National Roundup

By Larry Still and Art Carter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Here is what the national budget looks like for funding programs affecting your communities as the President and Congress continue to debate the stopgap measures for a continuing resolution to keep the government operating. According to a National Urban League analysis, the continuing resolution, which was extended to December 13 under the bitter compromise worked out between the White House and Capitol Hill, holds defense spending well below the levels President Reagan has requested, but spending for other programs could be higher than he has requested. However, the general outlook for higher spending for social programs needed for fiscal year 1982 looks bleak, the NUL reports.

Among the Health and Human Services Department programs funded by the current House of Representatives bill (H.R. 4560) are community health centers, health professions education, health block grants, biomedical research, low - income energy assistance, Head Start, and programs serving the elderly. Labor Department programs include youth employment and training, summer youth programs and older Americans' employment.

Most of the funding for Education Department programs is for elementary and secondary education and student assistance such as Pell grants and campus - based grant and loan programs which are still continuing unless vetoed again by the President. If you want continued action on any of these measures or you think Congress should override any Presidential Veto, then contact your representative now . . .

Congress has passed legislation restoring the $122 per month minimum social security benefit for present recipients. The bill reverses an earlier legislative action to totally eliminate this benefit. Under the new bill, H.R. 4331, all those eligible for the minimum benefit before November, 1981, should continue to receive their checks . . .

National Urban League executive vice president John Jacobs and Washington bureau president Maudine Cooper were staff favorites in the running for a successor to retiring president Vernon E. Jordan Jr., but the search committee sought a "big name" outside the organization. Lisle C. Carter, senior vice - president of the NUL Board of Trustees and President of the University of the District of Columbia, chaired the search committee.

Although the Great Society anti - poverty program was finally dessimated with the complete phasing out of the Community Services Administration by the Reagan administration, local anti - poverty programs are still struggling for funds. Washington's United Planning Organization led the effort to strengthen resolutions for improving economic conditions for senior citizens at the recent National White House Conference on Aging. Rachel Hardison coordinated the senior citizen task force for the UPO preliminary conference to organize delegates at the conference . . . and Clavin Fields, director of the Institute of Gerontology at the University of the District, was a national delegate and key organizer of the group.

There are approximately 300,000 permanent, full - time job openings available through State Employment Service Job Banks across the nation each month. This total represents an average of 1,900 openings at each of the 179 Job Banks in the country. Approximately 60 percent of the jobs are filled each month, leaving nearly 150,000 jobs available each month . . . Contact your local USES to see if you qualify for any of the "Occupations in Demand" listed in the Job computers. . . .

The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) is still alive and well with the Labor Department allocation of $2.2 billion to 475 state and local governments to operate job training programs in fiscal year, 1982. These funds will enable states and local governments, acting as CETA prime sponsors to continue such programs as classroom and private sector on - the - job training, work experience and related services for unemployed and underemployed economically disadvantaged persons.

But, the Prometheans veterans organization's career development program for thousands of inner city youth was caught in the Reagonomics budget squeeze and the organization, now headed by Earl Ginyard, is still seeking refunding despite holding successful programs in Maryland, Miami, Memphis and Durham. The veterans are now seeking private support as they plan their annual Nathaniel Stinson Career Awareness Fair at the District of Columbia Armory March 13 - 15 . . . Several major firms, including General Motors, have expressed interest in developing private high school programs for training youths for future technological and industrial careers.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is still leading the demands for a change in U.S. State Department policy toward Haitian refugees following the latest tragic drowning of migrants seeking to reach American shores off the coast of Florida. Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D - NY.) has been leading the demand for a full hearing on the tragedy in Congress . . . SCLC President, Rev. Joseph E. Lowery also broke ground for an unusual inner city redevelopment project — the rehabilitation of an old junior high school building into a housing complex for the low - income elderly residents.

The historic Shaw Junior High School will undergo a $6.4 million renovation to create 147 housing units with space for community services. The project's community sponsor, elected by SCLC, is the Asbury United Methodist Church through the non-profit corporation Asbury Swellings, Inc., and the completed project will be called Asbury Dwellings. Washington Mayor Marion Barry Jr. and Congressional Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy (D - DC.), SCLC board chairman, attended the dedication of the building which could become a model for many cities under the Federal Section 202 program.

The African Heritage Studies Association honored Drs. Vincent Harding, Barbara Sizemore and Nancy Arnez at a Book Party Tribute to Three Black Scholars" recently at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem . . . Speakers included Drs. John H. Clarke, Charsee McIntyre and Len Jeffries . . . The association has issued its first call for papers for its fourteenth annual conference in New Orleans, next April 21 - 24.

Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc., has stepped up its program of bringing visitors from the continent to tour the U.S. under new executive director Jerome M. Vogel . . . Approximately 75 journalists and communicators from West and East Africa have visited here this year . . . The New York - New Jersey - Connecticut Alumni are establishing a $2,500 Rev. James H. Robinson Scholarship Fund in memory of the founder . . .

Minneapolis advertising executive Tommy Tipton turned the Reynolds Aluminum Gospelfest at Howard University into a family affair when he came back home to help promote the firm's Recipe's "Your Mama" cookbook. The program featured Tipton's mother, popular gospel radio broadcaster Lucille Banks Robinson, who commanded that he join her on stage in song . . . The gospelfests have become so popular in DC., Memphis and Atlanta, that the company is considering making the project an annual affair.

Television Producer Topper Carew, creator of the TV series "The Righteous Apples," a TV series on urban life in Boston, held his annual Capitol Hill bash for the program's supporters as the legislative crowd all posed with apples stuffed in their mouths . . . Topper has moved his Rainbow TV Works from Boston to Hollywood . . . The show is distributed by the Public Broadcasting System on your educational station . . .

In Chicago, Chicago broker John W. Rogers is urging friends and associates to invest in the stock market despite depressed conditions . . . "It is unfortunate that many people, even professionals, have been afraid to get involved in the market . . . Actually you can make money in bad markets if you make careful choices," says Rogers, the son of Judge John W. Rogers Sr., and Atty. Jewel Rogers Lafontant . . .