



NEWSLETTER

STATE LEGISLATURE BEGINS '73 SESSION

A record number of new legislators (over 80) and a near record number of proposed bills filed (over 7000) are indications that this will be a busy and significant year on Beacon Hill. Although the press has emphasized spending and reorganization as major issues, many more interesting issues also await debate. Despite a formal start on Jan. 3, it will be several weeks before most bills are assigned numbers and hearing dates. CPPAX has already begun analyzing the Election Law, Taxation, Social Welfare, and Environmental bills, some of which were filed or co-sponsored by our committees. Volunteers are needed to expand this effort immediately. The next Newsletter will include a list of hearing dates and other information as available.

CPPAX STATE ASSEMBLY

One of the most important innovations adopted in the new CPPAX Charter is a representative State Assembly, charged with responsibility for questions of "policy and priority" between annual conventions. The system approved at the December Convention provides for the following: Every local community or chapter is entitled to representation on the basis of 1:20 paid members. Voting strength will be based directly on the number of local paid members. For example, a community with anywhere from 3 to 39 paid members will have one representative who will cast a total of votes corresponding to the exact number of local paid members. A group with 47 paid members has 2 representatives; and will cast 47 votes on any particular question. Since the Assembly is designed to assure that every chapter has a direct voice in CPPAX affairs, it is important that this body be established promptly. The first Assembly meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17. Every current CPPAX member is eligible to serve and must be given an opportunity to vote on these local representatives. Local meetings called for this purpose can also be used to discuss coordination of peace activities (see enclosure), upcoming town elections, methods of expanding membership in the community, involvement with state and federal legislation, and any other topics of interest (e.g., election of local group officers). The state office can assist in calling such meetings by providing an up-to-date list of paid members, by helping to produce notices, by putting you in touch with others in your town if there is no organized group, by getting you a speaker or quantities of literature or member applications, or anything else of use. Call Caroline Stouffer or Dick Cauchi at 426-3040.

PEACE ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

More than 150 activists from across the state converged on the CPPAX state office on Thursday, Dec. 28, for a meeting of the peace action committee. Though a variety of actions were discussed, the group agreed that the resources of CPPAX could be best devoted to organizing a statewide campaign to pressure Massachusetts Congresspeople to legislate an immediate end to the war in Indochina. Local groups are planning a comprehensive program including public meetings and petitions as well as letters, phone calls, telegrams, and visits to Congressional offices. Senator Brooke and Congressmen Cronin and O'Neill were selected for special attention. If you are not aware of what is happening in your area, call Bob Schaeffer at the CPPAX office (426-3040) for details.

Although the CPPAX Peace Action Committee decided to concentrate its efforts on Congress, the group also voted to endorse "all other responsible activities to end the war". The enclosed sheet lists the major events in the next few weeks.

The Executive Board of CPPAX also sent a letter to each member of the Mass. delegation calling upon each member "to take direct responsibility for immediately terminating all U.S. involvement in the Indochina War. Voting for policy resolutions is not enough. You must personally take the leadership in initiating fund cut-off legislation, lobbying your colleagues from other states and forcing a rapid floor vote. Anything less is complicity in the horrors our nation is now perpetrating."

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

When the 93rd Congress convened on Jan. 3, it faced one of the gravest constitutional crises in the nation's history. Not only was the U.S. military still engaged in the terror bombing of Indochina (contrary to the policy expressed by Congress) but the President was attacking the fundamental principles of separation of powers by withholding authorized funds and threatening to use his so-called "discretionary powers" to mould the nation to his image. Yet, in its tradition-minded way, Congress devoted its opening days to ceremony, political in-fighting and publicity-seeking. Little of substance should be expected for the next few weeks.

While both House and Senate Democrats did vote policy resolutions supporting a fund cut-off, it is highly unlikely that the issue will come to a floor vote until mid-February, since bills must first pass through committees, and committees will not be established until around Inaugural Day. The bill that seems to be emerging as the consensus "dove" position is one that Cong. Koch (D-NY) will introduce which provides for an immediate halt to the bombing and a 30-day withdrawal of all U.S. forces pending the release of American P. O. W. 's. In the Senate, Ed Brooke is advancing a similar bill with a 60-day fund cut-off provision. Cong. Harrington has decided to make use of a little used section of the House rules to force an early test vote on the war. He will introduce a "Resolution of Inquiry" which calls upon the President to submit to Congress a detailed accounting of the recent bombing raids, including costs, casualties and the intelligence reports of supposed "enemy" buildups on which the bombing raids were said to be based. House rules require that a Resolution of Inquiry be reported by a committee within 7 days. This could bring about a vote as early as the end of January.

Once Congress is organized, February looms as a particularly busy and important month. In addition to trying to legislate an end to the war, Congress must deal with funding for Health, Education and Welfare; Labor; and Foreign Affairs, all of which run out of appropriations on Feb. 28. As bills are filed, this Newsletter will try to present an up-to-date summary.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, AND FUND-RAISING

Slightly over 15% of the membership has already renewed. This is encouraging, since the recent holidays, peace actions, community activities, etc. are all making urgent and equally legitimate demands on our time and financial resources. If you are not among those who have renewed, we hope you will take a minute now to fill out the form sent with the last Newsletter and mail it in. The operation of the state office is depending on a steady flow of membership renewal funds while serious fund-raising efforts get into high gear, and the continued support of past members is vital. Since membership is based on a calendar year, dues are payable now.

A program of fund-raising for CPPAX has been initiated: Harry Silverman from Brookline and former Executive Secretary of the Newton Coalition for New Politics, has been added to the staff and will concentrate solely on fund-raising activities. Anyone interested in helping him should contact him at the state office.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS MEETING

A meeting of all CPPAX members and friends interested or involved with ecology and the environment will be held SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 at 2 pm at the state office at 11 South Street in Boston (across from South Station). The agenda includes state and federal legislative priorities, action programs, election of committee officers. For information, contact: Cathy Meyer, 9 Luther Rd., Burlington 01803 (272-5170).

Peace in Vietnam ??

CPPAX is, of course, pleased that some sort of truce agreement has been reached, even though the same terms could have been accepted by the U.S. months ago, and, some believe, as far back as 1954. However, we are disappointed that the treaty leaves open a number of major points, including continued U.S. military aid to the Thieu dictatorship; political prisoners in South Vietnam; the level of post-war reconstruction aid to Indochina; and the continued presence of U.S. military forces in Thailand. Clearly, the Congress must address itself to these issues, as well as those of preventing U.S. re-intervention and how to deal with the question of amnesty. These are areas in which the members of the Massachusetts delegation can and should take the leadership. Constituent pressure is even more important now, since the temptation in Congress is to assume that the war is now history.

The U.S. 1974 Fiscal Budget

The federal budget is generally the most clear-cut definition of an administration's policies and priorities, and Richard Nixon's recent budget message make clear the harsh reality of "four more years". In the guise of keeping "a tight lid on spending", the President proposes to dismantle a substantial portion of the social legislation passed during the last three decades.

The administration argues that the new budget is the only way to meet the nation's most pressing needs while holding down taxes. Unfortunately, neither part of the claim is accurate. In reality, taxes have gone up this year, not in the form of an income tax increase but in a hike in the very regressive payroll tax which makes the burden of government spending fall more heavily on the ordinary wage-earner. Equally important, the priorities reflected in the new budget are in no sense an accurate reflection of the nation's needs. Despite the ending of hostilities in Vietnam, the already bloated "defense" budget actually increases by more than 4 billion dollars, not entirely justified by increased salaries, etc. for the armed forces. Yet, funds for education, manpower training, new housing, and all bio-medical research except for heart disease and cancer are cut back. The Office of Economic Opportunity, the prime locus for aid to the disadvantaged is being completely eliminated, and its programs dispersed to the very bureaucracies that OEO was originally designed to replace. Totally missing from Nixon's proposals are any property tax relief or general tax reform. Similarly neglected are any provisions for basic family assistance or reconstruction aid for Indochina.

In sum, Nixon's budget represents a direct challenge to the movement for peace and social progress. While the administration claims that the only alternative to its proposals would be a mammoth tax increase, we must make clear to Congress that the humane solution is to reform the entire tax structure, slash the "defense" budget and re-allocate our resources to social needs. Let your representatives in Washington know your views.

Town Elections

Town elections in February and March present several opportunities for political action: questions and issues can be placed on the town warrant with only 10 registered voters' signatures; some offices need even fewer. Each town has different deadlines; be sure to check with your town clerk for dates and forms.

ISSUE COMMITTEES

Within the CPPAX structure, the issue committees are the organs through which members formulate specific policy consistent with the platform and implement activities in areas of common concern. All committee meetings are open, and every member is urged to participate in at least one. Although we will try to list upcoming meetings in the regular member Newsletter, those who wish to receive specialized committee reports and bulletins should indicate their interest on the enclosed membership forms, or call the state office.

During early February, the following meetings are scheduled:

PEACE ACTION.....Thursday, February 8, 7:30PM at CPPAX office, 11 South St.
ELECTORAL REFORM.....Monday, February 12, 8:00 PM at CPPAX office, "
TAX REFORM & FISCAL AFFAIRS...Monday, Feb. 19, 8:00 PM at CPPAX office, "
URBAN AFFAIRS.....Tuesday, February 20, 8:00 PM at the home of Susan
Straight, 13 Fayette St., Boston (call 482-4553
for directions to house)

Each of these meetings will discuss upcoming state and federal legislation, possible cooperation with existing projects, and creation of a formal Committee structure.

CPPAX State Assembly: MARCH 3 at ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

The first meeting of the CPPAX State Assembly will be held Saturday, March 3 at 10 am in the Maison Auditorium at Assumption College in Worcester. (NOTE the change of date from February 17.) In keeping with its charter responsibility for questions of "policy and priority", the theme of the assembly meeting will be "After Vietnam: What?" Issue committees and the Executive Board will report to the assembly and make proposals for future CPPAX activities. Proposals are also solicited from the general membership. Send your ideas to "State Assembly", 11 South Street, Boston 02111.

The application of the 1:20 rule for determining representation to the assembly outlined in the previous newsletter has been clarified by the Executive Board. Chapters with twenty or fewer members will have one representative; those with 21 to 40 paid members will have two; 41-60 will have three, etc. For the purposes of this first State Assembly, "paid members" are all those who have paid 1972 dues to either CPP or MASS PAX, or 1973 CPPAX dues before March 1.

Membership Renewal Progress

The lists increase daily. Over 30% of the 1972 combined CPP-PAX membership has renewed for 1973. In addition, over 200 new members have joined. If you are not among those who have already renewed, do so now by enclosing your check with the membership form enclosed herein. If you have renewed, please accept our thanks and use the form to expand our strength by recruiting a new member.

Local Organizing

The political impact of CPPAX depends directly upon the strength of our activity at the local level. While there are nearly 200 cities or towns in which more than three CPPAX members reside, local chapters are organized in only half of them. The state office has available a variety of materials to assist local activists in organizing/revitalizing local chapter activities. Specific information includes: town by town lists of supporters of the "new politics" (gathered from various campaigns, organizations, and activities); memos on calling an initial meeting, recruiting new members, working with the media, etc. Call or write Dick Cauchi or Bob Schaeffer at the state office for assistance.



First CPPAX State Assembly: *Saturday, March 3*

The initial meeting of the State Assembly, the representative organ charged with determining CPPAX's program priorities between annual conventions, will take place this coming Saturday, March 3, at Assumption College in Worcester. As mandated in the charter, the executive board has proposed an agenda which allows ample time for discussion of major issues:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9:30 am | Registration (no charge) |
| 10:00 | Report of CPPAX Executive Board
Staff/State Office
Membership Recruitment
Local Organizing
Finances
Regional Offices |
| 11:15 | "After Vietnam, What?"
Program proposals by issue committees--discussion of activities, as presented, for amplification and clarification |
| 1:00 pm | Lunch
This period may be used for informal meetings such as:
Urban Caucus; federal issues; state-of-the State; Charter revision; long term planning |
| 2:15 | Evaluation of issue committee proposals
Vote(s) to establish relative priorities |
| 3:30 | Other business from the floor
Including structure and organization of future meetings |
| 5:00 | Adjournment
Continuation of caucuses as appropriate |

Though voting in the assembly is limited to elected representatives of local chapters, the meeting is open to all members as observers.

Day-care facilities will be available for children over 3 years old. The Assumption College cafeteria will be open for lunch--beverages are available if you choose to bring your own food. To reach Assumption College from either the east or west, take I-290 to Exit 18 (Leicester/Lincoln Square) and follow Salisbury Street to the campus. The Maison is the first building on the campus at the head of the circular driveway.

If you do not know who is representing your community, contact Bob Schaeffer at the state office

A Friendly Reminder

The State Assembly marks the end of the transition period for our newly merged organization. Memberships in CPP and MASS PAX paid in 1972 have now lapsed. To remain an active member of CPPAX, it is necessary to pay the 1973 annual dues. Following the State Assembly, only 1973 paid members will receive the regular newsletter and be entitled to vote in CPPAX endorsement proceedings.

CPPAX Challenges Use of State Census

At a Beacon Hill press conference on Thursday, February 22, CPPAX announced that a legal challenge is being prepared to bar the use of the 1971 State Census in reapportioning state legislative districts and allocating state funds to localities. An analysis of State Census figures revealed that sixty of the three hundred fifty-one cities and towns in Massachusetts have been miscounted by between five and one hundred percent.

Speaking for CPPAX, Executive Board member John Brode presented statistical material detailing substantial discrepancies between the State Census of January, 1971, and the more-comprehensive U.S. Census taken eight months earlier. In Lowell, for example, the 1970 Federal Census counted 94,239 inhabitants, the 1971 State Census 83,932 and a special City Census in 1972, 92,500. Brode argued that this "roller-coaster effect" could only be caused by poor technique in gathering the State figures.

The miscount affects all State calculations based upon population. As an example, Cambridge will lose about \$100,000 from the local aid fund (primarily money from the state lottery) and one seat in the State House of Representatives. The losses are proportionately greater in communities such as Amherst where nearly half the population included in the Federal Census was not counted in the state figures.

Attorney Paul Counihan, a CPPAX member and one of several lawyers working on census problems, explained that either a taxpayers' suit or a challenge based on the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection was contemplated.

Statements in support of the CPPAX challenge were presented by Mayor Barbara Ackermann of Cambridge; Brockton Mayor Richard Wainwright; Edward Ryan, South Hadley Town Counsel; Middlesex County Commissioner Paul Tsongas; and Lowell City Councillor Gail Dunfey.

For information about the reliability of Census figures in your particular community, contact John Brode through the CPPAX office.

Issue Committees Begin Work

Almost all of the CPPAX Issue Committees have begun to meet regularly. The results of some of their work is reflected in the enclosed report on "Action at the State House." All committee meetings are open to the entire membership. During the next few weeks the following meetings are scheduled:

<u>Consumer Protection</u> (particular emphasis at this meeting rent control and cable tv legislation--special guest will be Representative Mel King)	Wed., Feb. 28 8 pm. CPPAX Office
<u>Peace Action and Foreign Policy</u> (discussing winding up all U.S. involvement in Indochina, problems of Middle East, military spending, etc.)	Tues., March 6 8 pm CPPAX Office
<u>Urban Affairs</u> (working on activities related to mass transit, housing, property taxation--meeting held at home of Jon and Susan Straight near Park Square, Boston)	Tues., March 6 8 pm 13 Fayette St., Boston
<u>Environmental Problems</u> (primarily focussing on recycling legislation--also, control of air and water pollution, noise abatement, protection of endangered animal species)	Sat., March 10 2 pm CPPAX Office



Citizens for Participation in Political Action NEWSLETTER

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Vol. 1, No. 5

TELEPHONE: 617-426-3040

MARCH 16, 1973

REPORT FROM STATE ASSEMBLY

More than 150 activists representing local groups from every congressional district across the Commonwealth gathered at Worcester's Assumption College on Saturday, March 3 for the first meeting of the CPPAX State Assembly. Following nearly eight hours of presentation and debate, the group voted to make opposition to the slashes in domestic programs proposed by President Nixon the top priority for CPPAX action through the state office. Local chapters and issue committees will continue to work in areas of their own individual concern as well.

The decision to put statewide focus on Nixon's budget cuts came after Cong. Michael Harrington and Robert Coard, President of the Massachusetts Community Action Program Directors Association, detailed the potential impact of any precipitous decline in federal domestic funding.

Cong. Harrington proposed that the group sponsor a series of public hearings to "bring home the ill effects of the budget cuts". He urged that progressives must "react with solid considerations and not rhetoric to help people to understand what the budget cuts mean."

Coard, who is also Executive Director of Action for Boston Community Development, called Nixon's revenue sharing scheme "nothing sharing" because "money is no longer concentrated where the problems are."

The CPPAX delegates voted specifically to oppose presidential impounding of money appropriated by Congress and also went on record against the dismantling of agencies which directly aid locally initiated programs.

Following the Nixon budget in the list of priority areas adopted by the Assembly were: health and social welfare, peace action, human rights and civil liberties, electoral reform, environmental problems, urban affairs, and consumer protection. Education and Tax Reform Committee reports were not presented to this Assembly meeting.

In addition to establishing general political priorities, the CPPAX Assembly adopted several specific positions:

- *to join in the United Farm Workers' boycott of A & P stores until A & P agrees to carry only UFW lettuce
- *to oppose the Park Plaza project and urge that Miles Mahoney be reinstated as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs
- *to lobby for increased state funding for rapid transit systems across the state
- *to insist on immediate withdrawal of remaining U.S. forces from all of Indochina and adjacent waters, and to support legislation calling for exonerated persons charged with crimes resulting from war protests during the Vietnam era

CPPAX BROCHURE

A copy of a recently produced brochure describing CPPAX and its activities is enclosed. The new brochure is designed to explain CPPAX to those who might be interested in joining. Since the strength of this organization and the issues for which it stands depends directly on the breadth and vitality of our membership, we urge each individual to take the personal responsibility for recruiting at least one new member.

more. . . .

The office also has other material available for individuals or chapters to use in recruiting new members. These include: a letter of solicitation signed by Congressmen Drinan, Harrington, Moakley, and Studds; copies of the charter; platforms; recent newsletters; committee bulletins; and legislative reports. Just let the office know what you need. (we also are eager for feedback on our publications---please let us hear your suggestions and criticisms.)

WORCESTER OFFICE OPENED

Through the good auspices of our Worcester chapter, an office has been opened to better serve members in the western part of the state. Located in Room 310 at 74 Franklin Street in downtown Worcester (phone: 617 752-3656), the office will carry copies of all CPPAX material and will be able to assist callers with information on CPPAX activities, legislation at the state and national levels, and general political questions.

Since the office is staffed solely by volunteers, open hours will depend on the availability of man/woman power. Currently, the office is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings and all day Wednesday. To offer your assistance, call the Worcester office of Joan Benjamin at 791-4871.

There will be a meeting for Worcester area members on April 9 to coordinate local activities. The featured speaker will be Michael Dukakis. The meeting will be at St. Mark's Church, Zero Freeland St., Worcester (off Main St.) at 7:15 pm.

BUDGET CUTS HEARING AND RALLY

The Equal Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee will hold special hearings on the potential impact in New England of the slashes in domestic programs proposed by the Nixon Administration. There will be two sessions in Boston's Faneuil Hall: Friday, March 23 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) and Saturday, March 24 (9:00 am-noon). U.S. Representatives taking testimony will include Committee Chairman Augustus Hawkins, Shirley Chisholm, Patsy Mink, William Clay, and Jaime Benitez. The hearings are open to the public; if you are interested in giving testimony, please contact the CPPAX office.

To demonstrate community support for the programs Nixon proposes to eliminate, a rally has been planned for Dock Square (near Faneuil Hall) at 12:30 of Friday, the 23rd. Sargent Shriver will be the main speaker. CPPAX members are urged to attend both the hearings and the rally.

INSIDE SAIGON'S PRISONS: AN EMERGENCY HEARING

On the evening of March 23, CPPAX along with several other Mass. citizens groups, will sponsor a public hearing on the role of U.S. aid in the continuing political repression in South Vietnam. Members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation will take eyewitness testimony concerning the arrest of political dissidents, prison conditions, and the nature of U.S. support for the Thieu regime. Those scheduled to testify include: Jean-Pierre Debris and Andre Menras, two French citizens who were kept in Saigon's prisons for two years because of their participation in a neutralist demonstration; K. Barton Osborne, a former agent in the CIA and the Phoenix program of assassinations; and Ngo Vinh Long, a former South Vietnamese student leader who cannot return home without imprisonment.

If you are concerned with safeguarding the fragile Indochina peace, come to the hearing on March 23 at 8 pm. in Faneuil Hall.



Citizens for Participation in Political Action
NEWSLETTER

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Vol. 1, No. 6

TELEPHONE: 617-426-3040

April 27, 1973

CPPAX Annual Convention - May 19

CPPAX's 1973 Annual Convention will take place Saturday, May 19 from 9 am to 5 pm at Framingham North High School. This will be the first full membership meeting of our new organization since the merger of CPP and Mass Pax in December, 1972.

Of prime importance at the May 19 Convention will be revision of the CPPAX platform to reflect our goals and priorities for the coming year. Each of the CPPAX issue committees will be meeting during the next two weeks to draft platform planks. If you are interested in helping set directions for the new politics, please plan to attend these meetings. The enclosed sheet of issue committee reports lists the meeting dates. Copies of the current platform are available for 25¢ from the state office.

The Annual Convention will also review and revise the CPPAX Charter. If you or your local group have amendments to propose, send them immediately to the state office. The substance of all proposed amendments must be included in the next member newsletter. Therefore, all proposed amendments must be received in the Boston office before 5 pm, Friday, May 4.

Details for the convention are being worked out by the Executive Board. If you have suggestions on what the convention should cover, please send them to this office. Also, potential candidates for the 10 at-large Executive Board seats should prepare a 50-word statement of candidacy.

The convention, like CPPAX itself, is based on open membership participation. We hope to see you there.

Peace with Armor?

Recent developments in Southeast Asia have demonstrated that Nixon's January 27th "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam" is the sham that the anti-war movement had feared it was. While the U.S. government focuses on cease-fire violations by "the other side", the U.S. military has stopped removing our mines from Haiphong Harbor, has escalated the level of warfare in Laos and initiated a program of terror-bombing in Cambodia. Pentagon figures actually indicate that the tonnage of bombs dropped by U.S. planes following the "peace" is greater than for a comparable period last year.

In Congress, the re-escalation has rekindled legislative anti-war activity. Major Indochina votes are imminent on two fronts. In the Senate, Case and Church have decided to offer their amendment to the State Department Authorization Bill which will come to the floor in the first or second week of May. As previously submitted, the Case-Church Amendment would prohibit any American military involvement in or over North and South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia, without prior congressional approval. Chances of Senate passage are reasonably good; Kennedy is an active supporter; but Brooke, although avowedly favorable, has not demonstrated any leadership among his liberal Republican colleagues whose support is needed.

The House equivalent of Case-Church, the Bingham Amendment, may be bottled up by Rep. Wayne Hayes, who controls the legislative schedule for the State Department bill. All the members of the Massachusetts delegation should be urged to bring pressure to bear on Hayes. Particularly important targets for constituent pressure are Majority Leader O'Neill who has great influence over the legislative calendar, and the

three Republican members of the delegation.

Even before the Bingham Amendment comes to the House floor, representatives will have the opportunity to cast a key vote to limit U. S. involvement in Cambodia. In a little-noted provision in the DOD Supplemental Appropriation Bill, lurks a line allowing the Pentagon to transfer \$150 million from other operations to the war in S. E. Asia, primarily to cover part of the cost of bombing in Cambodia. Passage of this provision could turn out to be the equivalent of a Cambodian "Gulf of Tonkin" resolution, since the Supreme Court has held that the appropriation of funds for a war is tantamount to legislative approval of the policy. The first test of this provision will be in the House Appropriations Committee---Massachusetts members Edward Boland and Silvio Conte must be pressured to vote against the transfer authority. If the provision is not deleted in committee, there will be a floor test. Again the votes from Massachusetts Republican representatives will be important. Senate action on the transfer will not be until May---both Brooke and Kennedy are good on this one. CPPAX members should alert their contacts in other states, as well as contacting their own representatives.

The People's Budget: A CPPAX CHALLENGE TO NIXON

The CPPAX National Priorities Committee has initiated a grassroots campaign for a "People's Budget" as an alternative to President Nixon's distorted national priorities.

By using a detailed questionnaire prepared by Cong. Michael Harrington, CPPAX members can compile detailed reports on the local impact of the proposed Nixon budget. The questionnaire will develop factual information on: the results of revenue sharing; possible increases in the regressive property tax; cut-backs in health, day-care, environmental improvement, job training and other programs; and the effect on the local economy. Once the questionnaire is completed, the results may be publicized through local media, public hearings, or leaflets.

CPPAX is also preparing a "People's Budget" with solid alternatives to Nixon's taxing and spending plans. With their own local analysis of Nixon's budget to expose its deficiencies, local residents can argue persuasively for the "People's Budget". (Both the local impact questionnaire and "People's Budget" material are available to any member. Contact Bob Schaeffer at the state office to get involved in the project.)

As this grassroots challenge to President Nixon's budget expands in Massachusetts, CPPAX will communicate the methods and results to groups in other states, through our membership in the National Coalition on Human Needs and Budget Priorities. Besides strengthening congressional alternatives to Nixon's budget now, the "People's Budget" effort can provide a major focus for the 1974 congressional campaigns, since the federal budget involves four basic national issues: 1) cut-backs in human service programs; 2) wasteful military spending; 3) executive usurpation of congressional power; and 4) tax reform to more equitably finance the budget.

Election of New District Executive Board

The Charter allows each district to elect its representative to the Executive Board either at a local meeting in the 30 days prior to the Convention, or in a caucus at the Convention itself. To enable each district to determine which procedure to use, a return card is enclosed for each member to indicate his/her preference. These votes will be tallied by congressional district---majority vote of those returning ballots will prevail. The arguments for in-district meetings include: ease of attending a meeting close to home and greater opportunity to discuss district problems. Arguments for electing a representative at the Convention are based on eliminating the need for two meetings within one month by providing a single focus for decision-making at the Convention.

Please return your ballot(s) promptly. Final district tallies will be made on Mon., May 7. Each CPPAX member in a household should vote on a separate card.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Friend,

We are sending you this letter because of the importance we attach to grassroots political action.

The unique political situation in Massachusetts is due in great part to the efforts of MASS PAX and Citizens for Participation Politics, now happily merged into CPPAX.

CPPAX needs and deserves your support.

The organization is now engaged in a major effort to bring together the citizens who make up the peace and new politics constituencies in our state. In doing so, CPPAX is performing a crucial role in public affairs here, and by example, throughout the nation.

We have observed their effectiveness in organizing over 100 community groups for action on local, state, and national issues, and have benefited from that effectiveness in our own campaigns for Congress.

We respect their commitment to the democratic process, and we applaud their deep concern with issues.

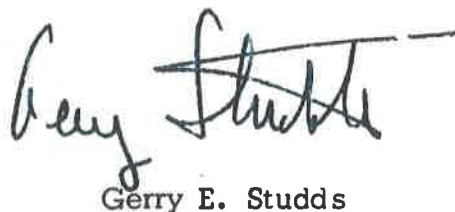
We ask you to join with us in making a financial contribution to CPPAX, to broaden the base for effective political change.

Sincerely,


Robert F. Drinan


John Joseph Moakley


Michael Harrington


Gerry E. Studds



IMPEACH RICHARD NIXON

At its summer meeting, the CPPAX State Assembly voted unanimously to make the removal of Richard Nixon the first priority for fall action. Enclosed is a sample of the petition and fact sheet which will serve as the basis for CPPAX's impeachment program.

Our goal is a highly visible campaign which will result in thousands of signatures that can be delivered to members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation. So far, only Congressman Drinan favors impeachment.

Multiple copies of the petition/fact sheet are available from the state headquarters. Community groups are urged to establish local petition drives as part of the overall effort. Individual members are also needed to staff tables at public places throughout the Commonwealth. Call the state headquarters to volunteer. As always, funds are needed to back this program. Your contribution can be earmarked for "Impeachment".

To plan a coordinated statewide strategy, there will be an impeachment planning meeting on Monday, September 24, at 7.30 pm in the state headquarters.

Legislative Redistricting - *The Final Round*

After almost six months of hearings, debates, votes, vetoes and reconsiderations, final plans for redistricting the state House of Representatives and Senate have been signed into law. By far the most controversial is the plan for the Senate. Although it creates an almost ideal district in the black community of Boston, the new scheme carefully preserves the interests of establishment incumbents of both parties while vindictively combining the districts of two of the most progressive Senators. (It does seem excessively coincidental that both Backman and Fishman are CPPAX members.) The score of minor changes in suburban and mid-state districts may result in heightened campaign activity in '74, but there are few obvious opportunities for new candidates solely on the basis of redistricting.

The most substantial changes are contained in the new House districts which were quietly adopted last May. The elimination of all double and triple seats, combined with the use of precinct lines instead of ward lines as the basis for district boundaries, has caused some drastic changes, particularly in the more densely populated areas. The new plan divides 73 cities and towns into two or more districts, which is bound to lead to considerable voter and even candidate confusion in 1974. While this will open opportunities for challenging candidates, it will also necessitate several battles to save good incumbents. Since Representatives must live in their districts at least one year before the election, some candidates are already planning to move.

New Governor's Council districts have also been approved. These may become the focus of increased interest among people seeking to abolish or alter this office.

Books Needed

A booksale, sponsored by the Framingham ACTION chapter, with benefits going to help CPPAX, will be held on the 27th of October. If you are cleaning off your bookshelves, please contribute the books to us. Collection site: 11 South St., Boston.

CPPAX Launches Initiative Drive

The state's provision for direct lawmaking by the people has fallen into a long period of disuse. CPPAX seeks to revitalize that system and open up an entirely new arena for governmental and social reform. The first step, one available to us now, is to set a precedent within the current legal structure and get initiative proposals on next year's ballot. But we must act quickly: nearly 60,000 certified signatures must be gathered by November 28.

To this end, our Electoral Reform and Governmental Structure Committee has begun a joint effort with several statewide governmental reform groups, in a coalition called "Going to the People". We have two good petitions to work with: one would require disclosure of income and assets by a wide class of government officials; the other would set up a Campaign Finance Director for Massachusetts. Together they are designed as a first step to expose campaign influence and conflict of interest in all state races.

We need to circulate these petitions in all areas of the state simultaneously. Time is very short. If you have any interest in this, act now. Contact the CPPAX state office or your chapter chairperson for petitions and further information.

Washington Report

Congress has returned from its month long summer recess to find itself confronted with a series of attacks from Richard Nixon designed to distract public focus from Watergate and mismanagement of the economy. Already members of the Democratic leadership, including Massachusetts' own "Tip" O'Neill, are tripping over each other in attempts to adopt the most conciliatory posture towards the Administration even though Nixon's offensive is based on the patently false position that this Congress has so far failed to attend to "the public's business". Strong public pressure is needed if the Congress is to be restrained from caving in before Nixon.

The first major test of Congressional resolve will come later this month on the vote to override Nixon's veto of legislation seeking to increase the minimum wage to \$2.20 per hour. Although every Massachusetts Senator and Representative voted for passage of the original bill, "party loyalty" may influence the vote to reject the veto. Thus, Republican members of the Mass. delegation need special attention.

As the enclosed voting record indicates, some Congressmen also need to be reminded of the need to cut substantially military spending as a prerequisite to any reordering of national spending priorities. Because of the multi-state legislative process, it is likely that each Representative will have other opportunities to vote on many of these same spending cuts when a conference committee tries to settle differences between House and Senate versions of the Defense Authorization bill later this month and again in October, when the Military Procurement Appropriations Act comes to the floor.

In the Senate, the Armed Services Committee has made substantial cuts in the Military Procurement Authorization bill (S. 1263), including major reductions in funding for the B-1 bomber, the F-14 fighter, overseas manpower, and a new cruise missile. Kennedy and Brooke must be encouraged to support the action of the Armed Services Committee and urged to support an additional amendment to reduce the authorization for the Trident submarine. Brooke is a particularly important lobbying target since he sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee which will draw up the Senate's version of a Military Procurement Appropriations bill after the authorization process is completed.

Also critical are the upcoming votes on aid, both military and economic, to the governments of Southeast Asia. The enclosed leaflet describes some of the issues involved and outlines a program of public action for the week of September 17-23.

Democratic Reform Hearings—Part 3

As part of the continuing reevaluation of Convention procedures, the Democratic National Committee has scheduled a hearing for Boston on Wed., Sept. 26, to take testimony on Vice-Presidential candidate selection procedure. The hearing, to be chaired by Hubert Humphrey and Endicott Peabody, will be held in Room 436 of the State House from 10 am on. Members of the public are invited to present their ideas. If you are unable to appear in person, you may mail your written statement to the Vice-Presidential Commission, c/o Barbara McKenzie, Democratic State Committee, 8 Beacon Street, Boston 02108.

In testimony before sessions of the Democratic Charter Commission last month, CPPAX emphasized the need for a national party conference prior to the 1974 Congressional elections to discuss issues as well as the new charter. Delegates to the conference must be selected in the most open manner possible. Unfortunately, the Commission leans toward a more restrictive conference dealing with no issue questions, and scheduled after the elections and composed in part of party and elected officials instead of citizen-delegates. Many reformers believe that the best feasible compromise is one day of informal issue discussion and an early convention call that would leave ample time for party caucuses or primaries to select delegates. All the Massachusetts members of the Charter Commission have voted with the reform wing against the forces of Party Chairman Strauss and the AFL-CIO-backed Coalition for a Democratic Majority.

(Since CPPAX is an independent political organization affiliated with no party, we would like to report on reform efforts directed at the Republicans too. Regretfully, such activities, if they exist at all, seem to be invisible. We would be glad to hear from members who may have more information.)

CPPAX Political Calendar

- Sunday, Sept. 23: teach-in and action meeting on Saigon's political prisoners, First Unitarian Church in Cambridge, 7.30 pm
- Monday, Sept. 24: Impeachment Planning meeting, CPPAX headquarters, 7.30 pm
- Wed., Sept. 26: Dem. Party Vice-Pres. Commission hearing, 10am, Rm436, State Hse
- Wed., Sept. 26: CPPAX Peace Action & Foreign Policy Committee meeting to develop activities on military budget cuts, the Middle East, related issues, 8pm, state hdqtrs
- Tuesday, Oct. 2: CPPAX Human Rights & Civil Liberties Comm. mtg., 7.30pm, st. hdqtrs
- Wed., Oct. 3: CPPAX Long-range Planning Comm. open mtg., 7.30pm, state hdqtrs
- Tues., Oct. 16: "The Middle East: Alternatives for the Peace Movement" co-sponsored by CPPAX, 7.30 pm, location to be decided upon (call state hdqtrs for full info)
- Sat., Oct. 20: U.N. Day workshops on "Why and How of Peace Keeping", Fletcher School, Tufts, 9.30am-4pm. Cost:\$1 (Because of limited facilities, advance registration is recommended. Call CPPAX for full info)
- Sat., Oct. 27: Booksale to benefit CPPAX; sponsored by Framingham ACTION at the Natick Mall, route 9.
- Sat., Nov. 3: Day-long sessions on the changing role of women in politics, including panels on women as candidates and explanations of Dem. Party reforms in delegate selection. Guest speaker: Helen Gahagan Douglas. Sponsored by Dem. Committee-women of New England, Faneuil Hall. \$6 registration includes box lunch.

If You Have Moved ...

Occasionally members move and forget to give the state office a new address and phone number. If the information on the label on this mailing is not completely accurate, please send us the correct information to assure that future mailings reach you promptly. If you move to a new zip code area, please enclose your old zip code as well. Thank you!

September Newsletter Contents

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- STATE REDISTRICTING
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- DEMOCRATIC PARTY REFORMS
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- SAIGON'S PRISONERS

CPPAX Newsletter

Citizens for Participation in Political Action
11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

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BUMPERSTICKERS: The CPPAX office now has an expanded variety of current political bumperstickers for sale at 25¢ apiece. Most were designed and printed locally, and are not available commercially. Please add 8¢ postage for each 3 items.
In stock now:

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Citizens for Participation in Political Action NEWSLETTER

STATE HEADQUARTERS
11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Vol. 1, No. 11

TELEPHONE: 617-426-3040

October 31, 1973

CPPAX Leads Impeachment Efforts

While the series of events beginning with the resignation of Spiro Agnew and continuing with the departure of Cox, Richardson and Ruckelshaus left most people searching for an appropriate response, CPPAX was ready for action. Because our impeachment petition drive had already gained statewide visibility through the distribution of over 12,000 petitions prior to Cox' firing, CPPAX was thrust into a leading role in coordinating impeachment efforts across the Commonwealth.

In response to the wave of phone calls and letters inundating the office, CPPAX held a meeting of interested political organizations on Oct. 22, to develop a coordinated strategy. A coalition was formed to focus pressure on 8th CD Congressman Thomas ("Tip") P. O'Neill, Jr. At a press conference covered by all major media outlets on Wed. Oct. 24, Jerry Grossman of our Executive Board emphasized the coalition's plan to collect enough signatures in an 8th CD weekend canvass to force O'Neill to utilize his leadership position as Majority Leader to spearhead the impeachment effort in the House. The drive was co-sponsored by CLUM, ADA, CALC, IPC and endorsed by many 8th CD elected officials, including Cambridge Mayor Ackermann, Middlesex County Commissioner Tsongas, State Senator LoPresti, and State Representative Barney Frank. An additional statement in support of the drive was signed by members of the 8th CD State House delegation, including Cong. O'Neill's son, Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill III.

Though organized in only 3 days, the weekend impeachment drive was a resounding success. Nearly 15,000 signatures were collected by 200 volunteer canvassers. The signed petitions were presented to the media at another press conference on Wed., Oct. 31, but as yet, O'Neill has not responded to the coalition's request for an appointment to deliver the petitions to him personally.

Next step for the impeachment coalition is an election-day impeachment signature drive at polling places in the cities of O'Neill's district (Cambridge, Somerville and parts of Boston). Volunteers will try to staff signature tables at each of the 150 polling places. Volunteers are needed: if you can give some time on Election Day, call CPPAX.

Elsewhere in Massachusetts, there are hundreds of local impeachment efforts headed by CPPAX chapters and members. More than 10,000 signatures from outside the 8th CD have already been collected. Please send completed petitions to the state office for sorting and delivery to appropriate representatives. Additional impeachment forms are always available: call, write, or drop in.

Continued pressure on Congress is imperative if our representatives are to fulfill their constitutional obligations. The flood of calls, telegrams and petitions must not abate.

New Politics Candidates in City Elections

With municipal elections set for Nov. 6 in 38 Massachusetts cities, several CPPAX groups have made these campaigns their major focus for the Fall. Following is a brief outline of endorsed activities known as of Oct. 29, and contacts for additional details:

In BOSTON: a single endorsement was made, of Pat Bonner-Lyons for School Committee (Hq. 528 Columbia Ave., Boston 02118; tel. 261-1470)

In CAMBRIDGE: a mail ballot resulted in the endorsement of 8 City Council candidates (Barbara Ackermann, Mary Amato, John Brode, Paul Chase, Francis Duehay, Sandra Graham, Jon Halberstadt, David Wylie) and 7 School Committee candidates (Tim Calahan, Eric Davin, Peter Gesell, Oriol Dudley, Charles Pierce, Mary Ellen Preusser, Alice Wolf). For details or to volunteer, call Gary Dotterman at 547-4714.

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In NEWTON: 14 candidates have been endorsed by the Newton Coalition for New Politics, as follows: Mayor - William Carmen; Aldermen (ward and at-large), wd. 1 - Robert Gaynor and Joseph McDonnell; wd. 2 - Terrence Morris, Edward Richmond and Thomas Concannon; wd. 3 - Mathew Jefferson and Richard Bullwinkle; wd. 4 - Richard McGrath; wd. 5 - Susan Schur; wd. 6 - Ethel Sheehan; wd. 7 - Mark White and David Cohen; wd. 8 - Leland White. For more info contact Michael Malec at 527-2567.

In SOMERVILLE: a total of 12 candidates were endorsed as a slate created by the "Reform Caucus '73" sponsored by Somerville CPP, as follows: Mayor - S. Lester Ralph; Assessor - Leland Figgins; At-Large Alderman - Sal Albano; Ward Aldermen - wd. 4 - John Holmes; wd. 5 - Joe Guidi; wd. 6 - Eugene Brune; wd. 7 - Andrew Puglia; School Committee - wd. 1 - Grace Abruzzio; wd. 2 - William White; wd. 3 - Paul Kelley; wd. 6 - Doris Griffin; wd. 7 - June Pietrantoni. Over 30,000 leaflets are being distributed throughout the city in support of this slate by CPP volunteers. For details contact Pauline Dwyer at 623-8591.

In WORCESTER: members are backing 4 City Council candidates (Joseph Casdin, David Forsberg, Barbara Kohin, Carl Koontz) and 4 School Committee candidates (Gerard D'Amico, Roger Brown, Elizabeth Price, Janet C. Slovin). For information, contact Greater Worcester CPP office, 74 Franklin St., rm 310 (752-3656) or call John Anderson (753-0686).

Lowell: A Community in Action

This is the first in a series of reports highlighting the activities of individual active CPPAX chapters. It is hoped that these experiences and ideas can be helpful to groups in other areas. (Next month's Newsletter: Stoughton and Hyde Park chapters)

The organizational meeting for the Lowell chapter last March attracted over 65 people who discussed the need for action, selected coordinators, and established task forces to work on major areas of interest. As an initial project, the group led a study of local effects of federal cutbacks, based on Cong. Harrington's questionnaire. This effort was developed with well-publicized testimony at the hearings on the cutbacks in the 5th C.D., and in the preparation of fact sheets summarizing the results.

Another major drive was launched with attempts to force the Lowell City Council to enforce local laws banning political signs in residential area. With the cooperation of a council member, the problem was introduced at the next meeting of the Council, which sent the question to the City Solicitor for a written opinion. Despite the Solicitor's opinion supporting CPPAX' position and ignoring more heated debate, the Council remained ambivalent about enforcing the law. Consequently, the CPPAX chapter issued an appeal for the citizens of Lowell to demand that the councilors uphold their own laws, and at the same time drew up a list of specific violations of the sign law to submit for enforcement, and prepared for possible court action if no results could be obtained administratively. This is where the issue stands to date.

A further drive is underway asking candidates for local offices to file campaign reports with the CPPAX chapter a week before the primary and a week before the election this fall. So far, 75% of all the candidates have agreed to do so, and the September pre-primary report gained full publicity in the Lowell Sun.

As if this weren't enough, Lowell CPPAX also worked on the lettuce boycott, held a flea market, and is considering a televised documentary on educational funding for the city. Since March, the group has grown from a handful to 43 paid and active members.

Initiative Petition Deadline Nears

Initiative petitions for Campaign Finance Director and Disclosure of Assets, which were sent to every member, should be returned to the CPPAX state office by Nov. 12. Tuesday's city elections will provide a good opportunity for additional signatures. The final deadline for filing the 60,000 needed valid names with town clerks is Nov. 28.

It should not surprise anyone that recent events in Washington have thrown legislative calendars into total disarray. Nonetheless, there are several important bills which are likely to come to the floor during the next month and require lobbying. Here's the best information we can piece together at this time:

MILITARY SPENDING: Both houses have now completed action on the military procurement authorization and have begun committee hearings on the complementary appropriations bills. Congress can appropriate (take from the Treasury) less money than has been authorized (allowed by law) but cannot legally spend more. Amendments will be introduced to cut overall military spending by about \$4 billion. As the voting records included with this and last month's newsletters make clear, we cannot automatically count on every member of the Mass. delegation to vote against military waste. Key targets for lobbying are Sen. Brooke and Reps. Conte and Boland who sit on the Appropriations Committees and will have the first opportunity to vote on any fund-cut amendments.

FOREIGN AID: Like the military procurement bill, foreign aid legislation is half-way along the legislative path. On the upcoming foreign aid appropriation bill, the most important vote will come on an amendment offered by Edward Roybal (D-Cal.) to bar aid to support police and prisons in South Vietnam. First District residents should immediately contact Silvio Conte since he sits on the Foreign Operations subcommittee which will consider the amendment first. Conte's vote is crucial on this issue. Next in lobbying priority are Brooke and Boland who will vote when the amendment comes before the full appropriations committees. Also of importance is Nixon's "emergency" request for an additional \$200 million in aid to prop up the faltering regime in Cambodia. Congress must hear our strong opposition.

WAR POWERS: As expected, the President vetoed the war powers bill. It is not anticipated that Congress will be able to override the veto. The voting record included with last month's newsletter transposed the votes of Drinan and Donohue on House passage of this measure. To correct the record, Drinan is the only member of the Massachusetts delegation to oppose this legislation. Drinan argues that the bill unconstitutionally delegates a part of the Congress' exclusive power to declare war to the Executive.

Human Rights & Civil Liberties Committee Report

Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 7.30pm at the state office. A major item on the agenda for the Oct. 2 meeting was the possibility of the restoration of the death penalty in this state. A strong statement to Governor Sargent urging his veto of the recently-passed bill restoring the death penalty was mailed, but must be followed up with statements from members. For certain crimes, such as killing a policeman or prison guard, there would be mandatory sentences of death, with no jury recommendation for clemency allowed. CPPAX' Platform takes a strong stand against the death penalty, for a variety of humanitarian reasons, among them the consideration that death is indeed an extreme and unusual punishment. It is final and allows for no mistakes. It is completely contrary to our belief in the possibility of rehabilitation. Address your letters to the Governor at the State House, Boston 02133.

The Farah Boycott continues: starting early November, 6 stores in Waltham, including Grover Cronin and Riseberg's, will be picketed in addition to downtown Boston stores (Jordan's, Filene's) and Milton's in Quincy. As in the case of the UFWOC, the issue centers around the right of workers to organize and form affiliations with a union of their own choice. A film entitled "The People vs. Willy Farah" is available for group use at no charge (21 minutes) and a speaker will be provided. Arrangements will happily be made for the speaker to go to any part of the state. There will be a rally on Nov. 3 in support of the Farah strikers... at noon, Park St. Station, Boston Common, followed by a march to Filene's. Those who wish to help or get more info can call Mike Spock at 899-5384 or 739-0850. Local chapters are encouraged to form boycotts of their own and picket lines against local stores which are known to be carrying Farah items.

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Reminder: don't buy lettuce in stores that won't show you. Help is always needed for picketing, particularly every Saturday. More A&P stores around the state are being picketed. Call 282-4085 to find out where each weekend's pickets will be.

Child Care Deductions: the bill is still alive, but languishing in the Ways & Means Committee. Write immediately to James Kelly of Oxford, Chairman, Senate Ways & Means, urging support of H. 3377 (specify Child Care Deduction bill, in case bill number has been changed, probably to S. 1922). Write Kelly, c/o State House, Boston 02133.

Prison Reform bills: still pending, as of early October, are H. 3164, providing for an office of Ombudsman for Corrections; H. 1599, allowing prisoners to address civic groups; and H. 6513, establishing a school district within the Dept. of Corrections. These are all bills that we have endorsed and done lobbying for. Your help is vitally needed in this area as well. Write your state senator and representative(s) to support these bills.

New prison reform coalition formed: 15 Boston-area organizations have formed the Mass. chapter of the National Coalition for Correctional Change, headed by former Mass. Corrections head John Boone. Two meetings have already been held; the next is scheduled for Nov. 30, at One Joy St., Boston, 7:30 pm. Details on plans for film showings on prison conditions and other activities can be obtained by calling the Ad Hoc Committee at One Joy St., Boston 742-4720.

DON'T FORGET: NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, NOV. 13, at 7:30 pm, state office.

Other State House Action

In the final weeks of each year's State House session, it becomes increasingly difficult to follow the fate of individual bills, as rules are suspended, documents transferred from one house to the other with only minutes' notice, and amendments not always in print. Listed below are some bills of interest that have some chance of passage before prorogation (now expected sometime after Thanksgiving). For up-to-the-minute details, call the CPPAX office or the House Clerk (727-2356).

ENVIRONMENT: After several months with relatively little action on environmental bills, a variety of issues have reached important stages. A revised version of bills to regulate the sites of power plants (H. 7634) has been initially approved by the House. An amended revision of the Inland Wetlands Protection Act (H. 7606) passed the House but was sent back to the Ways and Means Comm. by the Senate. S. 1862 relating to a "Coastal Zone Management Plan", defining clean water and including fines for oil spills, etc., is in the Senate awaiting action. The Farmland Assessment Bill (S. 1971) to provide realistic actual value taxes has been given initial approval in the House. The Bulger bill (S. 1951) providing for the right of passage along beaches between sunrise and sunset, between mean high and extreme low, has been strengthened to provide penalties for littering, etc., and is in the Ways and Means Committee. A 24-hr. Environmental Legislation Hot-Line has been established by the Mass. Forest and Parks Association. Call 742-9644 for latest recorded message.

TRANSPORTATION: The public transit package, now numbered H. 7575 and H. 7576, providing funds for MBTA, commuter railroad, and smaller city transit facilities, has passed the House and awaits Senate Ways and Means Action.

ELECTION LAW: The Uniform Registration Bill (still H. 3279) which sets up a simple and standard set of questions to be asked of prospective voters, thus assuring equal treatment for students and those who move frequently, has been the subject of many negotiating sessions and technical revisions. It is now in a form acceptable to all parties and is expected to move quickly in the House; Senate action is less certain.

Plan Now for 1974

The deadline for all normally filed proposals to be considered during the 1974 session of the General Court is Wed., Dec. 5 at 5 pm. Although any citizen may file a bill (under the Massachusetts system of "free petition"), anyone planning to do so should start drafting and signing up sponsors now. CPPAX members with suggestions for bills to be sponsored by the organization should contact the appropriate issue committee chairperson(s) now to assure full consideration of the ideas.



Assembly & Tea Party Bicentennial to Address Impeachment

More than 60,000 signatures have now been collected on the CPPAX impeachment petition and each day's mail brings in hundreds more. In the Eighth Congressional District, the CPPAX led drive yielded upwards of 20,000 constituent signatures which were presented to Congressman Tip O'Neill in mid-November at a meeting which attracted national media attention. Because of this pressure, O'Neill felt compelled to send a Newsletter to his entire constituency to describe his pro-impeachment activities.

In other districts, public activity has moved most of the Massachusetts delegation to issue statements supporting the consideration of impeachment resolutions by the House Judiciary Committee. But these statements are not the same as commitments to vote for impeachment. House leaders now believe that an impeachment bill cannot be reported out from the Judiciary Committee until Spring. They argue that speedier consideration will bring about claims of partisanship by Nixon's supporters and result in a loss of votes for impeachment. Much grass-roots work needs to be done to accelerate the process and to convince all twelve Massachusetts Representatives to vote to impeach.

To develop an ongoing impeachment strategy, the CPPAX State Assembly will meet on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 from 1 - 5 pm at the Hastings School in Framingham. Each CPPAX local group is entitled to one voting delegate for each twenty paid members; others may attend as non-voting participants. Please make sure that your community is properly represented. (The Hastings School is located on Beacon Street, which runs perpendicular to Route 9 east of Framingham Center. Detailed directions may be obtained from the CPPAX State Office.)

Nearly two hundred years ago citizens of Massachusetts also led the nation in protests against executive tyranny. Sunday, December 16 is the bicentennial of the opening of their struggle, the Boston Tea Party. To mark that occasion and to draw parallels between those times and now, CPPAX, in cooperation with the Peoples Bicentennial Commission, is sponsoring an Impeachment Town Meeting at Boston's Faneuil Hall at noon on December 16. The public is invited to hear speakers on impeachment, big business and the energy crisis, and the revolutionary ideals on which this nation was founded. Following the Faneuil Hall meeting, there will be a march to the Congress Street Bridge site of the official Tea Party reenactment to raise the modern-day voice of citizen protest. (The reenactment is near South Station, two blocks from the CPPAX office).

Membership Renewal Time

December 3rd marks the start of the second year for the merged CPP/Mass PAX organization. While we can already look with some satisfaction at a number of projects, long-term success for the new politics depends on the continued commitment of energy and finances by every member.

As voted by the membership at the May Convention, dues for 1974 remain at \$5.00 per person. If there is no renewal form enclosed, it means that you have already paid for 1974. A reminder: Those members for whom it would be a real financial hardship to pay the full amount of \$5.00 may sign a statement to that effect and arrange for a special (but full voting) membership at a reduced rate. This is not a student rate. Please call Caroline Stouffer at the state office for more information on this matter.

Let's Hear It Again for Park Plaza

Though rejected three times by the State Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Park Plaza proposal is about to be formally resubmitted for a fourth try. Previous versions of the plan have been rejected because the developers failed to prove that their proposals were financially sound and that a satisfactory Environmental Impact Study had been conducted.

The new model has many razzles and dazzles, but it still falls short of these same statutory requirements. In fact, the market study on which the project is based is now so out-of-date that it would be a dangerous basis for so large a venture. Nothing in the latest proposal even purports to take into account potential economic dislocations resulting from the current energy shortages. Elsewhere in the country, lack of fuel has already interrupted several major construction projects.

Moreover, the scheme proposes to circumvent the lack of a decent environmental impact statement by having the state conduct such a survey after the project is underway. This not only violates the legal requirement for a complete pre-construction analysis but transfers the burden of conducting the survey from the developer to the Commonwealth. Once construction momentum has begun, it will be exceedingly difficult to halt the development in mid-air.

Because of these continuing uncertainties about essential aspects of the project, it remains possible that Park Plaza will turn into a long-term redevelopment wasteland from which substantial private profit but little public good will emerge. Once again all members are urged to send letters opposing the project to Governor Francis Sargent at the State House, Boston 02133, and DCA Commissioner Lewis Crampton, State Office Building, Boston 02202.

Energy vs. Ecology

The state's Special Legislative Commission on Marine Boundaries and Resources has scheduled a hearing for Thursday, December 6 to take expert testimony on proposals for massive offshore oil drilling and a large offshore tanker terminal. Although public witnesses will not be allowed at that time, letters from concerned citizens are needed to help establish a balanced view. Write c/o Sen. William Bulger, chairman, State House Boston, Mass. 02133

To acquaint local citizens with national developments, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled a "New England Citizens Briefing" in Cambridge for Thursday, December 13. The program will run from 1pm to 5pm in the Ames Court Room of Austin Hall, Harvard Law School. Topics to be covered include air and water pollution; the Northeast energy problem; land use; pesticide and noise control; and solid waste management. Each official presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. CPPAX members are welcome as organizational representatives.

December POLITICAL CALENDAR

- Friday, December 7 -- National Council for Correctional Change, organizing meeting re. prison reform. One Joy Street, Boston. 7 PM.
- Sunday, Dec. 9 -- CPPAX State Assembly on Impeachment. Hastings School in Framingham. 1 - 5 PM.
- Thursday, Dec. 13 -- Environmental Protection Agency "New England Citizens Briefing". Ames Room, Austin Hall, Harvard Law School in Cambridge, 1 - 5 PM.
- Monday, Dec. 10 -- CPPAX Peace Action Committee: discussion of resolutions on the Middle East. CPPAX State Office, 11 South St. 7:30 PM.
- Saturday, Dec. 15 -- Regional Organizing Conference on Indochina. First Church, 24 Churchill Street, Amherst. 10 AM - 6 PM.
- Sunday, Dec. 16 -- Boston Tea Party Bicentennial / Impeachment Town Meeting. Faneuil Hall, Boston. Noon - 3:30 PM.
- Wednesday, Dec. 19 -- Revised filing deadline for bills to be considered by the Massachusetts Legislature for 1974 (postponed from Dec. 5). Contact the CPPAX State Office for assistance in filing your legislation.
- Wednesday, Jan. 2 -- State Legislature reconvenes for 1974 session

Washington Report

The nomination of Gerald Ford to fill the Vice Presidential vacancy, energy legislation and the continuing saga of Watergate, have monopolized the last month in Washington. As a result, the 1973 Congressional session originally scheduled to wind-up before Thanksgiving may now drag on until Christmas Eve.

The remaining weeks before adjournment should see a flurry of activity to clear up those items that can not be postponed. Already delays have shelved consideration of tax and pension reform along with national health insurance until the 1974 session.

First on the agenda is the confirmation of Gerald Ford which has already passed the Senate 92-3 (Brooke and Kennedy both voting yes) and is now scheduled for a House vote on Thursday, December 6. The CPPAX Electoral Reform and Governmental Structure Committee has written to every member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation calling for a vote against Ford because of his total support of Richard Nixon's actions which we believe to be impeachable "high crimes and misdemeanors". Present indications are that only Drinan, Harrington and Moakley from Massachusetts will vote against confirmation.

Once Ford's confirmation is completed, attention will turn to the military and foreign aid appropriations bills. Already the House Appropriations Committee has voted to cut \$2.8 billion from the \$77.3 billion included in the military authorization package. More pressure is needed to line up votes for the floor fights expected in both houses on amendments to make additional cuts in both weapon systems and manpower. Senator Brooke and Representatives Conte and Boland, all of whom sit on the Appropriations Committees, need special attention.

For those concerned with ending U.S. support of the Thieu regime, Senator Brooke is also a major lobbying target. In early December, his Foreign Operations Subcommittee will vote on amendments to the Foreign Aid Appropriations bill offered by Sen. Hatfield to cut all funds for Saigon's police and prisons and to eliminate all but purely humanitarian assistance to South Vietnam. Unless Brooke hears from his constituents, he will heed the hawkish advice of his legislative assistant, a former special forces sergeant who served in Vietnam. Our sources in Washington report that Brooke only voted for fund cut-off wording in the foreign aid authorization because he received more than 2,000 messages from his constituents on the measure. Send those telegrams now; they do make a difference.

As if the \$77.3 billion budget request mentioned above was not more than enough, the Defense Department has now asked for a "supplemental" appropriation of an additional \$3 billion. In a calculatedly cynical move, the Pentagon claims that such a supplemental is needed because of U.S. aid to Israel in the last two months. In fact, the U.S. has sent Israel less than \$1 billion in surplus armaments (mostly munitions). The military now hopes to use that transfer as a pretext for buying more than three times as much in new weapons. To consider CPPAX's position on the supplemental appropriation as well as other aspects of U.S. policy in the Middle East, the Peace Action Committee will meet on Monday, December 10 at 7:30 pm in the State Headquarters. All members are encouraged to participate in this and other committee meetings. The Peace Action Committee has also purchased a new Paul Newman narrated slide show on the military budget. Entitled "Guns and Butter" the half-hour long presentation is available to any member interested in using it as a focus for a local meeting. Contact the Peace Action Committee through the state office for slides and projector, speakers, and promotional leaflets.

Finally, to prepare citizen lobbyists for the next session of Congress, CPPAX is cosponsoring a New England regional conference on Indochina on Sunday, December 15, at the First Church in Amherst. The program includes several presentations on the contemporary situation in Indochina and a number of workshops on action strategies to bar any U.S. reinvolvement and to bring about complete disengagement. Complete details including an agenda and directions to the conference are available from the CPPAX office.

Local Chapters in Action

Nearly a dozen new chapters have joined CPPAX over the last year. The members in Hyde Park/Mattapan and Stoughton are two examples of groups that have been formed to deal with local government and attack common problems.

Stoughton

Stoughton CPPAX began when members of the local McGovern committee agreed that too much work remained to simply disband after the election. Following a well-publicized organizational meeting in February, the new chapter began work on a major project: getting the town meeting to go on record in support of total and unconditional amnesty.

At first a petition to include the question on the warrant was drawn up, but the filing deadline had already passed. Then, when one selectman moved to include the measure another obtained a ruling from the town counsel that the subject was "inappropriate" for a town meeting. Finally the persistent CPPAX members persuaded the town moderator to promise to recognize an amnesty resolution offered from the town meeting floor. A copy of the proposed resolution was sent to all town meeting members, and in a tense session, the question was proposed and debated. Though the resolution was ultimately voted down, the drive was worthwhile; more than a dozen newspapers covered the debate and gave wide circulation to CPPAX's position. Stoughton CPPAX is now preparing a second attempt for next year's meeting.

At the same time as the amnesty campaign, the Stoughton group initiated action on several other fronts: pressing for curriculum and hiring changes in the school system; supporting the lettuce boycott; urging reforms in voting times for the town ballot; and planning for a local food cooperative. The group has also supported general community activities--entering a float, "American Conscience 1776 and Now" in the Fourth of July parade.

In less than a year Stoughton CPPAX has grown to be a visible and important voice for progressive political action. For more information contact Harold Nelson at 344-8975

Ward 18 (Hyde Park)

Members in Boston's Ward 18 (Hyde Park and Mattapan) began working together as a local group last January and became a formal chapter over the summer. Issues are not hard to find near the heart of a major city: education; transportation; crime and corrections were all identified as pressing concerns at the first organizational meeting. As a result Ward 18 CPPAX initiated work with neighborhood block associations, petitioned the local precinct for changes in police patrol activity, and began efforts to improve the community schools program. In addition, letters and phone calls were made to support statewide efforts on behalf of redistricting, racial imbalance, and open meetings.

Support of the Farm Workers' lettuce boycott, one of the first projects undertaken by Ward 18 CPPAX has developed into a major long-term battle. The collection of food, clothing, and donations for UFWOC led to work on the picket lines. A dramatic turn of events came in early November at the A&P store in the Roslindale section of Ward 18. As the CPPAX pickets stood vigil in front of the store, the manager and three other men came out to disrupt the picketing. As the pickets stood firm in the face of abusive and hostile language, the men from the store began threatening violence and shoving some of the pickets. A call to the police settled the situation for that weekend, but the group is now greeted by four Teamsters who try to harrass the pickets each time a line is set up. Needless to say, Ward 18 members urge everyone to honor the boycott and protest the policies of A&P.

The Ward 18 group has also been active in other phases of local community life. During the "Hyde Park-Mattapan Day Celebration" they set up a flea-market bookstand to raise money for a local scholarship fund, and recently many members participated in the impeachment petition drive collecting signatures for both Tip O'Neill and their own Congressman, James Burke.

In an interview printed in the Hyde Park Tribune, local member Bill LeVasseur explained the motivation of Ward 18 CPPAX, "Part of the problem with the country is that most people just say 'I don't care' about politics and political issues. This very attitude has brought about the kind of situations, like Watergate, that we have today in government." Contacts are Bill LeVasseur (298-0637) and Lenora Grant (364-4283).