



Update Appalachia

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SCOTT APPEARS BEFORE SENATE AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES

On February 28, Robert W. Scott, Federal Cochairman, appeared before the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees of the Public Works Committees to present the 1979 Budget request.

SCOTT MEETS WITH APPALACHIAN CONGRESSMEN

Robert W. Scott and Leonard E. Schwartz, States' Washington Representative, have scheduled breakfast meetings with Appalachian Senators and Congressmen to take place on Capitol Hill on March 21-22.

ARC RESPONDS TO HEALTH CARE CRISIS

ARC has been monitoring clinics and hospitals affected by the coal strike. The subsequent suspension of health benefits now plagues many miners and their families. The Commission is using some of its own resources (up to \$2 million) and is working with HEW and EDA to assist these hospitals and clinics with Rural Health Initiatives (\$2.6 million) and Title IX funds.

APPALACHIAN GOVERNORS APPEAR IN SUPPORT OF 1979 BUDGET

On April 3, several Appalachian Governors will testify before Appropriations Subcommittees of the Public Works Committees in the House and the Senate to support the ARC 1979 budget request. The Governors will call for increased revenues for the child development program extended by Congress last fall and for additional federal support for the Appalachian development highway system. The Governors will also urge extension of ARC's enabling legislation.

APRIL COMMISSION MEETING

On April 19, Governor Cliff Finch of Mississippi will host a Commission meeting in Mississippi. The agenda will include consideration of state investment programs for FY 1978 and ARC extension legislation.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT ACT

The Administration submitted its Highway and Public Transportation Improvement Act of 1978 (H.R. 10578) to the Congress for approval. The bill would increase the amount of federal aid to non-Interstate highways and would include 80 percent for funding the Appalachian Development Highway System.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
FOR CHILD
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

An amendment to the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1966 to extend financial support for certain child development programs beyond the statutory five-year limit became law on November 18, 1977. This amendment will prevent the closure of many child development centers and help them achieve self-sufficiency. P.L. 95-153 will provide Governors and the Commission with the authority to support child development projects that cannot obtain other federal or state assistance due to administrative or regulatory barriers. The amendment also mandates a joint study with DHEW to consider the problems of achieving independence from ARC funds.

AGRICULTURE
CONFERENCE TO BE
HELD

Robert Scott announced that designees from the Appalachian states will gather at the Commission offices in Washington on March 16 and 17 to discuss ARC involvement with the small farmer. The participants will consider whether an ARC agricultural policy will have a salutary effect on the Region and whether new programs can be devised under existing legislative authorities.

DAVID, KENTUCKY, HAS
A NEW WATER SYSTEM

"The David Voice," a community newsletter in David, Kentucky, recently commented on the community's new water system, built with an ARC Section 214 grant:

"Many people have expressed their feelings about the new water system since its beginning on December 10, 1977. Only a couple of people have expressed concern over the rates and many more have expressed gratitude for the new system. Mostly it was disbelief--being able to go to the kitchen sink and get a drink of water or not having to take the water jugs when you went to town.

"In the past, people had complained about their clothes turning to a beige color and not being able to drink the water even though it was being treated with chlorine."

NEW PROJECTS FOR
SATELLITE EDUCATION

The Appalachian Educational Satellite Program, funded by the National Institute of Education through the Appalachian Regional Commission, is providing a program of continuing education courses and workshops to help meet the needs of residents of Appalachia. The satellite broadcasts throughout the Appalachian Region. Graduate courses include: Teaching the Young Handicapped Child: An Overview and Simple Gifts; Teaching the Gifted and Talented. In addition, a series of 30 workshops will be broadcast this year concerning such diverse areas as the arts, aging, home energy conservation and allied health.

1978 LDD
CONFERENCE

The Annual Local Development District Conference will be held June 5-7 in Washington, D. C. Board members and staffs of the 69 Appalachian districts, along with state and federal officials, will meet at the Sheraton Park Hotel. The 1978 conference will be cosponsored by the Development District Association of Appalachia and the ARC.

3 SPRING HOUSING
CONFERENCES IN
APPALACHIA

S-95, an interagency committee on low-income housing, is sponsoring a Regional Workshop on Quality Housing Environment for Rural Low Income Families in Knoxville, Tennessee, on March 20-22. For further information, contact Charles Hayes at ARC (202) 673-7845.

The League of Women Voters of Kingsport, Tennessee, is sponsoring an Inter-League Conference, "Housing in Appalachia," in Kingsport on April 11-13. For further information, contact Alice Payne, 813 Kendricks Creek Road, Kingsport, TN 37663.

The Committee for Public Church Interface in Housing and Community Development in Appalachia is sponsoring "Housing Stewardship and Creative Cooperation," a conference and visitation to six project sites in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee, May 10-11. Robert Scott and Alex Mercure, Assistant Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, are among those expected to attend. For further information, contact HEAD Corporation, P. O. Box 68, Berea, KY, 40403.

RURAL WOMEN

ARC cosponsored the First National Rural American Women's Leadership Conference. The Washington conference, led by 60 rural leaders, included members of Congress, federal officials, and representatives from national farm and rural organizations. The speakers included Harry Teter, Jr., ARC Executive Director, and Nancy Lane, health analyst for the Commission.

APPALACHIA
CONTINUES
TO GROW

In mid-1977, Appalachia's population reached 19.3 million, according to 1977 provisional estimates of state populations. The Region grew 6 percent between 1970 and 1977, just below the national average (6.4 percent). However, growth did vary in the individual subregions during this period: Northern Appalachia increased 2 percent to an estimated 9.9 million people. Central Appalachia gained 14 percent, reaching 2.0 million, while Southern Appalachia increased 10 percent to 7.4 million people.

Between 1970 and 1976, Appalachia included 8.95 percent of the national population, but accounted for 8.6 percent of the total population growth, 8.7 percent of U. S. births, 9.9 percent of U. S. deaths, and thus only 7 percent of natural increase in the nation. However, a high net immigration rate (2.1 percent) compared to the national rate (1.5 percent) compensated in part for this low rate of natural increase. Since 1970, net outmigration continued in Northern Appalachia (though less than the rates in the 1960s), while substantial net immigration was evident in the other two subregions.

HUNT SPONSORS
CONFERENCE

Governor James B. Hunt of North Carolina, States' Cochairman of the ARC, will host a conference this fall, "Raising a New Generation in Appalachia." Hunt hopes this meeting will set the tone for his administration as States' Cochairman.

NATURAL HAZARDS
REPORT

The Commission has responded to a mandate from Congress to examine the regional implications of federal flood insurance and the National Disaster Assistance Act. The report makes recommendations regarding options for flood plain development, and suggests policies that reduce the potential for natural hazards. The report is under review and will be available in upcoming months.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Appalachia: Goals, Objectives and Development Strategies" details a regional plan for Appalachia and is an effort to develop a comprehensive policy and program. It may be obtained from the Publications Division at (202) 673-7835.
- The "Areawide Action Program Handbook" describes the process a local development district (LDD) can use to make decisions and pool resources to attack its problems and initiate new programs. It may be obtained from the Publications Division at (202) 673-7835.
- "Guidelines for Community Industrial Energy Management" is available at the Commission in Washington, and is designed to enable local capabilities to solve local energy problems and particularly in the industrial sector. Limited copies are available for distribution. Please contact Jack Campbell at (202) 673-7861.