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To gain new Clout
Citizen Groups Use State Law

By Fred Cooper

Progress in Mississippi
States Act to Ease Heating Crisis

by Michael Freedberg and Deborah Murphy

This season’s political football has been how to help low-income families and the elderly cope with the high price of heating their homes. Major battles have occurred across the country as legislatures and governors debated the extent of the problem, and how best to meet the need. As a result, a number of important state initiatives were developed to augment existing federal aid which many believe to be far too little, too late.

While not all are operational, the level of benefit range from $8 a month in Louisiana to a $400 grant in Massachusetts. Most of the programs provide between $100 and $200 in assistance utilizing vendor payments, two-party checks, direct grants, utility bill reductions or credits, and state income tax credits. In all, a third of the states have special assistance programs for the elderly and poor families. Notable examples of state action this winter, either through special legislative sessions or administrative initiatives, include:

* New York. The New York State Legislature broke a long deadlock with the Governor when, in a special legislative session, it override gubernatorial vetoes to enact two major bills. The first creates a $225 million State Energy Crisis Assistance Program which enables people faced with utility cutoffs to receive a grant of from $100 to $200 each. The grants are only available to those who have received no other emergency assistance, and whose income is within 300 percent of the federal poverty level—$13,400 for a family of four. Special services to assist the elderly in applying for the benefits are also provided.

The second bill creates an Energy Assistance Credit allowing a $15 income tax credit to households whose annual income is under $14,000 with elderly members 60 or over. In addition, a fuel sales tax exemption was enacted effective October 1, 1980.

* Massachusetts. A bill recently signed into law by the Governor after some controversy, makes many of the state’s elderly and poor families eligible for up to $400 per recipient in state fuel assistance. Fifteen million dollars was appropriated to aid those families whose incomes are between 125 and 150 percent of federal guidelines.

* Connecticut. In an atmosphere of relative harmony, a special session of the state legislature passed a comprehensive set of initiatives including: $27 million in grants to both low-income households not eligible for federal assistance and households with incomes of up to 175 percent of the poverty level; elderly members; state government energy conservation loan fund; municipal energy ‘action grants’ and rehabilitation loans for buildings threatened with landlord abandonment; emergency assistance for group homes, housing authorities, and municipalities; and regulations restricting dealer fuel shutoffs in multifamily units.

* Maine. Because 90 percent of all homes in the state use home heating oil, a special legislative session was called to respond to the dramatic increase in home heating oil costs. A $3.5 million low-income assistance program was adopted which provides $100 per homeowner and $50 for renter households in the form of vendor payments. While this aid represents a healthy addition to limited federal payments, the program falls far short of a comprehensive plan proposed by the Maine Energy Coalition of Elderly and Low Income Person. That group’s plan included a short term program of assistance to all 90,000 households in the state at or below 125 percent of federal poverty guidelines; well above energy subsidies; short term loans for fuel oil dealers; regulatory protection of low-income households; a ban on utility cutoffs; and restrictions on customer service charges.

Longer term recommendations by the Coalition include: a voluntary fuel oil set aside by the state; conversion to kerosene and other alternative fuels; a woodlot program; comprehensive electric rate reform; the creation of a consumer protection agency, and a state bond-financed weatherization program.

The full program, a possible model for other states, is available from Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., Box 2429, Augusta, ME 04330.

* Minnesota. In what could have been the most notable state action this year, the Minnesota legislature drafted a plan early this winter to allocate $67.7 million of the state surplus to provide emergency energy assistance to the state’s poor and elderly. The program would have assisted households with incomes of up to 187.5 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Conference Energy Project has just completed a comprehensive review and analysis of state and local energy emergency assistance programs. While flawed, these programs represent an important step forward for local governments. For copies, write: Energy Project, The Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies, 4th Floor, 3000 Florida Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Economic Development

Survey Reveals Alternative Pension Fund Investments

by Tom Devine

Preliminary findings of a pension fund survey of 12 states with progressive investment policies, conducted by the Economic Development Project of the Conference, challenge the long held axiom that pension funds must sacrifice profit to invest in socially beneficial alternatives. The five states which have responded so far (Alaska, Kentucky, North Dakota, Hawaii, and Oregon), all either have, or are planning, profitable in-state socially beneficial investments. Many of the investments outperformed common stocks, the traditional pension fund staple. Alaska’s home mortgages and small business portfolio returned 5% more, on an adjusted rate of return, than its common stock. Kentucky reported that multi-unit project mortgages earned 7.5% and single family mortgages produced 6.3% in 1978 compared to a 4.6% rate of return for common stocks. Similarly in Oregon, home mortgages earned 9% in 1978 compared to 7% for common stocks.

Both Oregon and Hawaii report that they have financed thousands of home mortgages without a single default. Finally, North Dakota reports plans to profitably invest in solar energy development.

Another important survey finding is that four out of the five states reporting allow members to elect their own representatives to pension fund governing boards. In two states, Kentucky and North Dakota, members elect a majority of the board. These elected positions could become an avenue for changing pension fund investment patterns if progressive candidates could win seats.

The Conference will release a resource packet in the next few months with the final survey results, model testimony, a memo on legal barriers to alternative investments and a model state statute.

For more information contact: Bahchis, Conference Economic Development Project.
Women in the Economy

Low Wage Workers Make Change

Legislative Initiatives

- **Fair Minimum Wage Act**
  - Would increase the federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $15.00 per hour in 2022
  - Phased-in over 5 years

- **Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**
  - Ensures eligible employees are entitled to take unpaid, job-protected leave
  - Covers birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child
  - Provides up to 12 weeks of leave

- **Paid Sick Time Act**
  - Requires employers to provide paid sick time
  - Protects workers from retaliation

- **Equal Pay Act**
  - Prohibits employers from paying men more than women for the same work

- **Pay Transparency Act**
  - Requires employers to disclose wages to applicants and employees

- **Temporary Domestic Worker Act**
  - Provides financial assistance and comprehensive benefits

- **Women's Rights Act**
  - Guarantee equal access to quality healthcare
  - Protects against gender discrimination

- **Childcare Expansion Act**
  - Creates new childcare programs
  - Increases the availability of childcare

- **Higher Education Act**
  - Increases access to higher education
  - Provides student loan forgiveness

- **Affordable Housing Act**
  - Expands affordable housing options
  - Reduces homelessness

- **Family Care Act**
  - Supports family care
  - Provides care services for family members

- **CARES Act**
  - Provides economic relief to individuals and families
  - Supports small businesses

- **Child Nutrition Act**
  - Ensures access to healthy meals for children
  - Promotes child nutrition programs

- **National Service Act**
  - Expands opportunities for national service
  - Promotes community service

- **Healthy Workplaces Act**
  - Establishes standards for workplace health and safety
  - Protects against occupational illnesses

- **Employee Protection Act**
  - Provides workers with legal protections
  - Protects against unfair discharge

- **Environmental Justice Act**
  - Protects against environmental discrimination
  - Promotes clean air and water

- **Data Privacy Act**
  - Protects against data breaches
  - Ensures data privacy

- **Voting Rights Act**
  - Ensures free and fair elections
  - Protects against voter suppression

- **Economic Security Act**
  - Provides economic stability
  - Protects against financial insecurity

- **Women's Economic Security Act**
  - Supports women's economic growth
  - Provides economic stability for families

- **Mental Health Act**
  - Provides access to mental health services
  - Protects against mental health discrimination

- **Reproductive Rights Act**
  - Protects reproductive rights
  - Ensures access to safe and legal abortion

- **Gender Identity Act**
  - Protects against gender identity discrimination
  - Provides legal protections for transgender individuals

- **Age Discrimination Act**
  - Protects against age discrimination
  - Ensures fair treatment for older workers

- **Disability Access Act**
  - Provides access to public accommodations
  - Protects against discrimination based on disability

- **Immigrant Rights Act**
  - Protects against discrimination based on immigration status
  - Provides legal protections for immigrants
The conference focuses on recovering policies in recent years. The conference covers various topics including tax laws, economic trends, and policy impacts. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with experts and policymakers to discuss the latest developments in the field. The conference aims to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration among professionals and researchers in the area of natural resource taxation.
The future reduced the number of Democratic seats to Congress in the November 1980 elections. The result was further the present small number of Democratic members of Congress and the political power of the political voice of the large cities in setting national policy. The political voice of the large cities is setting national policy.

The political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters and the political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters. The political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters. The political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters. The political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters. The political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters. The political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters. The political direction of an army of progressive issue fighters.
Announcing

The conference will focus on four broad policy areas:

- Human Services
- Environment
- Energy
- Security

The conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, on July 18/19, 1980.

For more information, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Tel: 412-396-6000
Fax: 412-396-6090

Regulatory Reform Committee

The conference is a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on regulatory reform.

The conference will feature presentations on:

- The impacts of regulatory reform on the economy
- The role of regulatory agencies in promoting innovation
- The effectiveness of regulatory reform in promoting economic growth

The conference will also include a panel discussion on the future of regulatory reform.

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Looking for the latest in energy regulations?

In addition to the information on page 12 about the energy regulations for the new building codes and standards, the conference also offers a session on the latest developments in energy conservation and efficiency. Attendees will be able to learn about new technologies and practices that can help reduce energy consumption and costs. The conference will also feature workshops and panel discussions on the role of government and industry in promoting energy efficiency and sustainability.

Registration Form

Name and Title of Registrant

Phone Number

Address

City

State

Zip

Registration Fee: $80

Make checks payable to the conference.

Accommodations

Due to limited space, accommodations are not included in the registration fee. Please make arrangements directly with the hotel of your choice. The conference will provide a list of recommended hotels.

Cancellation Policy

Refunds will be issued for cancellations received in writing by June 15, 2023. No refunds will be given after this date.

Additional Information

For more information, please contact the conference organizers at info@energyconference.com or 555-123-4567.
A MODEL FOR OTHER STEPS

Michigan’s Anti-Recession Fund

Initiated by Michiganans for a New Economy

SOLIDARITY ECONOMY STRATEGIES

1. Localize demand: provide a market for local goods and services
2. Decentralize production: reduce dependency on global supply chains
3. Diversify economic activity: promote a range of industries and businesses
4. Strengthen community ties: foster social and economic connections

GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

1. Increase public investments: fund infrastructure and social programs
2. Provide direct economic relief: aid individuals and businesses
3. Support innovation: encourage technological advancements and new ideas
4. Promote education and training: develop skills for the future

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

1. Organize for change: mobilize collective action against economic policies
2. Build cooperative enterprises: create self-sufficient businesses
3. Support local farmers: purchase produce directly from farms
4. Advocate for policy change: push for legislation that benefits communities

THE FUTURE IS POSSIBLE

By working together, we can build a sustainable and equitable economy for all.

Michiganans for a New Economy
The New York Experience

NEW APPROACHES TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF HOUSING

By Alvin Tressler
Scared of Workshops? Don’t be — national workshops announced!

Economic trends in the agricultural sector can be confusing for farmers and agricultural businesses. With the help of national workshops, farmers can learn new skills and business strategies to increase productivity and profitability. The workshops cover a range of topics from crop management to marketing and sales. Participants will receive information on the latest research and best practices in the industry.

To learn more, visit our website or contact your local extension agent. Attend one of the upcoming workshops today and take your business to the next level.
Super Planning For The 80s & Beyond
Energy Futures ’87
Consider Local Alternative
National Conference to
For Progressives ’86
Economy: New Challenge
Shift to Service Sector
E

Energy Cooperatives
Local Governments Aid

In This Issue...

Neighborhoods ’86
Utilities Develop

"Ways & Means"
Safe and Local Policies
Conference on Alternative

Resources
Neighborhoods Come Of Age

Superintendent's View

Inside Your Magazine
State Support for Energy-Co-ops: A Growing Role for City and County Governments
Chapter 5: From the Cod

Capital Mobility and the Service Sector

Shift to the Service Sector

Local Alternative Energy Futures

December 11, 1998

by Crowne Kenny

Energy
Resources

Agriculture

Innovative Policies For Funding Environment Programs
New Federal Resources

By Chris Noyes

Election Results Muddy Policy Waters

The party advocates of the two major parties have had a tough time trying to marketed their policies during the election season. With the results now in, it appears that both parties will have to make some changes to their agendas in order to better appeal to the electorate.

Some of the key issues that came up during the election campaign were economy, healthcare, and climate change. The Democratic Party made a strong push for universal healthcare, while the Republican Party focused on lowering taxes and reducing government spending. The outcome of the election will likely have a significant impact on how the country tackles these issues in the coming years.

Overall, the election results have shown that the American electorate is increasingly concerned with the state of the economy and the cost of living. This will likely shape the political landscape for years to come.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TAXES

Ohio—Ohio’s “Fair Tax Initiative” would have reduced taxes by replacing a flat income tax with a progressive, broad-based tax on personal income and consumption. The measure was defeated in November 2015.

Nebraska—A constitutional amendment to allow for the sale of financial products based on oil and gas revenues was approved by voters.

Missouri—Missouri voters defeated a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed the states to allow for the sale of financial products based on oil and gas revenues.

Michigan—A proposal to increase the state sales tax by one percentage point to fund school infrastructure and programs was approved by voters.

Massachusetts—A proposal to increase the state sales tax by one percentage point to fund school infrastructure and programs was approved by voters.

New Hampshire—A proposal to increase the state sales tax by one percentage point to fund school infrastructure and programs was approved by voters.

New York—A proposal to increase the state sales tax by one percentage point to fund school infrastructure and programs was approved by voters.

Colorado—A proposal to increase the state sales tax by one percentage point to fund school infrastructure and programs was approved by voters.

Washington—Voters approved a proposal to increase the state sales tax by one percentage point to fund school infrastructure and programs.

VOTING RIGHTS

Washington D.C.—Frustrated by the reluctance of state legislatures to adopt the D.C. Full Voting Rights Amendment, residents approved an initiative to hold a constitutional referendum directly involving Congress for statehood.

North Dakota—A constitutional amendment to allow for the sale of financial products based on oil and gas revenues was approved by voters.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

This DOE Office of Conservation and Renewable Energy is a clearinghouse for information on conservation and renewable energy programs. The office provides a comprehensive database of current conservation and renewable energy programs and projects throughout the United States. The database includes information on conservation and renewable energy programs, projects, and initiatives, as well as links to resources and organizations that support conservation and renewable energy efforts. The database is updated regularly to ensure that it provides up-to-date information on conservation and renewable energy programs and projects.