, a political force in the South which cannot be ignored. Registration rates for blacks are much improved. As a result, black elected officials in these states have multiplied. While there were fewer than 100 black elected officials in the South at the time of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, there are now several hundred.

While there has been progress, however, there have been three major shortcomings. First, black political participation and political power in the South is generally not as great as the size of the black population would lead one to expect. For example, although 27 per cent of the population of the seven southern states covered by the Act is black, only one of 57 congressmen from these states is black; of 1174 state legislators in those states, only 36 are black.

Secondly, there are still some counties where blacks have gained almost nothing political since the passage of the Voting Rights Act. For example, in 1972 there were 96 counties with black population majorities in the seven states and in 61 of those counties there were no black elected officials.

Third, methods of diluting concentrations of black voters — such as gerrymandering, annexations, and the use of multimember districts — have enabled whites to maintain political control despite increased black political participation. Under Section 5, progress has been made in challenging these techniques, but they are still used in many places.

IF CONGRESS takes no action in 1975, one should not expect an immediate return to another era of black disfranchisement. Black political power, judicial decisions, and the attitude of the public have changed too much to allow this to happen. And the Voting Rights Act itself has safeguards to prevent this from happening. Still, we could witness a return to the struggle to maintain black political power rather than the development of opportunities to use the power which has been gained.

The first consequence of the expiration of the Voting Rights Act will be the return of literacy tests. Because there was never any good justification for the imposition of a literacy test even when it was fairly administered, and because the heaviest impact of the test is on minorities, who are more likely to be unable to read or to have enough confidence in their ability to be willing to be tested, the return of the literacy test would provide another barrier to the political participation of blacks and other minorities. Needless to say, no evidence has been found since the temporary ban was imposed that voting by illiterates will undermine the demoractic process.

In the Deep South states covered by the 1965 formula, a suit ending the suspension of literacy tests would have other serious consequences because it would terminate the other procedures created by the Voting Rights Act: it would end the authority of the Justice Department to send examiners and observers to these states, and it would end the requirement under Section 5 that new practices which affect the right to vote must be cleared by the Justice Department before they are implemented.

The loss of these safeguards could have serious consequences. The danger from literacy tests is clear. If their renewed use were coupled with a reregistration requirement — such as many counties in Mississippi imposed during the early 1970s — the black registration rate could decline considerably. No longer would federal examiners be available to register voters if state or local requirements or practices were burdensome and no longer would there be federal observers to monitor the fairness of elections.

But the loss of Section 5 would probably be the most serious. The burden would once again be on blacks in the South to prove — in court — that state requirements or local practices discriminate against them.

WHAT THEN should Congress do in 1975? At a minimum it should make the nationwide ban on literacy tests permanent. Beyond that, the simplest and most effective solution would be to extend the Voting Rights Act for another five years, leaving its provisions unchanged. Two other approaches are possible. One is to revise the formula which determines which states and counties are covered in order to refocus attention on those areas which are now the most troublesome. A second approach is to retain only those remedies provided by the Act which are most valuable. A combination of these approaches is also possible.

Though in theory all the protective features of the Voting Rights Act could be regained through litigation, this would require reliance on the Justice Department — an uncertain ally — and on the slow processes of the courts. It was the dissatisfaction with the latter that led originally to the remedies of the Voting Rights Act.

The greatest need right now is for information as to the kinds of discrimination in voting which still exist, the extent to which they exist, the provisions of the Voting Rights Act which are most valuable in preventing discriminating, and the prospects for black political participation and power if the Voting Rights Act is allowed to expire. Any information that one has, or views that one wishes to share, should be sent to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who have been especially helpful in the past, such as Senators Philip Hart, Hugh Scott, and Jacob Javits; Congressmen Peter Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Don Edwards, chairman of the Civil Rights Oversight Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20425.

Heat on public employment

RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY employment practices of state and local governments are coming under increasing challenge in the courts. Prior to 1972, these challenges were based on the 1866 and 1871 Civil Rights Acts and the 14th Amendment. Since 1972 an additional remedy has been available: Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act is now applicable to state and local governments. All forms of discrimination in employment on the basis of race, sex, or national origin are subject to challenge under one or more of these constitutional and statutory provisions. Discrimination in hiring, promotion, assignment, and any terms and conditions of employment is unlawful.

The 1972 amendments to Title VII gave the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission authority to investigate and attempt to conciliate complaints of discrimination by state and local governments. They gave the U.S. Department of Justice the authority to file suits to remedy discrimination against an individual, or a pattern or practice of discrimination, by public employers. And suits by private individuals or groups, under Title VII and the other constitutional and statutory provisions, continue to be of great importance and are being filed in increasing numbers.

For example, minorities have been virtually excluded from certain kinds of public employment, either by design or by hiring practices which are neutral on their face but have a discriminatory effect. Large numbers of suits have been filed against state and local police departments, and local fire departments, challenging either purposeful exclusion, or exclusion by means of civil service testing procedures which are fair in form but have a racially discriminatory impact. The courts have ruled that tests which have a racially discriminatory impact are unlawful unless they can be shown to have a demonstrable relationship to successful job performance. Civil service examinations have been ruled unlawful in a number of cases under this analysis. Many suits against police and fire departments have resulted in court orders requiring numerical or percentage goals for hiring minority persons, to remedy the effects of past discrimination.

In other kinds of public employment, minorities have frequently been hired into lower paying, less desirable jobs, but denied the opportunity to progress to better jobs. For example, a city which has historically confined its black employees to unclassified laborer positions has an obligation to permit them to be promoted or transfer to other positions for which they are qualified, without loss of seniority or other accumulated benefits. And the longer the city delays in making such adjustments, the greater will be its liability for compensatory back pay and fringe benefit payments.

MINORITY ELECTED OFFICIALS are in a good position to do something about public employment discrimination. They can exert pressure on state and local governments to solve their problems voluntarily, without the necessity for litigation. And where litigation is necessary, they can assist potential private litigants by supplying them with information which will enable them and their attorneys to determine the scope of the problem. Minority elected officials are frequently able to request and obtain detailed statistical information on the racial makeup of a public employer's workforce; such information is not generally available to a private individual.

In a number of cases where across-the-board class actions have been brought against a public employer, minority elected officials have first obtained the information which the complainant's attorney must have in order to determine whether the proposed case is meritorious. Another important role that minority elected officials can play is to refer constituents with complaints to the proper agencies, and to sources of legal assistance.

AS MENTIONED above, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission now has jurisdiction to receive and attempt to conciliate complaints against state and local governments. An individual must file a complaint with EEOC to preserve his rights under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He may also complain directly to the Justice Department, which will become increasingly active in the public employment area after March 24, 1974, when part of its authority over private sector employment will be transferred to EEOC. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law is also active in the public employment discrimination area. Its national office, at 733 - 15th Street, N.W., Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20005, maintains a special project which handles some such litigation itself, and also refers cases to cooperating law firms for handling without financial cost to plaintiffs. (This Lawyer's Committee project does not deal with purely individual cases of discrimination; it focuses on class action litigation, challenging practices which discriminate against minority persons generally, on behalf of an individual or individuals representing the class.) The NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the OEO Legal Services Program are also actively engaged in public employment discrimination litigation.

The suits which have been filed to date are too numerous to list here, but some examples of successful results can be mentioned. The Justice Department has obtained comprehensive relief in a case against the entire city of Montgomery, Alabama, and in a case against the Boston fire department. The Lawyers' Committee has been successful in cases against the Akron, Ohio, fire department and the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service. Far-reaching court decrees have also been won in cases against the Alabama State Highway Patrol, the Bridgeport, (Conn.) and San Francisco police departments.

The legal basis is clearly established for ending employment discrimination by state and local governments, and for taking affirmative action to overcome the effects of past discrimination. Much work remains to be done to bring about the necessary changes through voluntary action or, where necessary, through litigation.

Telescope

Busing an issue. . .again

THE SENATE is at work on an extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a bill of great importance to urban schools and schools with large numbers of black and other minority students. For such schools, the issue of greatest interest is the formula for distribution of money under Title I, a section for compensatory education programs designed to help disadvantaged students.

The Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee has approved a formula which would hold funding at the status quo. It says, first, that no district will receive less than it is receiving in fiscal 1974. Second, it prescribes that any money appropriated over and above the 1974 level will be parceled out partly on the basis of the number of poor people in the district, and partly on the basis of how much money is being given to welfare (AFDC) recipients in the district. This differs from the version passed by the House, which would use the number of children from families receiving AFDC. Some fear this index would be subject to more frequent fluctuations than the Senate's index.

Other issues related to the funding formula remain to be worked out. Their resolution would determine what proportion of money goes to urban and rural schools, and whether the primary basis for distributing money continues to be the level of poverty, or whether it will be shifted in the direction of programs for any student who lags behind his classmates, whether he is from an impoverished family or a rich one.

While educators are concerned about such issues, it appears that politicians and the media are taking the opportunity to make hay over busing.

The House has passed a measure prohibiting federal courts from ordering long-distance busing to end school segregation. It would require that every child be permitted to attend the "closest or next closest" school; would allow busing only as a last resort, and would permit communities to reopen court cases to comply with the new law.

Sen. Edward Gurney (R-Fla.) has introduced a similar amendment in the Senate. In addition to the provisions of the House measure, the Gurney proposal would prohibit desegregation orders where the court finds school districts are not now "effectively excluding any person from any school because of race, color or national origin," whether or not in the past the schools were segregated *de jure* or *de facto*.

The busing issue seemed certain to generate another round of heated debate. In 1972, when the House passed a measure similar to the one it has now approved again, it died in a Senate filibuster.

OEO fate in balance

THE FUTURE of the Office of Economic Opportunity hung in the balance as Congress returned from its spring recess in late April.

After negotiations with pro-administration Congress members, who want to see OEO and its anti-poverty programs ended, Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and chairperson of the House Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities, proposed a compromise bill to essentially continue the present programs under a new format.

The bill (H.R. 14094) would combine elements of EOE and ACTION (successor of both the Peace Corps and VISTA) in a new agency, to be called the Agency for Development, Volunteer and Other Community Assistance Programs (ADVOCAP).

As of early May, the issue was before the House Education and Labor Committee. At present, OEO is scheduled to expire on June 30 unless new legislation is enacted before then.

The National League of Cities has criticized one aspect of the proposed bill, which would require cities to foot a larger share of the bill for Community Action Programs than they now do. The federal-local split would be 80/20 in fiscal 1975, 75/25 in fiscal 1976 and 70/30 in fiscal 1977.

New advances in local offices

BLACK CANDIDATES have taken more offices in local elections scattered throughout the nation.

A black slate in Tallulah, La., swept every municipal office in voting on March 23. Adelle Williams is the new mayor in that town of 9,400, which is the county seat of Madison County in the northern part of the state, near the Mississippi River.

Mexico, Missouri, which proclaims itself the capital of "Little Dixie", in that state's midsection, now has a black mayor. He is Herman O. Tolson, an assistant administrator and counselor at the local high school. He was chosen by his fellow town councilmen for a one-year term.

In Waco, Texas, black city councilman Oscar DuConge was chosen mayor by the other five members of the council, all white. Waco, a city of 100,000 in central Texas, is the first large city in the state with a black mayor. It joins four other Texas towns with black mayors — Kendleton, Easton, Detroit and Prairie View.

A 64-year-old social worker, DuConge was first elected to the council in 1972, and was the second black person to serve on that body. He is director of community programming for the local anti-poverty agency.

New York State now has its first black mayor. He is Everett Holmes, a self-employed carpenter elected in the village of Bridgewater. It is in a farm area 17 miles south of Utica. Its 1,000 residents include 10 black families.

ELSEWHERE, New Jersey Assembly Speaker S. Howard Woodson became the first black to serve as acting governor of that state on March 7 when both

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Gov. Brendan Byrne and Senate President Frank Dodd were out of the state on business. Woodson marked the day with a tour of Jersey City housing projects. An editorial in a Union City newspaper, headlined, "It Didn't Hurt a Bit," wagered that "95 percent of the citizens didn't know the difference."

School for rural leaders

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is sponsoring a National Rural Development Leaders School, to be held in Champaign, Illinois, June 2 through 8. Subsequent conferences are scheduled for later in the West.

The school was set up to provide assistance to elected and appointed state and local officials, and to civic and business leaders involved in development of rural areas. It is designed to help them develop leadership skills, and provide them with information about the Rural Development Act as it relates to planning and financing programs for rural development.

As more black and minority officials take office in small communities eligible for assistance under rural development programs, the Joint Center for Political Studies has taken steps to expand its resources in this area. In March, Pat Mortenson, a consultant to the Joint Center staff, attended a leaders school in Asheville, N.C. There she gathered useful information on rural development problems, public and private resources for funding such programs, and the relationships between the rural and urban development processes.

Tuition and lodging for participants in the Champaign rural leaders school will be paid by the Agriculture Department Rural Development Service. Participants must pay for their own transportation, meals and incidentals. Faculty for the school is selected from leaders in government, business, industry and public interest groups.

For further information and application forms, contact Tom Pugh, Rural Development Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or phone (202) 447-2573.

Revenue sharing suit filed

A LAWSUIT was filed April 5 by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law on behalf of the city of Newark, New Jersey, seeking a court order requiring the Treasury Department to adjust Newark's revenue sharing allocations to reflect the census population undercount. Newark claims it is losing over $435,000 in revenue sharing funds each year because of Treasury's failure to correct for the population undercount, primarily in black areas. The U.S. Bureau of the Census has admitted a big undercount of blacks nationally.

The issue of the impact of the census undercount on revenue sharing allocations was raised by JCPS President Eddie N. Williams in a May 3, 1973, letter to then Treasury Secretary George P. Schultz. Williams' letter pointed out that the revenue sharing act gave Schultz the authority to adjust census data by using estimates so as to produce "equitable allocations". The Treasury Department declined to act on that request, or on a number of other similar requests, including one by the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials. Both the National League of Cities and U.S. Conference of Mayors passed resolutions at their 1973 conventions calling for revenue sharing allocation adjustments to reflect the undercount.

ERRATUM: Two figures in the April *Focus* article, "Mayors lead rise in black officials," were found to be erroneous after recalculation. The state where black elected officials account for the largest percentage of all elected officials is Mississippi, with four per cent. The article stated that that distinction is held by Alabama. Also, both Illinois and Maryland have 19 blacks in their state legislatures. The article mentioned Illinois but not Maryland.

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Joint Center for Political Studies
1426 H Street, N.W., Suite 926
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 638-4477

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