

Legislative Alert

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 7, 1982

Vol. I No. 61

LEG ALERT IS BACK !

* The Senate began its session this morning at 11 A.M. The filibuster of H.R. 5427, the RADIO MARTI bill is continuing. Paul's statement in opposition to Radio Marti appears on Page S. 13923-13924 of the Congressional Record of December 6.

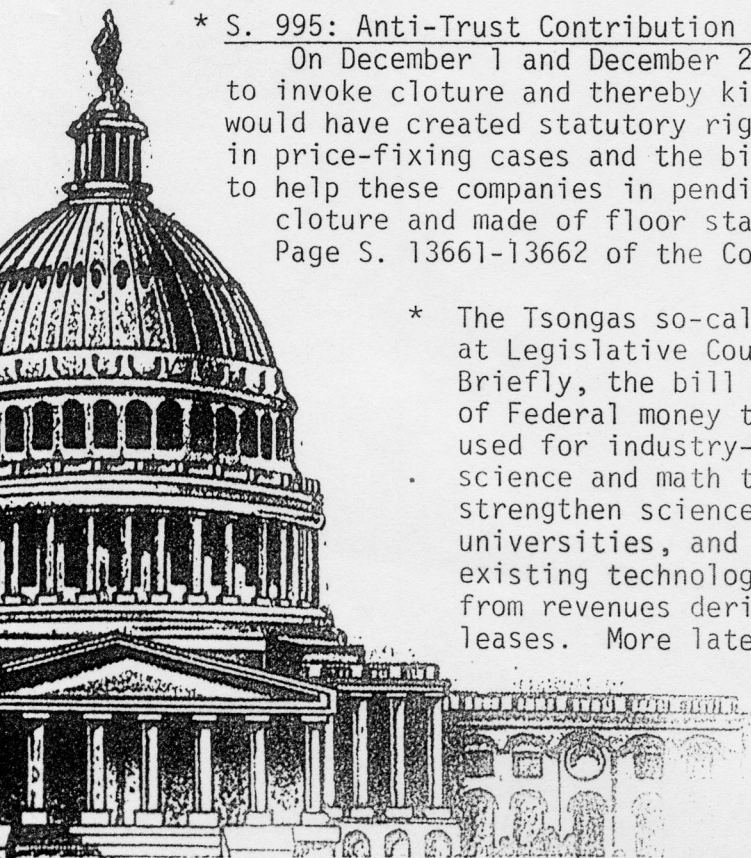
* Other legislation which the Senate may take up this week includes the Housing and Community Development Authorization, the D.C. Appropriations, the Transportation Appropriations Conference Report and the Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report. Also possible are the Treasury-Postal Appropriations, the Energy-Water Appropriations, the Defense Appropriations, and the Highways/Gas-Tax bill. The Senate will, this afternoon, consider a resolution urging the President to declare December 12, 1982, a national day of Solidarity and prayer for the Polish people.

* S. 995: Anti-Trust Contribution Bill

On December 1 and December 2, in two cloture votes the Senate refused to invoke cloture and thereby killed Sen. Thurmond's bill. The bill would have created statutory rights of contribution and claim reduction in price-fixing cases and the bill would have applied retroactively to help these companies in pending anti-trust cases. Paul voted against cloture and made of floor statement which may be found on Page S. 13661-13662 of the Congressional Record of December 1.

* The Tsongas so-called "Hi-Tech Morrill Act" bill is now at Legislative Counsel and should be ready this week. Briefly, the bill provides for one-half billion dollars of Federal money to match private sector and state money used for industry-academic cooperative projects to upgrade science and math teaching in primary and secondary schools, strengthen science and engineering programs at colleges and universities, and retraining and lifelong education of existing technological workers. Federal funds would come from revenues derived from the sale of federal oil and gas leases. More later on this bill.

(-more-)



* Economic Notes

The unemployment rate climbed to 10.8% during November adding additional impetus to jobs proposals being considered during the lame duck session. It appears very likely that a number of amendments to the gasoline tax increase proposed by the President will be offered to increase the numbers employed in public works repair. Forecasters continue to look for signs of economic recovery. Indicators suggest that interest rates may be levelling out in the face of a Federal budget deficit projected to exceed over \$200 billion for FY84.

Legislation

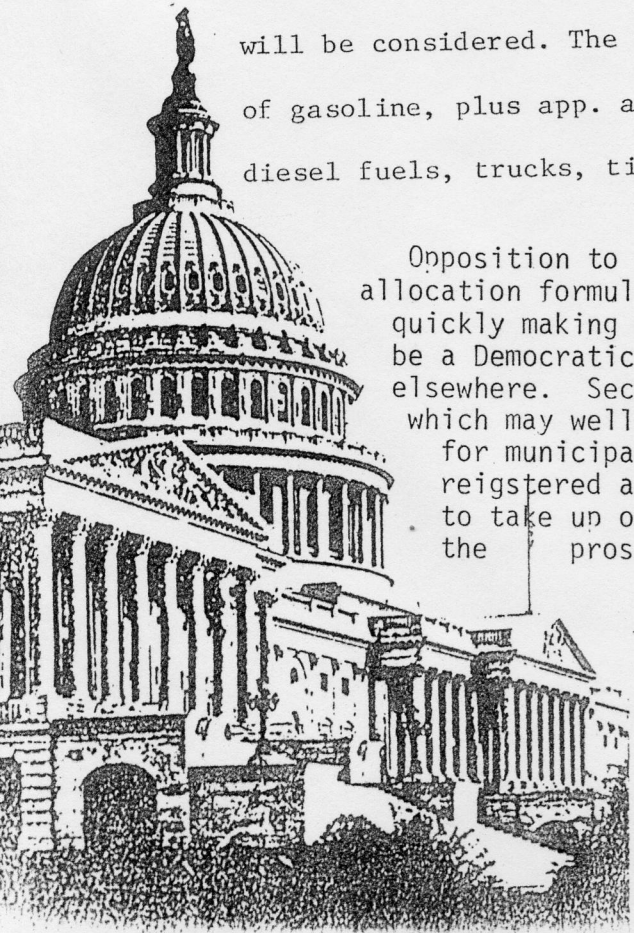
The lame duck session is likely to consider at least two and perhaps three tax measures. First, the gasoline tax proposal proposed by the President will be considered. The proposal calls for a 4¢ increase on each gallon of gasoline, plus app. an additional 1¢ per gallon in other levies on diesel fuels, trucks, tires, and other transportation products.

Opposition to the specific tax measures, as well as the allocation formulae is mounting, but the proposal is moving quickly making opposition difficult to organize. There will be a Democratic alternative offered in the Senate described elsewhere. Second, there will be a technical corrections bill which may well include a delay in the registration requirements for municipality IDBs. Currently, all IDB issues must be registered as of January 1st. There may be sufficient time to take up one additional tax measure in this session but the prospects are uncertain.

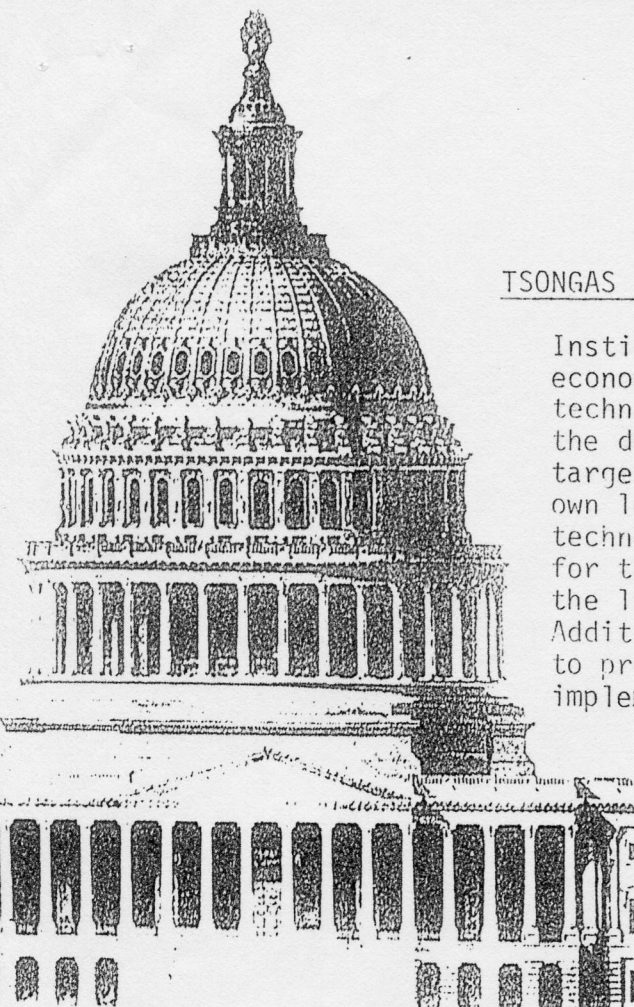
TSONGAS PROPOSALS

PT intends to introduce legislation during the lameduck to conduct a study effort to assess our competitive position in technology development relative to other countries. The study, to be conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the

(-more-)



TSONGAS PROPOSALS (cont)



Institute of Medicine, will identify so-called economically strategic technologies. These are technologies with potentially high economic benefit, the development of which is threatened by the targeted R&D programs of other countries and our own low level of R&D. For each economically strategic technology, a technology development plan is called for that will lay out a course of action for maximizing the likelihood of our development of the technology. Additional funds are authorized to allow the President to propose such spending as may be necessary to implement the plan.

- * Paul will meet with five MX experts on Thursday to discuss the fate of densepack and possible amendments.

- * The Tsongas Afgan Resolution was put off until next week in Committee despite Robert Byrd's calling for it to come to the floor. Sens.

Mathias and Biden have argued that the Resolution would raise unfulfillable expectations among the Afgans.

- * The DOD Appropriations may be on the Senate floor by Thursday. While the bill could be nushed off til the next session to avoid making the MX decision during the lame duck session, signs are that an attempt will be made to pass a DOD Appropriations bill this week.

- * Lowell Park Funding

Senate Appropriations Committee considered the issue of adding funds for Lowell Park and Commission, and made a commitment instead to add the funds in the House bill when the House and Senate meet in conference. Senator Johnston was prepared to offer an amendment for Tsongas adding funds to the bill, but instead announced that he and Chairman McClure had reached an agreement to accept the House levels in conference. The Administration requested zero funding for construction and development for FY 83, and the House added \$3.5 million for this purpose.

Housing Authorization legislation

The Senate expects to take action legislation this week. The major issue (!) is an amendment by Senators Cochran and Cranston to eliminate the rural housing block grant provisions from the bill and replace them with level funding authorizations for existing FmHA programs. The block grant was an administration proposal, which would consolidate and drastically reduce FmHA assistance programs for housing in rural areas. Tsongas supports the level funding amendment. Major issue with Mass. rural groups. It is unclear whether the full House will act on their version of the housing authorization bill, which is \$16 billion over budget, and contains housing production programs. At best, there will be \$10 billion for all housing (production, existing) on the continuing resolution, since this is the ceiling in the budget resolution. Watch this space.

Jobs bill

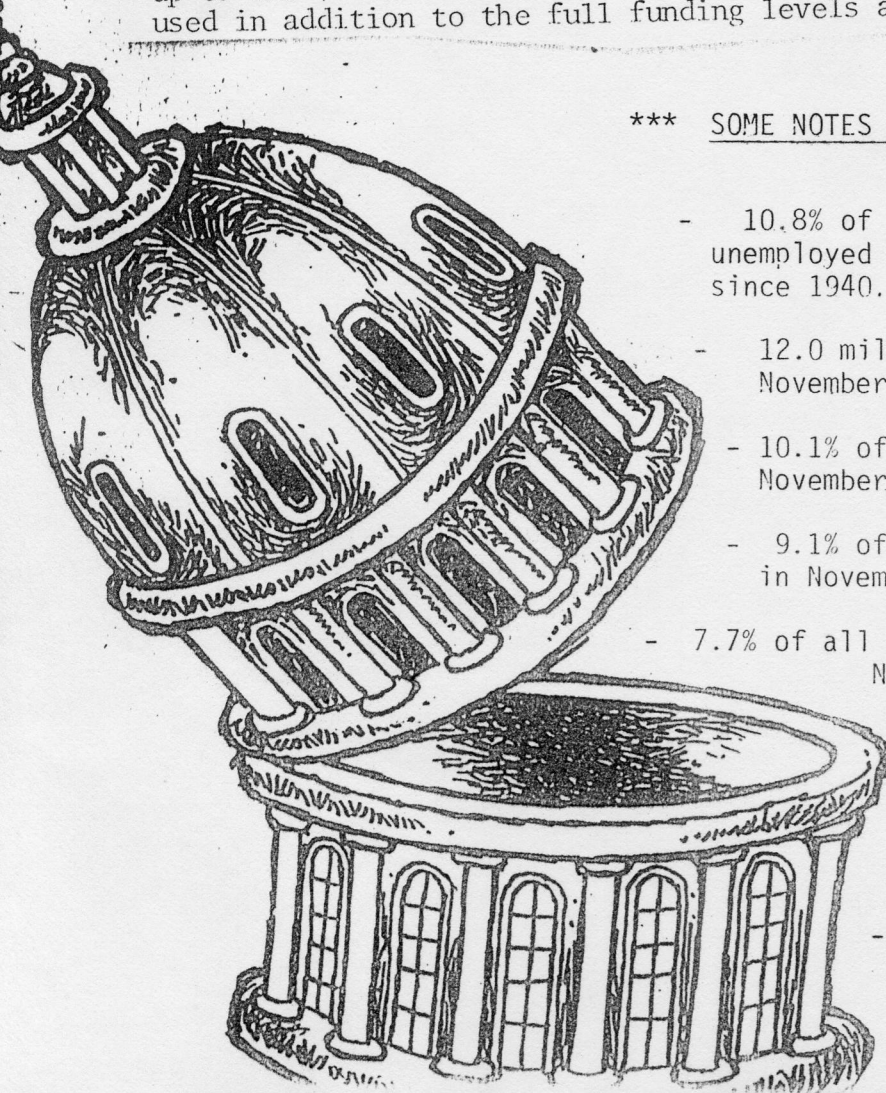
Tsongas and other Democrats joined Moynihan (D-NY) in introducing jobs legislation which significantly differs from the Administration bill. The Moynihan bill would emphasize use of gas tax increase for repair and rehabilitation, rather than for new construction. Also, Moynihan adds an additional \$1 billion for municipal infrastructure repair (water sewer), establishes a public works commission to inventory infrastructure repair needs and commissions a GAO study of a capital budget.

UDAG Troubles

The administration is going to set up a pilot program to decentralize the UDAG decision-making process. Region I (Mass) will probably be selected for the pilot if the plan goes through. This raises many serious issues, including technical capacity of regional office staff, politicization of the UDAG process by giving selection control to Reagan-appointed Regional Administrators, and potential problems in seeking financing from national bank and insurance pools for regionalized program. In addition, OMB Director Stockman has proposed \$157 million in UDAG funding for FY 84. The authorized level is \$440 million, greatly reduced from the Carter years level of \$675 million. Stockman's plan is to use carry over UDAG funds to bring the total pot for FY 84 up to the \$440 million level. In past years, carryover funds have been used in addition to the full funding levels approved for the program.

*** SOME NOTES ON UNEMPLOYMENT

- 10.8% of the civilian labor force was unemployed in November-the highest rate since 1940.
- 12.0 million workers were unemployed in November-the largest number since 1933.
- 10.1% of all adult men were unemployed in November-the highest rate on record.
- 9.1% of all adult women were unemployed in November-the highest rate on record.
- 7.7% of all married men were unemployed in November-the highest rate on record.
- 5.6% of all white collar workers-the highest on record
- 16.5% of all blue-collar-the highest on record
- 9.7% of all Whites; 20.2% of all Blacks- both the highest on record



MEMO

FROM THE EDITOR

PAGE FIVE

This issue of LEG ALERT, the first in several months and probably the last of the 97th Congress contains several special features:

On the following pages is included a guide to "information starting points" which lists a number of sources of useful statistics on a broad range of subjects.

We are also pleased to include the first LEG ALERT OP-ED, which in this issue was written by Legislative Assistant Brenda Wellburn about Social Security and some of the proposals for repairing the problems in the system which will be before the 98th Congress.

The LEG ALERT OP-ED page will be used to give staff the opportunity to discuss a range of issues and share information on matters which might otherwise escape the attention of colleagues. I want to encourage all staffers in Boston as well as in Washington to think about what they might be able to contribute.

- Ed



SOME INFORMATION STARTING POINTS:

● **Agriculture and Food Statistics**

Director, Statistical Reporting Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th and Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250
202-447-2122

● **Economic and Demographic Statistics**

Data User Services Division
Customer Services
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233
301-763-4100

● **Crime Statistics**

Uniform Crime Reporting Section
FBI
U.S. Department of Justice
9th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.,
Room 6212
Washington, D.C. 20535
202-324-5038

● **National, Regional and International Economics**

Bureau of Economic Analysis
U.S. Department of Commerce
Tower Building
Washington, D.C. 20230
202-523-0777

● **Education Statistics**

National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education

Mail Stop 1001
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202
301-436-7900

● **Health Statistics**

National Center for Health Statistics
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
3700 East-West Highway, Room 1-57
Hyattsville, MD 20782
301-436-8500

● **Agricultural Reference Help**

National Agricultural Library
U.S. Department of Agriculture
10301 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-344-3755

—provides published material and research
services on botany, zoology, chemistry,
veterinary medicine, forestry, plant
pathology, livestock, poultry, entomology,
and general agriculture

● **Statistics on Employment, Prices,
Living Conditions, Productivity, and
Occupational Safety and Health**

Bureau of Labor Statistics
U.S. Department of Labor
441 G St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20212
202-523-1239

● **U.S. Import and Export Statistics**

Foreign Trade Reference Room
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230
202-377-2185

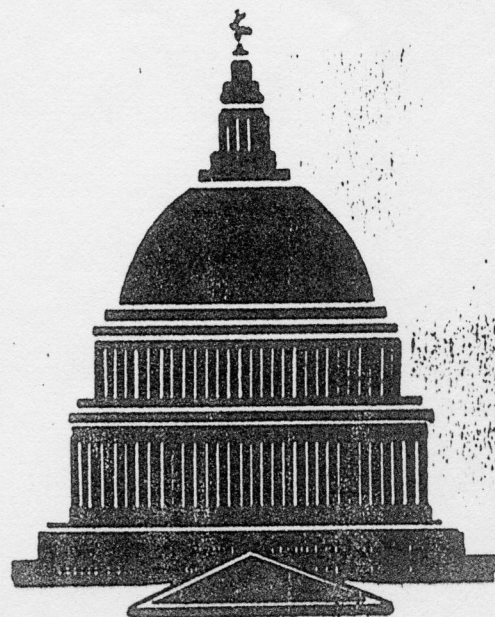
● **World Import and Export Statistics**

World Trade Statistics
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2036
Washington, D.C. 20230
202-377-4855

● **Agriculture Information Clearinghouse**

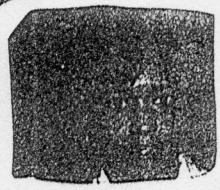
Information Office
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 1-13A Admin. Bldg. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250
202-447-2791

—a staff of research specialists are available
to provide specific answers or point you to an
expert who can help on most any agriculture
related subject.



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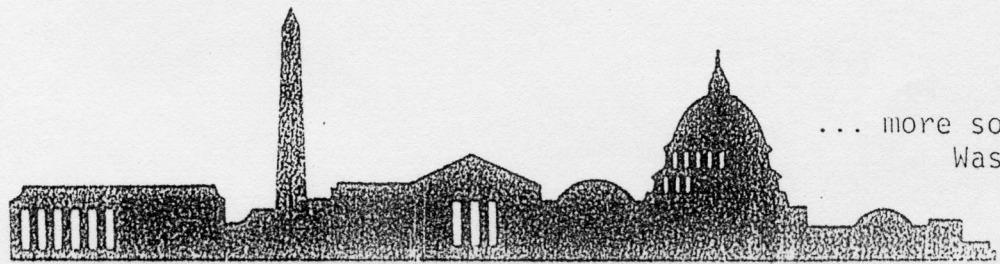
Brenda Wellburn
Legislative Assistant

SOCIAL SECURITY - A MAJOR ISSUE FOR THE 98th CONGRESS

The National Commission on social security will make its final recommendations to the President within the next few weeks. The Commission conducted public meetings in the early part of November and agreed that all its members do not agree on the proposed solutions to shore up the system. There is, however, a consensus on the severity of the problem. Without Congressional intervention, the social security old age and disability trust fund will have a short fall of \$150 to \$200 billion between July of 1983 and 1990.

Although there are several options being considered, there are a few that have surfaced as the ones most likely to be debated in the 98th Congress. Accelerating the payroll tax increase is on the top of Senator Mounihan's list as well as other prominent democrats on the Commission. Social security taxes are scheduled to rise gradually from now until 1990 and this proposal would advance those increases. Changes in the way the cost of living adjustments are calculated is likely to receive serious consideration and including new federal employees and those with less than 5 years of service in the government in the social security system is favored by several members of the Commission.

Additional proposals include changes in the early retirement policy, raising the retirement age, changing the disability program, and providing incentives for older workers to remain in the workforce. Although Paul has not made a final decision on which recommendations he will and will not support, the staff is actively involved in evaluating the various proposals and we believe he can play a constructive roll in this debate.



... more soon from
Washington