

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Legislative Alert

WEEK OF MAY 4,

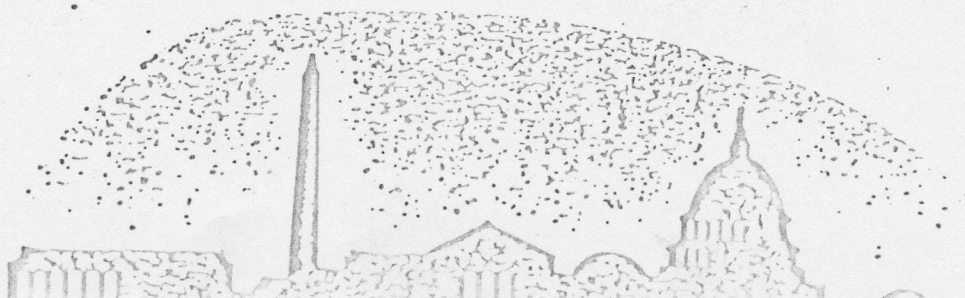
1981

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LEGISLATIVE ALERT WEEKLY BULLETIN ATTACHED

Also available on CMS under file
"WEEKLY"

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Week of May 4, 1981

* Beginning with this week's issue of the LEGISLATIVE ALERT WEEKLY REPORT the text will be placed on the CMS system on Friday. It will be available in Boston to be read on the screen or printed and xeroxed. Update items may appear throughout the week in preparation for the REPORT being ready on Friday.

* The Senate's schedule for next week is still uncertain. The Senate will meet at 11:00 A.M. on Monday.

* Senate Energy Conservation Caucus-

In a joint effort with Sen. Kennedy's office, we have established an informal bipartisan staff level conservation caucus. The group which is over 20 strong exchanges information about cons. programs and politics.

* New England's fastest growing metropolitan areas 1970-1980:

Nashua, N.H.	32.3%
Danbury, CT.	24.6
Manchester, N.H.	21.1
Brockton, MA.	12.5

* The Federal Recreation Fee Report for this year is now available- the report includes recreation fee and visitation information for all seven Federal land managing agencies (inquiries to Public Lands Subcommittee, Tony Bevinetto, 224-5161).

* Paul has cosponsored Senate Amendment No. 38 to S.48, which would separate the Peace Corps from ACTION. The amendment was introduced by Sen. Cranston. Sens. Pell, Mathias, Biden, Sarbanes, Baucus, Kennedy, Dodd, Glenn and Bradley are cosponsors.

* Hearings were held this week on the reauthorization for FY82 for the developmental disabilities programs (Subcommittee on the Handicapped).

* The Veterans Affairs Committee held hearings on legislative proposals to provide readjustment counseling.

* The Special Committee on Aging concluded oversight hearings to examine the Administration's proposals concerning the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and to review existing programs under the Act.

* On April 22, the Senate received the nomination of Vincent Reed of the District of Columbia to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education in the Department of Education. Dr. Reed was formerly the Superintendent of the D.C. Public School System.

* Hearings are scheduled for May 13th before the Senate Small Business Committee on S.881, the Small Business Innovation Act. Paul, although not yet a cosponsor, plans to participate actively on this bill. Field hearings in Boston, co-chaired by Paul and Sen. Rudman are tentatively planned for July.

* Budget Time in the Energy Committee- The new Senate Energy Committee majority have finally figured out what they are going to do with the DOE Authorization. They will mark it up "vaguely". This means it will be marked-up by subfunction numbers only. Solar is thus mixed up in the R&D subfunction and won't be a separate issue. Conservation, however, is broken out and in the Reagan budget is small. It's our intention to offer an amendment to move money out of Energy R&D which includes the Clinch River Breeder Reactor and add it to Conservation in the name of restoring dollars for low income weatherization, state and local programs, industrial conservation, and efficiency R&D. The fate of such an attempt is unknown.

While amendments on specific programs will be discouraged, report language clarifying intent may be possible. We will pursue this to counter the Administration's approach to energy policy.

* Commercial and Multifamily Tax Credit Bill- Mitch and Marty are currently incorporating comments by Massachusetts reviewers. Introduction of the legislation is likely in the next two weeks.

* Ground Water Heat Pumps- A new technology being pursued by several Massachusetts firms, ground water heat pumps, extracts the heat from the 55 degree subsurface water to heat buildings. (Technical details from Mitch if you are interested).

The problem with this technology is that it costs between \$5000 and \$10,000 and is ineligible for tax credits. We've tried to convince IRS to include it- but to no avail. We have drafted a bill to do it and Paul may introduce it in the next couple of weeks.

* Daylight Savings Time- The Cranston-Tsongas bill is no longer alone. Sens. Gorton and Jackson of Washington have introduced a bill to push it up to the last week in March. (Ours is the first week in March.) Gorton is on the Commerce Committee and thus hearings and action are increasingly likely.

* NSF and NASA and the Office of Water Research Technology

Big cuts are expected in science education and social science research. Of course, both areas have big constituencies in Massachusetts. Investment in science and education are critical to addressing underlying economic realities. We are writing to Sen. Schmitt regarding some of the major cuts and will send copies of our letter to constituents who write to Paul on the subject.

NASA cuts have been relatively modest, but strike at much of the space science in order to leave funds for the expensive shuttle. We are running down cuts that affect Massachusetts companies. For details call Norm.

The Office of Water Research Technology is to be eliminated by

the Administration proposal. The office funds \$30 million in research on new water quality and conservation technologies. Many Massachusetts firms are contractors. The Administration thinks that private industry will do it. The big companies in the private sector won't do it unless they feel the competitive and innovative pressure of the small companies which do need the government support. Thus, the large companies are supporting the cut. We oppose the cut.

* Some interesting results from the NBC APRIL NATIONAL POLL:

Reagan's job rating stands at 66% good or excellent, or ten points higher than two months ago.

27% say Reagan has exceeded their expectations. Two-thirds say he is doing about as they expected, and only 5% think he is doing worse than they thought he would.

By a 52% to 42% margin, Americans who say they have heard or read about El Salvador oppose the Reagan Administration's decision to send military advisors.

By about three to one-- 71% to 23% -- the public agrees that the Federal Government has a responsibility to provide certain services, such as medical care and legal advice, for those who cannot afford to pay for them.

* Legal Services Corporation

Paul is now a cosponsor of Sen. Eagleton's bill, S.939, which would fund legal services at \$321.3 million for FY82-- equal to the current funding level for FY81. The bill has been referred to the Senate Subcommittee on Aging, Family, and Human Services of the Labor Committee. Eagleton (ranking minority member on the committee), Metzenbaum, and Weicker have asked Chairman Denton to hold hearings on the bill, but he has thus far refused. The bill will probably be attached as an amendment to another bill on the Senate floor. On the House side, the House Judiciary Committee has completed six days of hearings and will hold mark-up May 4.

* The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, chaired by Sen. John East, will resume hearings on May 20 on a bill (S.158) that would allow states to enact anti-abortion laws.

* The Senate Judiciary Committee continued its hearings today, May 1, on S.114, a bill to establish criteria for the imposition of the death penalty for federal crimes.

* State Department Authorization markup continues on Monday. Sen. Kassebaum has introduced an amendment to cut U.S. assessed contribution to the U.N. by 10%.

* The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution will hold oversight hearings on affirmative action programs on May 4th.

* Sen. Helms continues to hold up the Crocker nomination, preventing it from coming to the Senate floor.

* Major issues for the Foreign Assistance mark-up next week are 1) the Clark Amendment prohibiting U.S. covert military assistance to any group- Angola, 2) the Symington Amendment which

restricts foreign aid to countries developing atomic weapons
 3) Administration requests for big security assistance slush funds
 4) Dodd and Kennedy bills to cut off aid to El Salvador -----
 and more.

* Next week, major economic development issues will be decided in a series of House and Senate mark-ups. Beginning Monday morning, House and Senate Banking Committees will mark up the 1981 Housing bill. On the Senate side, a committee version based on the Administration's proposals will be marked up. During mark-up, Sen. Armstrong will make an effort to incorporate his legislation calling for a moratorium on the Section 8 program. The prediction is that Armstrong will not be successful, and that the Committee will not approve transfer of the Small Cities program to the states. HOWEVER, anything is possible. Watch next week's Legislative Alerts for the latest information. On the House side, the Banking Committee will not use the Administration bill as the mark-up document, but will instead work off the (Subcommittee Chairman) Gonzales bill, which is very different. Gonzales would provide 255,000 assisted housing units (Administration calls for 175,000), \$1.405 billion for public housing operating subsidies (Administration calls for \$1.024 billion--- the difference will be critical to Massachusetts public housing authorities), \$21 million for 701 planning and \$134 million for 312 housing rehabilitation (Administration zeroes out both programs, and makes them eligible for funding under the CDBG program).

* Also next week, as part of the Energy Committee mark-ups, we will attempt to restore funds for the Historic Preservation Fund, but calling for slight across-the-board decreases in Interior programs, providing \$25-30 million in the HPF. There is reason to be optimistic about protecting some level of authorization authority-- Legislative Alerts will report latest developments.

* GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT: The full House Appropriations Committee has approved restoration of the \$8 million which was proposed for rescission from the HPF for this year. This means the entire \$32 million may still be available. The bill must now go to the House floor and then on to the Senate.

***Reminder-- From now on, the Legislative Alert Weekly Reports will be done on the CMS system on Fridays. There might be some updates added during the week-- notification to come in the Legislative Alerts. Any questions or comments, talk to Rich.

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