



Citizens for Participation in Political Action

NEWSLETTER

STATE HEADQUARTERS

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Vol. 2, No. 1

TELEPHONE: 617-426-3040

January 16, 1974

General Court Opens '74 Session

Although the State Senate and House got off to an extra early start on January 2, most bills won't be considered, or even be in print, until February. While the press and the leadership talk about reorganization, federal funds, and energy policy, a wide variety of other issues, both new and old, await scheduling and hearings. Refiled proposals which are likely to be taken more seriously this year include decriminalization of marijuana; gun control; students rights; voting privileges for prison inmates; repeal of laws regulating sexual preference; abolition of the Governor's Council; divorce law reform; and a ban on the sale of beverages in non-returnable containers. With the existing authorization for rent control expiring in early 1975, renewal and expansion proposals will also be a major priority. Bills providing for public financing of election campaigns have also been filed by several organizations and may be the focus of dispute among progressive forces. On the negative side, the regressive elements who pushed for repeal of the Racial Imbalance Law and reestablishment of the death penalty will try again with similar bills.

New ideas this year include an Urban Homestead Act which will enable individuals to renovate abandoned buildings in lieu of direct purchase; a prisoners "bill of rights"; a bill providing for a state investigation of oil companies; and an Impeach Nixon resolution directed at the Massachusetts Congressional delegation.

Since every state legislator must run for reelection this fall, the session will probably end no later than August. With over 6800 bills filed, this means a greatly accelerated pace. To properly represent our views, CPPAX needs additional volunteer lobbyists who are willing to attend hearings, follow bills, and contact local senators and representatives. You can indicate your willingness to help on your membership renewal form or by contacting Dick Cauchi at the CPPAX office.

Throughout last year, CPPAX met regularly with the legislative representatives of over a dozen "friendly" issue groups including ADA, the Civil Liberties Union, Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters to exchange ideas and share common projects. This year the groups have obtained independent funding to establish a non-partisan Massachusetts Research Center for Responsible Government. The Center will assign student interns and other volunteers to research current legislative questions in support of the programs agreed upon by the member organizations. Because the research will be "objective" and not involve any partisan lobbying, the program is ideal for obtaining academic credit from high schools or colleges. Those interested in this type of work should contact Brian McDonald at the Research Center office, 3 Joy Street, Boston 02108 (tel. 523-4760).

New Laws Change State Election Process

During the last few weeks of the 1973 State House session, several major changes were made in the procedure for voter registration and conduct of campaigns. Because the new laws can affect every candidate and every voter, but have received little publicity, the following is a quick summary of the major items. For complete copies of these statutes or information about their implication, contact the CPPAX Electoral Reform Committee at 11 South Street, Boston, 02111.

UNIFORM VOTER REGISTRATION--(Chapter 1137 of 1973) revises the entire system for the registration of new voters by providing a standard form based on a few factual questions to be answered under oath by all new registrants. All questions about financial

continued...

NEW ELECTION LAWS...

status or duration of residence are eliminated; thus giving equal treatment to students and those who move frequently. Although signed into law on December 4, the new procedure does not officially go into effect until June 1, 1974.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURES--(Chapter 1173 of 1973) establishes stricter controls on all aspects of campaign contributions and expenditures. In brief, all incumbents are automatically treated as "candidates"; the annual limit on individual contributions is lowered from \$3000 to \$1000 per candidate; loans are defined as regular contributions until repaid; and the details of all contributions above \$15.00 must be reported. In addition a Director of Campaign Finance, responsible for analyzing records and initiating prosecutions, is created; penalties for illegal campaign practices are raised; specific reporting dates are established to assure that all information is available before elections; and a total dollar ceiling is set for media expenses in campaigns for all state offices (media is defined as television, radio, newspaper, billboard, and magazine advertising plus postage--the new spending limits range from \$500,000 each for the primary and general election for Governor, to \$15,000 for state senate, to \$5,000 for state representative). Effective date: January 1, 1974.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT FOR INDEPENDENTS--(Chapter 849 of 1973) reduces the total number of certified signatures needed for ballot listing as an independent from 3% to 2% of the total vote cast for Governor in the last election in the district concerned (37,400 for statewide races). In districts where boundaries have changed since the last Gubernatorial election, independents must file twice the signatures required for party primary papers. This chapter became effective on December 28, 1973.

IMMEDIATE REGISTRATION ADDRESS CORRECTION FOR LOCAL MOVES--(Chapter 255 of 1973) allows any voter who moves from one street or precinct to another within the same municipality to be listed at the new address as soon as the information is given to the local clerk. The prior law required voting from the old address until January 1 of the next year, even if the voter now resided in a different district. The new procedure became effective on August 7, 1973.

For 1974 the CPPAX Electoral Reform Committee has filed or co-sponsored a number of additional reforms including twelve hour minimum polling hours for all elections; elimination of the notary requirements for absentee ballots; and simplified forms for nomination papers and initiative petitions. Public hearings on these bills will be announced in the next few weeks; contact the Electoral Reform Committee for more details.

Looking Toward November

Based on the final tabulation of the membership mail ballot included with the December Newsletter, CPPAX will undertake formal candidate endorsements for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State. Less than half of those returning ballots voted to consider endorsements for the other statewide offices (Treasurer, Auditor and Executive Council).

The CPPAX Executive Board will now begin developing a procedure for the membership to make endorsements in the four designated races. Already a group including several CPPAX members is making plans for a caucus to endorse candidates for Attorney General and Secretary of State. Modeled after the Massachusetts Citizens Presidential Caucus of January, 1972, this year's event which will be called the Mass Caucus '74 is scheduled for late March in the Framingham area. The Caucus will be open to all registered voters, but only Democratic party candidates will be considered. Members interested in working on the plans for this event can write to the Mass Caucus '74, c/o 11 South Street, Boston 02111.

Now is also the time for local groups to begin considering candidates for offices such as State Senator, Representative and U.S. Congress. The state office is already assisting members in several districts to develop appropriate mechanisms for conducting these endorsements. Feel free to contact the office for advice and help.

Impeachment at the Crossroads

The next few weeks are crucial to the effort to impeach Nixon. When Congress reassembles on January 21, members will spend considerable time comparing recess experiences and attempting to assess the national mood on impeachment. Meanwhile, the Congressional leadership will grapple with the question of what strategy has the least political risk. Unless constituent pressure is maintained throughout this period, Congress will yield to its natural inclination to avoid resolving this most controversial issue.

Our task is to leave our representatives no alternative but to bring Nixon to trial through impeachment. The enclosed supplement entitled "How You Can Help Impeach Nixon" can serve as a partial guide for local action. Additional copies are available, in quantity, from the state office.

Activities similar to those lead by CPPAX are now going on across the country under the umbrella of the National Campaign to Impeach Nixon which has circulated its program to a wide range of local organizations and coalitions. The national schedule calls for local impeachment town meetings (such as the incredibly successful Faneuil Hall town meeting produced by CPPAX as part of the Tea Party Bicentennial), followed by coordinated weeks of Congressional lobbying, and culminating with a massive rally in Washington when the Judiciary Committee releases its report on impeachment.

Groups across the nation look to Massachusetts for continued leadership in the campaign. Local activists must make sure that pressure does not slacken.

Washington Report

Following the longest session in more than a decade, Congress has enjoyed a month-long recess. Because of the prevailing belief that all incumbents will be in trouble in November due to inflation, political corruption and the energy crisis, most members have decided to forego the traditional junkets and vacations and have spent the recess "fence-mending" and "pulse-taking" in their districts. The one exception from Massachusetts has been Senator Ed Brooke who spent the entire recess at his estate in the Virgin Islands. Brooke does not face reelection until 1978.

Upon returning to Washington for the new session, the Senators and Representatives will be confronted with a number of major issues which were not resolved last year. In this category are bills relating to windfall profits in the energy industry, no-fault auto insurance, tax reform, regulations for land-use planning, aid to Indochina, national health insurance, and campaign finance reform.

Added to these concerns will be Nixon's budget for Fiscal '75 which is rumored to exceed the \$300 billion level for the first time. Defense spending will again be the prime budget issue since the administration believes that the support of liberals for Israel can be used to open the door for a military spending boost of \$7-\$9 billion dollars. Such an overall increase is absurd. Progressive forces must begin mobilizing immediately by warning Congress that votes for more military largesse will be remembered in November.

Continued pressure will also be needed if Congress is to continue to reassert its prerogative to define national priorities. Because this is an election year, every representative will be especially attentive to constituent communications.

Meet The White House Enemies

More than half the Massachusetts people on Nixon's enemy lists are CPPAX members. To honor them, CPPAX is sponsoring a reception at the home of John and Joanne Brode, 23 Berkeley Street, Cambridge at 4:00 pm on Saturday, January 26. Congressman Robert Drinan and the other Massachusetts enemies will be featured guests. A donation of \$10 per person will help support the CPPAX impeachment campaign. Though the event is designed primarily to attract new supporters of CPPAX, members interested in buying tickets should contact the state office.

Because tax reform is one of the great political-social-economic issues of our time, everybody is in on the act, though one person's reform sometimes seems like another's super-swindle. Middle and low-income taxpayers constitute the base of the pyramid which is crowned by the kind of tax gimmickry recently made famous by Richard Nixon. Even though the blue collar or "working poor" family can't squeeze any income through the holes in the Federal income tax lace, they do get caught in the threads.

One "way out" is to hire Mr. Quickshuffle to prepare a tax return (at a bait-advertised minimum charge of \$5); another is to give up in the face of the tax collector's jargon, not file a return, and forfeit a possible refund. (In 1972, 47% of the returns filed by taxpayers with incomes of \$5000 or less were prepared by someone other than the taxpayer).

Now comes the Movement for Economic Justice (an outgrowth of the welfare rights movement) with the idea of free "tax clinics". The mechanism is simple: set up a good volunteer operation to help people do their returns and use the tax preparation sessions to educate and organize about tax reform and related issues. Last year MEJ's tax clinics helped about 22,000 people collect refunds totalling more than \$8 million.

CPPAX local chapters could make good use of this technique; particularly in this election year. If you're interested either in help or in helping, contact the South Street office. Promptly, please. There is a particular need for lawyers and CPA's to serve as expert advisors and trainers.

Democrats Plan Mid-Term Conference

The Democratic National Committee has announced preliminary plans for a "Conference on Democratic Party Organization and Policy" to be held in Kansas City from December 6 to 8, 1974. The main purpose will be to adopt a permanent charter for the national Democratic Party. Issue discussion will be limited to topics approved in advance by the National Committee.

In contrast and reaction to the 1972 Democratic Convention, The Conference is geared to assure a more prominent role for elected officials and members of the party hierarchy. While overall delegate apportionment is based on an elaborate formula, Congressmen are guaranteed seats and state committees may select up to 20% of each state delegation. The remaining 80% of popular delegates must be chosen from units no larger than Congressional Districts. Unlike the normal Massachusetts practice, the convention call prohibits all Independent voters from participating.

Massachusetts has been allotted 52 elected delegates and 10 ex officio for a total of 62 votes; 13 alternates will also be chosen. National rules mandate the State Committee to adopt a delegate-selection plan by February 1. It is likely that the selection process will be turned over to local ward and town committees whose record of encouraging open participation has been rather dismal. Those interested should contact the Democratic State Committee at 8 Beacon Street, Boston 02108 with reactions and opinions. It is important to stress the need for a program of affirmative action to ensure participation of traditionally under-represented groups.

Park Plaza Update

Action is currently pending on Park Plaza on both the state and local level. The Department of Community Affairs is about to conclude the fourth round of public hearings, and Commissioner Lewis Crampton will shortly approve or reject the latest proposal. The Park Plaza plan currently before the DCA is still the same disastrous project: detrimental to the Gardens, Common and surrounding neighborhoods; financially irresponsible; and an illegal use of eminent domain. Letters of opposition should be sent to Governor Sargent and Commissioner Crampton once again.

The Boston City Council has voted 5 to 4 to rescind the bond issue for Park Plaza. Unfortunately, this is not sufficient to override Mayor White's certain veto. Councilmen DiCara and Tierney voted in support of Park Plaza despite their pre-election promises to oppose the plan. DiCara repeatedly put his anti-Park Plaza position in writing during the campaign. Because the bond issue will come before the council for action again in the near future, citizens should write to both DiCara and Tierney asking them to change their positions. Outrage should be expressed to DiCara for his particularly cynical attitude toward the electorate.

Vietnam Peace Treaty Anniversary

January 27th marks the first anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords which were to have ended the war in Indochina. Because the war is far from over, CPPAX and other area peace organizations have planned a week-long schedule of activities to refocus public attention on the situation in Indochina.

Beginning with a noon-hour vigil on Monday, January 21st at the JFK Federal Building in Boston, the "Week of Concern" will concentrate on leafletting with information on U.S. complicity in Thieu's repression. Two television programs will highlight the week: on Tuesday, January 22nd, at 10 PM, Channel 2 will present "South Vietnam: A Question of Torture" and on Wednesday, the 23rd, "The Post-War War" will be televised on Channel 44. Other activities will be scheduled for the weekend. For lists of leafletting targets and other details, contact the CPPAX state office.

Local Chapters in Action: NORTHAMPTON

In February 1973, the Northampton area had only a handful of CPPAX members, no history of CPPAX activity, and no ongoing mechanism for getting political work done. Yet, by December the local chapter had grown to 35 members in Northampton and Hatfield and had developed a structure and reputation that enabled the members to have a real impact upon the local political scene.

The key to Northampton's success has been a simple organizational scheme based on direct membership decision-making and action. Before each monthly chapter meeting, a clear and interesting summary of the previous session is sent out to all members along with an agenda of pending action. Meetings are short and to the point; they average only an hour and a half and none run over two hours. Between general meetings chapter business is handled by an elected five-person executive board which functions as a non-hierarchical steering committee. New members are regularly recruited by friends who talk about CPPAX and describe what can be accomplished through concerted action.

The Northampton-Hatfield group has three basic purposes: having an impact on local politics; serving as a voice in the legislature for residents of Western Massachusetts; and continuing issue-oriented work between elections. As with all successful groups, the chapter has tackled a variety of issues including fighting for wider representation on the local school board; encouraging state legislative action on amnesty; working for the ending of U.S. military expenditures in Indochina; building support for the boycotts of non-union lettuce and grapes; and lobbying for reform of the state marijuana laws.

Locally the group has proposed that the abandoned railroad tracks of Western Mass. Electric be turned into bike and hiking paths. Also under investigation is the idea of setting up community bulleting boards at central locations in town to better inform people about local events. The group has also had a successful experience with electoral politics. In the fall elections, Russ Carrier, the chapter coordinator, won a seat on the school committee.

For further information about CPPAX activities in the Northampton-Hatfield area, contact Russ Carrier at 1A Cooke Avenue, Northampton 01060 (tel. 413 584-2168).

Membership Renewal

As this newsletter makes clear, we face many important tasks this year. Our success on the issues and in the November elections will depend directly on the grassroots strength of the "new politics" movement. Each member can help by recruiting neighbors and friends to CPPAX--the state office will gladly send out sample literature on request.

AND REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR OWN 1974 CPPAX MEMBERSHIP TODAY

POLITICAL CALENDAR

- Sunday, January 20 -- Sixth District Impeachment-Action Planning Meeting. First Baptist Church, Beverly (corner of Cabot and Abbott streets). 1 PM. For further information, contact the Parker's at 546-2821.
- Monday, January 21 -- U.S. House and Senate reconvene for second session, 93rd Congress following winter recess.
- Tuesday, January 22 -- Political Action Seminar on Land Use sponsored by the New England Sierra Club. 14 Beacon Street, Room 500. 7:30 PM.
- Saturday, January 26 -- "Meet the White House Enemies" benefit for CPPAX impeachment campaign. 23 Berkeley Street, Cambridge. 4 PM. \$10 donation.
- Sunday, January 27 -- First Anniversary of Paris Peace Agreement on Indochina culminating "Week of Concern" activities.
- Monday, January 28 -- CPPAX Peace Action Committee, review of peace program for 1974 and showing of "Guns or Butter" slide program. CPPAX State Office, 11 South Street, Boston. 8 PM.
- Sunday, February 3 -- Farah-Farmworkers Benefit Program (dinner, exhibits, and entertainment). Harrington School, Cambridge Street, Cambridge. 4 - 8 PM. Minimum donation \$2.

TODAY: RENEW YOUR CPPAX MEMBERSHIP FOR 1974

CPPAX Newsletter

Citizens for Participation in Political Action

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MASS.
PERMIT No. 50140

JANUARY CONTENTS

'74 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
IMPEACHMENT SUPPLEMENT
NEW ELECTION LAWS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PARLEY
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON REPORT
TAX CLINICS
PARK PLAZA

MR RICHARD CAUCHI
52 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET
BOSTON MA 02114

Address Correction Requested



The Mass Caucus '74

The CPPAX Executive Board has voted to endorse plans for the Mass Caucus '74, a statewide citizens meeting to select among candidates for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General and Secretary of State. These two races received the highest percentage of "yes" votes in the pre-endorsement mail ballot circulated last December. The Executive Board decision was based largely on that membership interest, coupled with the strong emphasis on "new politics" issues expressed in the Caucus call.

CPPAX members are urged to organize their communities to ensure full representation at the Caucus. Additional copies of the enclosed brochure are available for local distribution. Pre-registration for the Caucus is encouraged to assist the Caucus staff in preparing for the event. Advance registration will be only \$1; registration at the door will be \$2. All pre-registrants will receive detailed information concerning the issue positions of the candidates.

The Caucus decisions will not be considered official CPPAX endorsements, since only Democratic candidates will be considered by the Caucus and many others besides CPPAX members will be free to participate. CPPAX will conduct its own endorsement for Attorney General and Secretary of State, as well as for Governor and Lt. -Governor, as part of the annual membership convention later this Spring. Full details will be included in a subsequent Newsletter.

NOTE: (see also article on renewals) If you are sending both registration money and renewal money, make separate checks. Registration checks should be made out to The Mass Caucus '74, renewal checks to CPPAX.

More on Abortion Controversy

A well-organized and amply-funded minority has launched a nationwide attack upon the Jan. 22, 1973 Supreme Court's landmark decision which made abortions legal. Top priority of the campaign is the Hogan Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which would effectively ban all abortions by declaring the fetus a legal person from the moment of conception. Such wording would make all abortions criminal violations of the "due process rights" of the fetus. No longer would abortions be a private matter subject only to the dictates of the individual's conscience.

The anti-abortion forces have already won several congressional victories: an amendment to the Legal Services Act now prohibits federally-funded legal services personnel from becoming involved in litigation to implement the Supreme Court decision; a "conscience clause" was added to Public Health Service legislation; an anti-abortion rider was attached to Title 10 of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of any Medicaid funds for abortions. Earlier, the Senate approved a rider to the Foreign Aid bill which prevents the use of Foreign Assistance Funds for programs which include abortion, abortion education or referral, research into abortion, or the use of measures to prevent pregnancy such as IUD's or morning-after pills. Although some of these prohibitions were deleted in the final bill, the law now seriously hinders the use of AID funds for overseas abortion services.

CPPAX supports the decision of the Supreme Court which affirmed the essential privacy of the abortion decision. This non-coercive ruling offers freedom of choice to all: freedom to reject the service for those who oppose abortion for any reason, and freedom to accept the service for those who wish to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

The Constitutional Defense Project needs help to oppose the efforts of the "Right to Life" groups. A major campaign is planned to alert the Massachusetts congression-

ABORTION REPEAL...

al delegation to the serious consequences of anti-abortion and anti-birth control legislation now pending in Washington. Constituents should write to their Representative and Sens. Brooke and Kennedy, in support of the Supreme Court ruling. For additional details on how you can help, contact the CDP at 3 Joy St., #15, Boston 02108 (523-2113). Excellent pamphlets on this issue are available from CDP or the Planned Parenthood Federation local chapter at 93 Union St., Newton 02159 (332-8750).

Impeachment Update

As the House Judiciary Committee slowly moves through the preliminary phases of its investigation, the real danger is that the country will become bored with the issue of Nixon's criminal behaviour. If public pressure abates, Congress will gladly let the risky issue fade into obscurity. The task here is to keep the heat on the Massachusetts congressional delegation through letters, telegrams, and grassroots activities for the duration of the Judiciary Committee hearings, House vote, and Senate trial.

Locally, the CPPAX-sponsored bill to put the State Legislature on record in favor of impeachment has been numbered H. 3635 and sent to the Rules Committee. A hearing should be scheduled soon. Copies of the measure will be available from the state office as soon as the bill is in print. This can also serve as a model for similar resolutions to be placed on town ballots or at town meetings. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

In the Sixth Congressional District, Cape Ann Concerned Citizens, the local CPPAX group, has spearheaded the formation of a non-partisan Impeachment Action Committee, (IMPACT, 41 Pigeon Hill St., Rockport 01966) to carry out basic public education on the meaning of impeachment. IMPACT has produced an excellent piece called "What You Should Know About Impeachment" which discussed the issue in an informal question and answer format. CPPAX can provide additional copies for other local groups at low cost. A stamped, self-addressed envelope sent to CPPAX will bring a sample pamphlet by return mail.

Meanwhile, in Worcester, several CPPAX members have played active roles in setting up an Impeachment Information Committee to "fully inform the public about the nature of the impeachment process". They plan to use the local media and a petition drive to focus attention on Cong. Donohue who serves on the Judiciary Committee. Contact Ronal Madnick, 80 Sussex Lane, Worcester, for details about the Third District impeachment plans.

Statewide, the CPPAX impeachment petition drive continues with counting almost caught up with incoming petitions. Signed and tabulated petitions are still available for presentation to Congress. Finally, CPPAX is a sponsor of a coalition planning a major impeachment teach-in for MIT's Kresge Auditorium on April 8. More about that in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Two new books, published in the last month, are particularly useful for those who carefully follow the impeachment issue. The Offenses of Richard M. Nixon is a full-fledged legal brief detailing the indictable crimes of the President and his subordinates. Written by a team of lawyers headed by Nader aide William Dobrovir and including former Mass PAX staffer Joe Gebhardt, and with a foreword by Raoul Berger, this 169-page book is an excellent guide for the unconvinced and a powerful stimulus to action. The Almanac of American Politics is the proverbial scorecard without which it is impossible to identify all the congressional players. Though limited in depth by the need to profile 535 Senators and Representatives, the Almanac gathers more important facts about Congress in one place than any other single volume. Both books should be available at local stores. If not, write or call CPPAX for publishers' addresses.

State House Voting Profiles

The complete 1973 Massachusetts House of Representatives Roll Call Votes, compiled by Richard Cauchi of the CPPAX staff, is now available from the state office. The 17-page voting profile includes 161 significant votes cast during the '73 session. CPPAX members may order copies at 25¢ for each individual representative analyzed. Price to non-members is \$1.00 for each study.

Gun Control

CPPAX supports the contention that the fewer handguns available, the less the likelihood of violence. Hence, our platform calls for stricter gun control legislation and better enforcement of existing gun laws.

This year State Sen. Jack Backman and Rep. Peter Harrington have filed several bills dealing with gun control and licensing, along with the sale and transport of ammunition. A fact sheet distributed by the two legislators reveals that 1 death by handgun takes place every 58 minutes in the U.S., whereas in Gt. Britain with extremely tight gun laws, the rate is 1 death every 7 and 1/2 weeks. Moreover, the domestic manufacture of handguns has risen 600% since 1960; 4 to 8 Boston cabdrivers are robbed by handgun every night; 73% of all policemen killed in the line of duty are shot with handguns; 51% of all murders and 33% of all robberies are also committed with handguns.

The moderately tough gun laws now on the books in Massachusetts have kept Boston's handgun murders at a "low" rate of 4.4 per 100,000 population (low compared with cities such as Miami, Houston and Dallas which have handgun murder rates of 15.6, 16.9 and 18.4 per 100,000 population, respectively). Harrington and Backman believe that the Boston figure could be cut even more if "Saturday Night Specials" were banned here altogether. Their legislation would outlaw the possession of handguns by everyone except law enforcement officers, members of the armed forces, authorized pistol clubs, employees of guard agencies, and specially licensed businessmen.

While the CPPAX platform supports even stricter gun control measures than those proposed in the Backman-Harrington package, it is important that legislators be made aware of the level of support for some form of stronger regulations on weapons designed primarily to kill people. In past years, the gun lobby has packed hearings with opponents of controls. This year the hearing on gun control will take place on Monday Feb. 25, at 10am in Gardner Auditorium, State House. Supporters of gun controls should be there! And it is important to get to the auditorium before 9am in order to get in.

Additionally, it would be extremely useful to write to Governor Sargent urging his support of the Harrington-Backman bills. Sargent has submitted his own, much weaker version, and despite his very strong public pledge to fight for strong controls, has not so far been willing to give his support to the tougher legislation.

Democratic Conference Delegate Selection

At a January meeting, the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee approved procedures for the selection of the state's 62 delegates to the National Conference on Democratic Party Organization and Policy scheduled for Dec. 6-8, 1974 in Kansas City. According to their plan, every ward and town in the state is to hold a "caucus" on Saturday, May 4 at 10am to choose local representatives to congressional district meetings which will be held on June 1. The CD caucuses will, in turn, elect 42 delegates to the mid-term convention. (An article in the CPPAX January Newsletter referred to "52 elected delegates and 10 ex officio for a total of 62". According to the new plan adopted, only 42 will be elected at the district caucuses, with 10 places going to the Massachusetts congressional members and the remaining 10 selected by the Dem. State Committee.)

Although the national conference call requires an open process, the State Committee voted down several proposals to encourage broader participation. Local meetings are to be announced and run by the Democratic ward and town committees with one announcement in the local media considered adequate public notice. Independent voters are excluded from participating regardless of their interest in the Party; only registered Democrats may attend the May 4th meetings. Recent registrants whose names do not appear on available voting lists are expected to bring an official "certificate of enrolment" signed by an election commissioner or town clerk to gain admission to the meeting.

In an additional effort to restrict participation, the State Committee voted itself the power to choose all 14 Conference alternate delegates instead of allowing any form of

DEMOCRATIC PARTY DELEGATE SELECTION...

popular election. Furthermore, a provision requiring day care facilities at the caucuses was struck out following a heated debate. Finally, the State Committee refused to allocate any money to implement an "affirmative action" plan which might have encouraged more participation by the poor, elderly and unemployed, as well as minorities and young people.

Although it is an important political consideration, the precise number of delegates to be chosen on the ward and town level has not yet been announced by the State Committee. Presumably, details will be available from the DSC (723-1914) in the near future. For a copy of the full plan for conference delegate selection plus a plan for participation by liberal Democrats, write to the CPPAX office or Jerome Grossman, 115 Dorset Rd., Newton 02168.

Local Chapters in Action: CHELMSFORD

"I know all about you and," shifting his outstretched finger from Eleanor to Peg, "about you. All about you. The only thing I probably don't know is what side of the bed you sleep on." The speaker was Mike DeMoulas, owner of the DeMoulas Super Markets and object of an 8-month battle by CPPAX picketers on behalf of the United Farm Workers. Eleanor Abbott and Peg Eagen, Chelmsford CPPAX coordinators, were in no way intimidated. This was just one more example of the problems they have faced since the coalition of Chelmsford, Lowell, Billerica and Andover chapters began work on the lettuce boycott last May.

It all started with an invitation to UFW representatives to speak at a CPPAX meeting. Since then, they have developed an organization which includes, in addition to the weekend picket line, a newsletter, a phone tree, weekly checks of stores complying with the boycott, and a bi-weekly meeting to work out problems that arise. The ongoing work has been accomplished with the fulltime, essentially volunteer efforts of Terri Schlager from the UFW Dorchester office. It includes organization of coffees and meetings where a film is shown and the problems of the farmworkers are discussed. A 24-hr. prayer vigil at the Lowell store in August and an ecumenical service in January were major events which served to focus attention on the boycott. A grant from the local Unitarian council allowed them to put together a video tape including segments on the UFW, tenants' rights, Walpole Prison and the continuing war in S. E. Asia, which is being shown continuously at meetings in the Chelmsford area.

Meetings similar to the one that ignited the boycott activity have been held with Don Luce, the agronomist who discovered that over 100,000 Vietnamese were being kept in the "tiger cages" built by US contractors with US money; with Donna-Marie White, an American Indian talking about Wounded Knee; and with speakers on the Walpole Prison situation---resulting in several Chelmsford volunteers serving as observers at the prison. The group has supported several local candidates, including the organization of a fund-raiser for County Commissioner Paul Tsongas attracting 600 people, and Dr. Jessie Harris in his bid for a seat on the Middlesex County Extension Service, to strengthen their work on inner-city problems.

The chapter has also taken the lead in the impeachment drive in their area. Members collected signatures at Chelmsford shopping centers and provided help in Cambridge in the O'Neill drive both in the initial week and on election day collecting signatures at the polls. The chapter is now trying to put an impeachment referendum question on the ballot. So far, the town clerk has turned them down on the grounds that "there are just no rules that cover such a ballot statement". More rounds in this fight are to follow.

For more information on Chelmsford chapter, contact: Eleanor Abbott, 8 Ranch Rd. (256-0202) and Peg Eagen, 221 Mill Rd. (256-7619).

Rent Control to Expire

This is a big year for state legislative action on rent control. The current law authorizing certain municipalities to enact rules to control rents will expire early in 1975. If rent control is to be retained or expanded, new legislation must be passed in this session of the General Court.

To develop a coordinated legislative strategy, an Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Rent Control has been meeting regularly at the CPPAX state office. Tenants groups from throughout the greater Boston area have joined with CPPAX and the Mass. Law Reform Institute to lobby not only for the extension of rent control, but also for a number of other bills that would aid tenants.

The Ad Hoc Committee now needs to extend its contacts on this issue into the suburbs and the rest of the state. Help from members is needed to get in touch with every state representative and senator to determine how each stands on rent control. Please report reaction to John Brode, c/o the CPPAX state office.

No dates have yet been set for hearings on the bills to extend rent control. Several hearings on related subjects are listed in this month's Newsletter Political Calendar. If you would like to be kept informed of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, please contact the CPPAX state office.

All members are invited to attend the next meeting of the committee: Tuesday, Feb. 26, 8pm at the CPPAX state office.

The Nixon Budget for '75

Though delivered without the belligerent tone of last year's message, the Administration's budget proposals released last month represent much the same distorted priorities as the fiscal '74 proposals. Once again progressives must wage an intense campaign to compel Congress to reorder Nixon's spending goals.

In every area of concern to the CPPAX constituency, the new federal budget offers little but tired rhetoric. For example, the budget is virtually mute on tax reform, despite widespread public concern. All Nixon offers is an "excess profits" tax on windfall profits in the oil industry (a tax which can be passed on to consumers) and some minor tinkering with the minimum tax on the wealthy. Tax subsidies of nearly \$70 billion remain untouched except for an illogical increase in the level of farm supports in the face of unprecedented demand. Nor is there any change proposed in the regressive social security payroll tax.

Similarly, there is little recognition of the growing problem of economic slowdown (on which the President's optimism is directly contradicted by his Council of Economic Advisers) other than the inclusion of a \$1.5 billion contingency fund for higher, extended unemployment benefits. The highly ballyhooed energy program provides little new funding for research and development, and directs the meagre resources towards already existing projects and agencies. When adjusted for inflation, aid to states and municipalities and all aspects of health spending except for Medicare, are funded at lower levels than last year.

In fact, the only item given a substantial increase other than the social security trust fund is the military budget. Despite "Peace with Honor", Nixon has asked Congress for \$6.2 billion in supplemental funds for fiscal '74 plus a \$6.9 billion boost over total '74 spending for '75. The jump of \$13.1 billion represents a 15% increase--more than 30% of the 1975 tax dollar will go to military spending. Even more important: large sums of money are appropriated for new high-powered weapons systems such as the B-1 bomber which will have ultimate costs of over \$50 billion (plus overruns!).

Throughout the year CPPAX will coordinate grassroots lobbying directed towards the Massachusetts congressional delegation on questions of spending priorities. Our membership in the Coalition on Human Needs and Budget Priorities and the Coalition on National Priorities and Military Spending keeps the state office aware of pending legislation. The Newsletter plus contacts to local chapters alerts the membership. Last year citizen pressure swung several key votes in the Massachusetts delegation. In this session we must do even better.

POLITICAL CALENDAR

- Monday, Feb. 25: Gun Control hearings, Gardner Audit., State House, 10am.
- Tuesday, Feb. 26: Public hearings on state legislation regarding the Urban Homestead Act and a variety of bills concerning rehabilitation. State Hse, rm. 443A, 10.30am.
- Tuesday, Feb. 26: Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Rent Control, open meeting, CPPAX state office, 8 pm.
- Thursday, Feb. 28: Public hearings on state bills dealing with tenant-landlord rights. State House, rm. 443A, 10.30am.
- Thursday, Feb. 28: John Boone, former Mass. Corrections Commissioner, reports on his recent visit to So. Vietnam to investigate the situation there one year after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords. Follen Community Church, 755 Mass. Ave., Lexington, 7.30pm.
- Friday, March 1: Teach-in on Chile, Paulist Ctre., 5 Park St., Boston, 7.30pm
- Saturday, Mar. 2: Demonstration against military dictatorships in Chile and Greece, at Park St. MBTA station, noon. For info, call Chile Action, 492-2285.
- Monday, Mar. 4: CPPAX Peace Action Comm. monthly meeting to work on platform and activities. CPPAX state office, 8pm.
- Saturday, Mar. 9: Energy conference sponsored by Science for the People: series of workshops for people & groups affected by energy crisis to develop coordinated action strategy. 100 Arlington St., Boston, 9am-3pm. Call 498-6169 for info.
- Sunday, Mar. 10: Concert to benefit re-building of Bach Mai Hospital, with Joseph Silverstein, violin, and Anton Kuerti, piano. Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, 2 pm. For ticket info, call 492-0489 or 782-1663.
- Saturday, Mar. 23: The Mass. Caucus '74, "a statewide citizen selection of Dem. candidates for Atty Gen. and Sec. of State. Framingham Town Hall. Registration opens at 9am.

CPPAX Newsletter

Citizens for Participation In Political Action

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MASS.
PERMIT No. 50140

FEBRUARY CONTENTS

STATE CITIZENS CAUCUS
ABORTION REPEAL
HANDGUN REGULATION
RENT CONTROL
DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE
IMPEACHMENT UPDATE
NIXON'S "NEW" BUDGET

MR RICHARD CAUCHI
52 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET
BOSTON
MA 02114

Have you renewed for 1974?--see enclosure!



The Mass Caucus '74 Convenes Saturday

The statewide campaign to elect state officials who accurately reflect the Commonwealth's progressive reputation gets underway this coming Saturday, March 23, when issue-oriented citizens from across the state gather at Framingham Town Hall for The Mass Caucus '74.

So far more than 50,000 brochures have been distributed explaining the purposes of the Caucus and urging all concerned individuals to attend. In addition, the Caucus staff has put together a series of candidates' nights to give the public a better opportunity to meet the contenders and quiz them on the issues. In the week that remains before the Caucus, the following candidates' nights are scheduled:

- Mon. Mar. 18, 7.30pm - Taylor Dining Hall, Assumption College, Worcester
- Tues. Mar. 19, 8.00pm - Somerville H. S. Auditorium, Somerville
- Wed. Mar. 20, 7.00pm - Arrowhead Motel, Bedford (Atty-Gen. candidates only)
- Wed. Mar. 20, 8.00pm - Mason-Rice School, Newton Centre

Candidates expected to seek the Caucus endorsement include Brookline Representative John Businger, Boston City Councillor Larry DiCara, and Newton Representative Paul Guzzi, all running for Secretary of State; Attorney John Buckley of Concord, Norfolk County Registrar of Deeds Barry Hannon, Attorneys Edward Harrington of Fall River, Sanford Kowal of Newton, and Charles Mahoney of Boston, Executive Councillor Edward O'Brien of Springfield, Somerville Mayor S. Lester Ralph, and former Medford Representative George Sacco, all seeking the nomination for Attorney-General. Incumbent Secretary of State John Davoren and Attorney General candidate Francis Bellotti have both refused to be considered by the Caucus.

Naturally, an event of the magnitude of a statewide caucus requires considerable staff back-up. The Caucus needs volunteers who can help with registration, vote monitoring and counting and a myriad of other tasks. If you can help on the 23rd, call the Caucus at (617) 426-3043. Volunteering will not interfere with anyone's ability to participate in the candidate evaluation and voting.

The Rent Control Hearing

The future of rent control in Massachusetts depends on the results of a hearing before the General Court's Local Affairs Committee on Wed. April 10, 10.30am in the Gardner Auditorium, State House.

The Committee will take testimony on five bills to extend the rent control enabling act beyond its present expiration date of April 1975. Without this enabling act, no community can have rent control in Massachusetts. This would be a disaster for the low and moderate-income people in those areas which now have rent control (Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Lynn, Somerville). The effect would also hit many places contemplating rent control (including Brockton, Lowell, Pittsfield, Springfield). The landlords will be out in force. They are pushing for the defeat of rent control.

We must counter this effort. Because the Local Affairs Committee is composed mostly of representatives from small towns, we badly need support from outside the large cities and towns. CPPAX has many members from small towns. We hope these members and others will make it a point to attend the hearing on April 10. In preparation for the hearing, a planning meeting will be held at the CPPAX office on Tues. Mar. 19 at 8pm. If you can help, please come.

Campaign to Cut Aid to Thieu

As Watergate, the energy crisis and local political concerns have diverted attention from the continuing war in Indochina, the Nixon Administration has been quietly acting to undermine the political settlement called for in the Paris Peace Accords signed by Henry Kissinger thirteen months ago. Bolstered by U.S. dollars and weapons, South Vietnam's General Thieu has been free to consolidate his own power, repudiate the elections called for in the Paris agreements, and build a police and prison system which is a model of repression.

To counter Nixon's plans, activists from across the country have joined together in a united campaign to terminate all vestiges of U.S. involvement in Indochina. A national strategy has been developed to build public awareness to the responsibility of the U.S. for conditions in Indochina, and to channel public pressure to convince Congress to cut back police and military aid and prevent any full-scale re-intervention. During the last congressional session, this coalition was instrumental in mobilizing support for several initiatives which cut aid to the repressive governments in Indochina by almost one billion dollars from what the Administration had requested.

Yet, these successes have not yet convinced Nixon of the need for complete disengagement. In his budget for Fiscal '75, Nixon actually requests a 65% increase in aid to Thieu, including such items as 128 brand-new F-5E fighter aircraft (a direct violation of the peace accords ban on introducing new weapons). Even more callously, Defense Secretary Schlessinger has asked Congress for an emergency supplemental authorization of \$474 million, precisely the amount cut from the defense spending bill by Congress last December. Sen. Kennedy has co-sponsored an amendment to block the supplemental.

In Massachusetts, CPPAX has joined with the American Friends Service Committee, the Indochina Peace Campaign, Medical Aid to Indochina, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and other organizations, to maintain pressure on our congressional delegation. The prime tool is the Vietnam Peace Pledge, a simple, 3-point program to end U.S. police aid to Thieu, encourage a political settlement based on the Paris Accords and preclude any renewal of direct U.S. intervention. As part of this "Unity Program", CPPAX has sent copies of the "Pledge" to all fourteen Massachusetts Representatives and Senators asking them to sign it (all challengers will also be asked to endorse the pledge). Our next Newsletter will report on congressional response. Local constituents can assist the campaign by contacting their representatives to sign the pledge and by having local civic, religious, and governmental groups endorse a Vietnam Peace Resolution which calls upon Congress to ratify the Pledge. Immediate pressure is needed to block the emergency supplemental appropriation. Resource material including copies of the Pledge and Resolution are available on request from CPPAX.

CPPAX State Assembly March 30

The first CPPAX State Assembly of 1974, set for 10.30am on Sat. Mar. 30, at the Hastings School in Framingham, is designed as a series of brief presentations and topical workshops on issues of immediate concern. The Executive Board has slated six topics for consideration: strategy for the 1974 Democratic Party Conference; saving rent control; sustaining grassroots impeachment pressure; the fight for a guaranteed minimum income; cutting the military budget; prospects for national health insurance.

Each local CPPAX group should be represented by one delegate for each twenty paid members --- other interested members are encouraged to attend also. A complete agenda and directions to the Hastings School are available from the state office.

Planning is also underway for the CPPAX Annual Convention at which members will consider endorsements for Governor, Lt.-Governor, Attorney-General and Secretary of State, as well as dealing with platform and charter revisions. Full details will be publicized in the April Newsletter, but in the meantime, save the weekend of May 18/ (and/or) 19 for our annual meeting.



ACTION AT THE STATE HOUSE

A CPPAX Newsletter Supplement
published by

Citizens for Participation in Political Action

March, 1974

Schedule of Public Hearings

The following is a list of major public hearings scheduled for the next four weeks by joint committees of the Massachusetts Legislature. Bills are listed by subject area equivalent to CPPAX issue committees, and chronologically within each subject. All hearings are open to the public for testimony and observers; written statements may be sent c/o committee chairmen, State House, Boston MA 02133 if you cannot attend in person. Members and local groups are encouraged to participate in these hearings as often as possible. Lists of committee members and copies of bills are available from the CPPAX office. Members willing to testify on behalf of our organization or interested in details of strategy may contact CPPAX issue committee chairpersons for information. This list is for informational purposes... items mentioned are not necessarily formally endorsed by CPPAX.

CONSUMER PROTECTION / TENANTS RIGHTS

- WED., MARCH 20 -- Establishing a Bureau of public Information (H.2476)
by STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, rm. 434; 10:30am
- Requiring nutritional and ingredient labeling of
consumer goods (H.4038) by COMMERCE & LABOR COMM. rm. 473B; 10:30am
- Telephone rate limits (H.1596); utility rate control
(H.2378, H.2381); phone rebates for bad service
by GOVERNMENT REG. COMM rm. 472; 11am
- THURS, MAR. 21 -- Requiring the return of deposits in lease of real estate
or sale or rent of personal property. COMMERCE & LABOR 473B; 10:30am
(H.1178)
- TUES, MAR. 26 -- Requiring notice to consumers of lowered credit rating
(H.1360, H.3868, S.798) by BANKS & BANKING rm. 424; 10am
- THURS, MAR. 28 -- Requiring dating of perishable foods; use of visible
packaging (H.211, H.3261, H.3262, H.5017)
COMMERCE & LABOR COMM. rm. 473B; 10:30am
- MON., APR. 1 -- Resolution memorializing US Congress to enact
legislation nationalizing the oil industry (H.4867)
FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE rm. 257; 10:30am
- TUES, APR. 9 -- Creating a State Energy Corp.; including authority
to run power companies (S.937, H.1785, H.2938)
GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS rm. 472; 11am
- WED., APR. 10 -- RENT CONTROL (CPPAX Priority legislation)
bills extending state authorization for three to
five years; expanding eligible housing (H.2090,
H.2096, H.2108, S.208, S.1126) LOCAL AFFAIRS COMM. Gardner 10:30am
Audit.
- Election of rent board members and administrators,
(H.2102) LOCAL AFFAIRS COMM Gardner 10:30am

EDUCATION

- MON., MAR. 25 -- State financing of public education (H.5209)
EDUCATION COMM. rm. 480; 10:30am
- WED., MAR. 27 -- State scholarship funds and reduced tuition programs
for Indians, elderly, veterans, bi-lingual courses
EDUCATION COMM. rm. 480; 10:30am
- WED., APR. 3 -- Repeal / weakening of Racial Imbalance Law
[pro-repeal and anti-busing side only] Gardner Audit. 10:30am
- THURS, APR. 4 -- Repeal of Racial Imbalance Law, continued...
[anti-repeal and pro-integration only] Gardner Audit. 10:30am
- NOTE -- Education bills which were heard last year on many subjects
are not being reheard in '74; written testimony may be
filed with the committee, c/o Rep. Michael Daly, chairman

ELECTORAL REFORM

- TUES, MAR 19 -- Campaign financing & contributions (S.917;H.808)
ELECTION LAWS COMM. rm. 443; 10:30am
- WED., MAR 20 -- Financial disclosure & corrupt practices (S.499,
S.920, H.809, H.2730, H.5041) Spending limits (H.235)
ELECTION LAWS COMM. rm. 443 10:30am
- MON., MAR. 25 -- Eliminating notarization requirement for absentee
ballots (H.3310 by CPPAX, H.237, H.4472);
-- Voter registration by mail (H.1779); voting by
mental patients (H.2930) ELECTION LAWS COMM. rm. 443 3:00pm
- TUES, MAR. 26 -- Reduced signature requirements for new political
parties & independents (S.134, S.135, H.3307;H.3308 by CPPAX);
-- Voting rights for prison inmates (H.2563, H.2358);
-- Absentee voter registration (H.2924 by CPPAX,H.1582);
-- Control of political signs. ELECTION LAWS COMM rm. 443 10:30am
- WED., MAR. 27 -- Post-primary public financing (H.3306, H.3902) Gardner 7:00pm
- MON., APR. 1 -- Repeal of county distribution limit on initiative
petitions (H.3717 by CPPAX, S.922, S.923, S.924)
-- Special elections for statewide vacancies (S.921)
ELECTION LAWS COMM. rm. 443 3:00pm
- TUES, APR. 2 -- requiring open announcement of ward/town comm.
vacancies (H.1774 by CPPAX) ELECTION LAWS COMM. rm. 443 10:30am
- WED., APR. 3 -- Tax checkoff for election financing. (H.4971;H.5161)
TAXATION rm. 237 11am

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

- WED., MAR. 20 -- Port Authority to be subject to Environmental
Controls (H.2770); revising pollution standards
(H.5105) NATURAL RESOURCES rm. 473 11am
- TUES, MAR. 26 -- Regulation of bicycles (H.867, etc) PUBLIC SAFETY rm. 473B 10:30am
- WED., MAR. 27 -- Irrevocable licenses for filling tidewater lands in
East Boston (S.226; H.3153);
-- Increasing penalties for violation of Wetlands Act
NATURAL RESOURCES COMM. rm. 473 11:00am

- THURS, MAR. 28 -- Recycled bottles; ban on non-returnable containers
(S.91, S.451, S.825) COMMERCE & LABOR COMM. rm. 473B 10:30am
[NOTE: additional bills on returnable containers in NAT. RES.]
- TUES, APR. 2 -- Providing minimum cost for use of energy by inverting
the rate structure-higher cost for higher use
GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS rm. 472 11am
- MON., APR. 8 -- Establishing a land use agency (H.5338);
Open land reservation(S.1156); Coastal zone resources
NATURAL RESOURCES rm. 473 11am

HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE

- TUES, MAR. 19 -- Childrens Rights (H.21; H.3574, S.1259) rm. 480 10am
--Welfare Cost-of-living increases (S.688, S.1259, H.147,
H.2459, H.3013, H.3573)
-- Contraceptive and medical care for minors (H.1106,
H.5135) SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE rm. 480 1pm
- THURS, MAR. 21 -- State funded & state initiated day care centers
(S.1260, H.2464, H.2812) SOCIAL WELFARE rm. 480 10am
-- Community based probation and youth detention
programs (H.118, H.1104) SOCIAL WELFARE rm. 480 10am
- TUES, MAR. 26 -- Prohibit use of funds for abortion (H.3806, oppose)
SOCIAL WELFARE rm. 480 10am
- THURS, APR. 4 -- Providing consumer representation on hospital
boards (S.300); prohibiting smoking in certain
public places (H.360) SOCIAL WELFARE rm. 480 1pm

HUMAN RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES

- TUES, MAR. 19 -- Police citizen review councils (S.236)
PUBLIC SAFETY COMM. rm. 473B 10:30am
- MON., MAR. 25 -- Eliminating discrimination on the basis of height
in qualifying for police & fire jobs (H.1669)
PUBLIC SERVICE COMM. rm. 436 10:30am
- TUES, MAR. 26 -- Modification of discriminatory veterans' preference
law (H.5334, H.2432) PUBLIC SERVICE Gardner Audit. 10:30am

PEACE ACTION & FOREIGN POLICY

- MON., APR. 1 -- Resolution requesting US Congress to grant amnesty
to Vietnam draft refusers. FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSIST. rm.257 10:30am

TAX REFORM & FISCAL AFFAIRS

- TUES, MAR. 26 -- Constitutional amendment allowing real estate
assessment according to use, with reduced rates
for residences (H.5167) TAXATION rm. 237 10:30am
- WED., MAR. 27 -- Requiring that abatement records be open to public
inspection (H.2058) TAXATION rm. 237 10:30am

TUES, APR. 2	-- Constitutional amendment allowing a State graduated income tax (H.3991)	TAXATION	rm. 237	10:30am
WED., APR. 3	-- Low income property tax credit or "circuitbreaker" (H.2485, H.4001)			
	-- Tax deduction for mass transit use (H.4793); for child care services (H.3822, H.3995, H.3997)	TAXATION	rm. 237	10:30am
	-- Extending workmens' compensation to private household workers (S.464, H.2321)	COMMERCE & LABOR	rm. 473B	10:30am

URBAN AFFAIRS / TRANSPORTATION

TUES, MAR. 19	-- Restricting conversion of rental units into condominium apartments (S.1399); building code amendments	URBAN AFFAIRS COMM.	rm. 473A	10:30am
	-- Construction of Southwest Expressway to Canton, (H.3625, <i>oppose</i>); E. Boston 3rd Harbor Tunnel	TRANSPORTATION COMM.	rm. 443	10:30am
THURS, MAR. 21	-- Continuation of Model Cities program with state aid (H.2515); Establishing a Development Corp, of Mass. (H.3245)	URBAN AFFAIRS COMM.	rm. 473A	10:30am
FRI., MAR. 22	-- Stopping Leverett Circle highway construction in Boston (H.2307)	URBAN AFFAIRS COMM.	rm. 473A	10:30am
MON., MAR. 25	-- Limiting Route 2 construction in Cambridge (H.2298)	TRANSPORTATION COMM.	rm. 443	10:30am
WED., MAR. 27	-- MBTA transit extension (H.3057); -- 24hr MBTA transit service (H.3231)	TRANSPORTATION	rm. 443	10:30am
THURS, MAR. 28	-- Autonomous funding for redevelopment authorities without citizen input (S.771, <i>oppose</i>); Limitation of urban renewal powers (H.1541)	URBAN AFFAIRS	rm. 473A	10:30am
	-- Enforcement of sanitary code violations in housing by State Dept. of Public Health if city fails to act (H.2461)	SOCIAL WELFARE	rm. 480	10am
MON., APR. 1	-- Authorizing DPW landtaking for highway construction (H.167 thru H.171)	TRANSPORTATION	rm. 443	10:30am

Many important bills have already had hearings (with little or no advance notice) and await committee decisions or floor action. A few subjects have not yet been scheduled. If your favorite issue is not included here, you probably still can act to influence its fate. Wednesday, April 24 is the final day for committee decisions, so contact them now.

Marijuana Progress

The Social Welfare Committee has given a favorable report to H. 2457 and S. 299, which would remove the penalties for possession of marijuana and for all not-for-sale transactions of less than 1 oz. Those bills now go to the House and Senate floors where there is sure to be sharp debate. CPPAX members can help by writing or calling their representatives and senators to vote FOR these bills.

Privacy Petition

So far, Massachusetts is the only state in the country with the courage to refuse to tie into the FBI's National Crime Information Center computer network which by 1975 will have over 40,000 federal, state and local agencies feeding it information and which will disseminate information through 45,000 terminals across the country. This network constitutes a grave threat to the constitutional rights of all citizens because it includes only raw arrest records and lists many people innocent of any crime. There are no access restrictions, so that such public and/or private agencies as credit bureaus, realtors, employers and even politicians can get into them for reasons other than law enforcement. The citizen is helpless to challenge, let alone correct, these files, because no "subject" is notified of the file contents.

A number of organizations (ACLU, AFSC, UUSC et al) have joined with Gov. Sargent, Sens. Brooke, Hughes, Goldwater, and Cong. Michael Harrington in petitioning the federal court to require the Department of Justice to provide necessary safeguards to protect individual rights and personal privacy in the operation of national criminal history file systems maintained by the FBI. CPPAX members are urged to help this petition drive. Petitions are available from CPPAX or the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, 78 Beacon St., Boston 02108 (742-2120).

Women's Lobby

A little over a year ago, the Women's Lobby began its first efforts in support of legislation beneficial to women, at home and at work, in areas such as credit for women, child care deductions, divorce law reform. This year, bills have been filed permitting maternity leave, establishing flexible hours employment in certain cases, requiring equal employment opportunity in public schools and in the state government, providing medical care for minors. It is also organizing opposition to voter registration and other identification practices which allow refusals by voter registrars to register married women unless under their husbands' surnames, and to certain requirements for police and firefighters that make it unlikely that many women will qualify for these positions.

The CPPAX Platform and Human Rights and Civil Liberties Committee support much of the legislation filed by the Women's Lobby (for many hearing dates, see insert). Help (as always) is needed to convince legislators that these bills should be passed this year, and members are urged to contact the state office if they are interested in aiding in specific areas. For more info on Women's Lobby, call Fran Henry at 727-6693.

Impeachment

April looms as an especially significant month for the campaign to bring Richard Nixon to justice. In Washington, the committee investigating Nixon's taxes will release an analysis which should prove damaging to Nixon both financially and politically; while the Judiciary Committee is expected to make some form of interim report as its quasi-deadline of April 30 approaches, in addition to carrying its battle for relevant White House documents to the courts. Grassroots action can hasten all these processes.

Here in Massachusetts, a full schedule of impeachment activities has been drawn up to sustain public pressure. On the evening of Monday, April 8, the New England Campaign for Impeachment Action (sponsored by CPPAX among others) plans a regional Impeachment Town Meeting at MIT's Kresge Auditorium and Student Center. The format calls for a series of action workshops from 6-8pm covering Nixonomics, Federal Foreign and Domestic Policy, Congressional Impeachment Action, the Energy Crisis, and Civil Rights/Civil Liberties. Following the workshops, a number of nationally known figures will address a public forum on impeachment, presidential power, and other contemporary issues. More information is available from the New England Campaign for Impeachment Action at (617) 523-7216.

When Congress recesses in mid-April for its Easter/Spring test of voter sentiment (tentatively April 12-21), CPPAX plans a major grass-roots lobbying effort during which over 80,000 impeachment petition signatures will be presented to the delegation. If you can help set up a local meeting with your Representative, contact Bob Schaeffer at CPPAX state headquarters.

The Death Penalty, Again!

The bill that Gov. Sargent vetoed in the closing days of last year's session has again passed the House and Senate. Although Attorney-General Quinn has already ruled that such a law would violate the Massachusetts Constitution's prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishment", and although numerous studies and evidence overwhelmingly indicate that the death penalty is no deterrent to crime, emotion has again defeated reason on this issue. So once more the Legislature must be reminded that there is strong support for the anti-death penalty position. All they hear from now is the highly vocal minority screaming for violence to match violence. Since the Governor has announced his intention to veto this bill, it is important to write at once to your representatives and particularly to your senators (since this is where it may be possible to sustain the Governor's veto), urging them to vote against overriding the Governor's veto.

Political Calendar

- Tuesday, Mar. 19: Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Rent Control planning meeting, CPPAX state office, 8pm.
- Saturday, Mar. 23: The Mass Caucus '74, Framingham Town Hall; registration opens 9am.
- Saturday, Mar. 30: CPPAX State Assembly, Hastings School, Framingham, 10.30am-4pm.
- Sunday, Mar. 31: CPPAX Renewal Period ends; if you haven't renewed for 1974, this is the last Newsletter you will receive.
- Monday, Apr. 8: Impeachment Town Meeting, Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 6-10pm.
- Friday, Apr. 12: Good Friday Silent Witness for Peace, Boston Common; meet at Beacon Hill Friends House, 6 Chestnut St., Boston, 9.15am.
- Saturday, May 4: Democratic Party caucuses as first stage of delegate selection for mid-term conference, one to be held in every town and ward in the Commonwealth. For details, call Dem. State Committee (723-1914).
- Sat. or Sun., May 18/19: Hold for CPPAX State Convention. Details in next Newsletter.

Is This Farewell?

Have you renewed for '74? If not, this is the final Newsletter that you will receive. Our renewal period ends on the 31st of March, so there is still time to make sure you aren't removed from the mailing list. Each one of you is needed to support CPPAX activities, office research and staff assistance to local chapters, lobbying efforts, the monthly Newsletter, and important projects such as the impeachment drive and the Mass Caucus '74. Your commitment of time and financial support is vital for our continued existence. How can we say it more clearly? Please renew now.

CPPAX Newsletter

Citizens for Participation in Political Action

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Second Class
Postage
PENDING
at Boston, Mass

MR RICHARD CAUCHI
52 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET
BOSTON MA 02114



CALL TO CONVENTION - MAY 18

The CPPAX 1974 annual membership Convention will get underway at 9.30am on Saturday, May 18, at the Framingham North High School. Instructions as to how to get to the school are on the enclosed agenda. Every member whose 1974 state dues are paid is eligible to participate, and all are urged to attend.

Because of the large number of items to be considered, the CPPAX Executive Board has decided to divide this year's Convention into two sessions. On May 18, the membership will evaluate and consider for endorsement candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney-General; elect a new CPPAX Executive Board; and begin reviewing the Platform. In September, after the primary elections, the second session of the Convention will be held to finish Platform review, vote on Charter amendments and resolutions, and deal with any other business not completed in May.

A large portion of the May 18 program (see enclosed agenda) will be devoted to considering the endorsements for the Commonwealth's four top constitutional offices. Every known candidate for these positions, regardless of party affiliation, has been invited to participate in a series of round-table panels at the Convention, in which the contenders for each office will be questioned by CPPAX members. Present indications are that many candidates will attend. A questionnaire has already been sent to all candidates to elicit their views on issues fundamental to our organization. Responses to these questions will be distributed at the Convention to facilitate candidate evaluation. Following the panels, CPPAX members in attendance will cast endorsement ballots. A 2/3rds majority of members present and voting is necessary for a candidate to receive the CPPAX endorsement, and a maximum of three rounds of balloting will be conducted for any office.

Only 1974 paid members of state CPPAX will be eligible to vote. Dues for new members must be received in the state office prior to 5pm on Friday, May 17. Unrenewed members who appear on the 1973 paid member printout may renew at the door. No mail ballots or proxy votes will be permitted.

Platform areas scheduled for review at the May session include: Electoral Reform and Governmental Structure; Human Rights and Civil Liberties; Peace Action and Foreign Policy. In preparation for the Convention, each of these committees has scheduled a Platform review meeting in early May: Peace Action on Monday, May 6; Human Rights on Tuesday, May 7; Electoral Reform on Wednesday, May 8 (see Political Calendar for meeting details). These committee meetings provide the opportunities for input into formulation of CPPAX issue policy for the coming year. Meetings of the issue committees are open to every member.

A \$2-per person registration fee has been set to help defray expenses of the Convention. Anyone unable to pay this fee should contact the state office about a waiver. Sandwiches and beverages will be available at the Convention at nominal prices. Child Care will be provided for youngsters three years of age or older. Parents should bring toys and games, as well as food for their children. It is also suggested that \$1 per child be donated to help defray expenses of providing the care.

All at-large and congressional district members of the Executive Board will be elected on May 18, unless a particular district meets beforehand. Candidates for at-large board seats should prepare a 50-word statement of candidacy. Statements received in the state office prior to noon on Friday, May 17, will be included in the Convention registration packet.

1974 CONVENTION AGENDA

May 18 Session

9.30-10.00am	Registration and review of candidate questionnaires
10.00-11.00am	Governor candidates panel
11.00-12.00noon	Lieutenant-Governor candidates panel
12.00-12.30pm	Balloting for Governor and Lt. Governor endorsements
12.30- 1.30pm	Lunch and Election of Congressional District Executive Board members
1.30- 1.45pm	Election of At-Large Executive Board members begins
1.45- 3.30pm	Platform Review (3 committees only; see article)
3.30- 4.30pm	Secretary of State candidates panel
4.30- 5.30pm	Attorney-General candidates panel
5.30- 6.00pm	Balloting for Secretary of State and Attorney-General endorsements

DIRECTIONS TO FRAMINGHAM NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Framingham North High School is located on "A" Street off Rte. 126 just North of the Massachusetts Turnpike underpass. From the turnpike, take exit 13 onto Rte. 30 (towards Framingham); at the intersection of Rtes. 30 and 126, make a sharp right onto Rte. 126; follow Rte. 126 for approx. 2 miles until it passes under the turnpike; at the fork in the road, stay left on "A" St. and follow the signs to the High School. From Rte. 9, follow Rte. 126 North to the turnpike underpass, then stay left at the fork onto "A" St. to the High School.

Goin' to Kansas City ...?

On May 4 at 10am registered Democrats across the Commonwealth will meet in 608 simultaneous ward and town meetings to begin the task of selecting 42 of the state's 62 delegates to the National Democratic Party's first mid-term conference scheduled for early December in Kansas City.

In many communities, CPPAX members have taken the lead in organizing for a strong showing of reform elements at the local caucuses. Success at this level is crucial if Massachusetts is to send a delegation to Kansas City which does justice to the Commonwealth's liberal reputation. The conference is important to progressives because the decisions made at Kansas City will set the tone for the future of the Democratic Party, both in terms of the new charter adopted there and by the issues debated.

The system, designed to encourage grassroots participation, works like this: on May 4, each ward and town holds a meeting open to all registered Democrats to elect one delegate for every 500 votes it cast for McGovern in Nov. 1972. Then on June 1st, all local delegates gather by congressional district to choose the actual grassroots delegates to Kansas City. Ten additional delegates will be chosen by the Dem. State Committee and the ten Democratic Congressmen go to Kansas City ex officio.

Organizing for the local caucuses is a simple task---identify local reformers, make sure they are registered Democrats, meet beforehand to develop a strategy, and turn out and vote on May 4. The CPPAX state office has a detailed plan for reformers, information on local caucus rules, and sample literature to generate a strong turnout.

The CPPAX Newsletter is published monthly by Citizens for Participation in Political Action, 11 South Street, Boston, Mass. 02111. Two dollars of each five dollar CPPAX membership covers a subscription to this publication. Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Boston, Massachusetts.

Mass Caucus '74 Wrap Up

As the organizers had anticipated, The Mass Caucus '74 developed into the first major event of the 1974 political season. The more than 3,500 people who overflowed Framingham Town Hall on March 23rd demonstrated the growing strength of citizen politics and the respect accorded to its practitioners by political regulars. The official tabulation of caucus ballots revealed that registrants came from more than half of the municipalities in the Commonwealth. Final percentage tallies are as follows:

SECRETARY OF STATE				ATTORNEY GENERAL			
	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3		Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
Businger	11.4%	4.1%	Guzzi	Harrington	47.5%	58.7%	68.3%
DiCara	42.9%	45.3%	endorsed	Ralph	24.7%	22.0%	19.0%
Guzzi	39.8%	47.8%	by	Sacco	11.2%	8.8%	5.4%
Others	1.9%	1.1%	acclama-	Others	11.7%	6.9%	4.5%
No Endorsement	4.1%	1.7%	tion	No Endorsement	4.9%	3.6%	2.9%

'74 Campaigns Begin

With the deadline for filing signed nomination papers only seven weeks away, challengers and incumbents throughout the Commonwealth are already gearing up for the September 10 primaries. For the statewide constitutional offices, the elimination of the party convention system has generated heated contests in both major parties, as well as third party and independent entries. No U.S. Senate seat is on the ballot for the first time since 1968, but a record number of serious contests for the U.S. House of Representatives are developing---seven of the twelve incumbents should face tough challenges. In the state legislature, the elimination of double and triple districts in the House combined with major redistricting last year will result in more contests and possibly many new faces on Beacon Hill next year. Less turnover is likely in the state Senate where district changes were more carefully designed to preserve favored incumbents and punish progressive and Republican areas while using the creation of a "black" district as a scapegoat. In Middlesex and elsewhere, county reform will again be an issue.

For anyone thinking of starting a campaign, ACT NOW!...nomination papers for constitutional offices and U.S. Congress must be completed and submitted to local clerks no later than 5pm on Tuesday, June 25. Papers for state legislature and county offices must be turned in one week earlier, no later than 5pm on Tuesday, June 18. Independents and other parties running only for the November 5 final election must meet the same deadlines as primary candidates. Because this year's primaries are only 7 days after Labor Day, one week earlier than usual, candidates will try to do even more than usual during May and June.

Although there was much talk of instituting public financing for the statewide races in time for this year's final election, it now appears that this legislation has been side-tracked, along with a variety of election reforms ranging from simplified nomination papers and increased polling hours to stricter controls on campaign contributions and expenditures. However, those who are familiar with the campaign laws of recent years should be alert to the extensive changes in filing and reporting procedures which were passed late last year as Chapter 1173 of the Acts of '73. Under this new law, anyone who solicits or spends any amount of money in connection with an election campaign, even if she or he is undeclared or undecided about what office is sought, must immediately file reports with the Office of the Director of Campaign Finance. Campaign workers and donors should remember that the new contribution limit is \$1,000 to any one candidate in a calendar year, and that all transactions over \$25 should be by check and not in cash. Because of additional complex requirements and certain unresolved questions regarding possible limits on citizen action on behalf of particular candidates, it is best to check with the candidate you may be supporting before raising funds or purchasing any advertisement on her or his behalf. In any case, candidate contributions should not be made out to CPPAX, or mixed with local chapter bank accounts. For full details on these new laws, contact CPPAX.

State Budget Reform

Each year, within the space of two or three weeks, the Legislature determines how 90% of the funds of the Commonwealth are to be spent. This budget process represents thousands of major policy decisions. Yet the process is so complex, the line-item figures so undescriptive, and the relationship of budgeted amount to program operation so remote, that even the legislators themselves cannot fully understand what they are being asked to vote for.

CPPAX has joined with a coalition of groups including Citizens for Economy in Government, Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, and the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation in supporting four state budget reform bills that will move the Commonwealth one step towards citizen participation in the budget process. While CPPAX disagrees with some of these groups on a number of issues, it was felt that these bills are important enough to warrant a united effort for their passage.

H. 1304: requires that greater information be available at all stages of the budget process. All appropriations legislation would have to be available 7 days prior to legislative debate (instead of a few hours as is now typical). All background material, currently available only to the Governor or the Legislature, would also be made available to the public. Specific comparisons between the recommendations of the Executive Departments, the Governor, the House, Senate and conference committees would be made with reasons given for any changes made in each step of the process. Public hearings would be announced in advance for all appropriations.

H. 3671: similar to H. 1304 but less comprehensive; except that it does include capital outlay appropriations bills.

H. 2518: requires a statement for each budget item which 1) relates jobs budgeted to projected work to be performed; and 2) relates budget amounts to programs proposed and to results expected, e.g., number of persons served. It also sets up a board of revenue estimates with members appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership, to decide on how much money will be available to be budgeted, before the budget process begins. At present, a changing and almost arbitrary revenue estimate is part of the game played in the tug-of-war between the Governor and the Legislature throughout the time the budget is being debated.

H. 4813: provides for greater description in Capital Outlay Budgets, and requires that all budgets be publicly available prior to legislative debate.

Now is the time to contact your representative about this legislation since very little time remains to get these bills out of the Rules Committee where they now languish.

Environmental Impact Law Under Attack

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act is in the process of being undermined by real estate developers, banks, business groups and other construction-oriented special interests. The law now requires that statements of environmental impact be prepared and reviewed for all new development and construction, both public and private. This assessment procedure is vital to sound planning and to minimize adverse effects of construction, whether for highways or shopping centers. Opponents are using the excuse of the energy crisis to push for S. 1468, filed by Senate President Kevin Harrington. This bill would amend the Environmental Policy Act to exclude all private development from regulation, including state subsidized projects.

This bill would eliminate one of the last safeguards that citizens have in relation to the Park Plaza project and similar massive renewal efforts. Opponents of Park Plaza had hoped that the requirements of this law would force modification of the plan to reduce its disastrous impact on the Boston Common and Gardens. On a broader level, the Environmental Policy Act is an essential tool (and perhaps the only tool available) for citizens concerned with protecting rapidly vanishing open space from careless development not in the public interest. Now that the Legislature may eliminate one of the most important gains made by citizens in protecting the public interest, members are urged to act to retain the Impact law by writing your representative and senator in opposition to S. 1468. Send a copy of your card or letter to Senator Harrington.

Human Rights Legislation

The sections below comprise only a fraction of the total area of human rights that CPPAX has been involved in. There simply is not room for it all. Howbeit, over the course of the year, the Newsletter tries to touch on as many as possible of the various facets of the fight for human and civil rights. CPPAX members are all urged to participate in the work of this committee, for its scope is almost limitless.

RACIAL IMBALANCE LAW: On Monday, April 29, the floor debate on repeal of the law will begin. For nine years and more, the opponents of the law have sought to have it repealed. This is their last-ditch stand, for this Fall, implementation of the law must and will begin. The Education Committee, in its Executive Session on April 24, voted 12-6 against repeal. This was a big boost for our position, but we must call on our members to generate more visible grassroots support for the law and against repeal. Last time around, some 80-90 representatives supported the anti-repeal position. A number of them, according to information supplied by the Black Caucus, are now uncertain and wavering. Others simply need some bolstering. Is your Representative listed below? If so, call immediately and urge a vote against repeal. (CPPAX can give you telephone numbers for your representatives.) Here are the ones that need to be contacted: Almeida, Bassett, Bertonazzi, Bliss, Buell, Bussone, Bly, Cavanaugh, Collins, Danovitch, Dwinell, Freeman, Gallugi, Gillette, Grosso, Harrington (Edward), Lane, MacKenzie, Murphy, O'Neill, Nordberg, Schneiders, Sclafani, Sprague, Switzler, Towse, Velis, Walker, Weinberg, Wetmore, Woods. Other bills affecting racial imbalance have been deferred to May 3.

GAY RIGHTS: Bills to eliminate discrimination against gay people in housing and credit (H. 2424 and S. 4) and in public employment, accommodation, life insurance and mortgages (H. 2525 and S. 5) have been lumped together under a new number, S. 1585, and shunted off to Rules (the vote was 7N-20Y, 12 paired, to send it to Rules), with the probable purpose of killing the legislation. However, as the vote shows, there were 13 votes against sending it to Rules. The Homophile Union believes that at least 5 and possibly 8 votes against could, with constituent pressure, be changed to pro votes. The Senators to contact are: Boverini, Buckley, Bulger, MacKenzie, Parker, Quinlan, Saltonstall, and Timilty.

H. 2627, which would eliminate discrimination against gays in civil service, has been faring better. It received a favorable report from the Public Service Committee and sent on to Rules. Rep. Barbara Gray of Framingham who has been carrying this bill urges our members to contact all Senators and Representatives in favor of H. 2627.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN: Sen. Backman's comprehensive bill, S. 1259, would guarantee the inherent right of every individual child to be granted the opportunity for fulfillment of a meaningful life in accordance with his/her capacity, including the right to an environment encompassing decent housing, food, clothing, good health and medical care and other basic human rights. It would provide for day care where the parents need and want it. It would establish under the Executive Office of Human Services a Commission on Children's and Family Rights, which would annually review and evaluate the effects of the children and family rights act and the status of children in the Commonwealth with regard to those rights mentioned above. The intention of the act is to assure that the family of every child in the Commonwealth has an income sufficient for the maintenance of a decent and healthy life, seeking "not only to supplement a family's income but to do so without discouraging this productive and creative drives inherent in that family". The act provides that the standard of an adequate family budget must be at least equal to the low standard budget established by the U.S. Department of Labor, bureau of statistics, pursuant to the policy of this Commonwealth enacted by the Legislature on November 30, 1973 for the elderly, the blind and the disabled. It further provides that the level of basic assistance grants shall be increased by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the U.S. consumer price index for each year. For more information about this worthwhile bill, contact Backman's office(727-7295).

HUMAN RIGHTS continued...

THE CHILDREN'S BUDGET: This Budget was developed by the Office for Children in cooperation with all state Commissioners within the Executive Offices of Human Services, largely in response to reports and analyses over the last few years which documented the disproportionately small percentage of state human services monies which go for children's programs and services. This Budget would provide for \$20.4 million (representing less than 1% of the total state budget) in new monies for children's services, and not just a re-shuffling of accounts to give the appearance of an increase in services. Priorities in the Budget are for: Foster Care, Day Care, Community-based Services and Area Budgets, including Mental Health. It is important to emphasize that this Budget is separate from the Special Education Act (766), whose appropriations are separate and that the two should not be pitted against each other. Of the total Budget proposal, \$3.1 million would be allotted to local Children's Councils across the state, meaning that for the first time in state history, local citizens would have the administrative monies for staff necessary to monitor local programs and services. This brief outline is not sufficient to convey the importance of this Budget for millions of people across the state. For a complete analysis of the Children's Budget, call or write the Office for Children, 120 Boylston St., Boston 02116 (727-8925). The Budget has already passed the House, with some modifications. CPPAX members should now contact their Senators and urge passage of the original, \$20.4 million budget.

Rent Control: Headed for Oblivion?

Despite overflow attendance at the State House hearing and promises of support from legislators from many parts of the state, legislation extending the statewide Rent Control Enabling Act for another 3-5 years is now in serious trouble. On April 24, the Local Affairs Committee voted 13-3 to send all bills relating to rent control to a "recess study", thus avoiding the issue entirely during this election year. In the Committee, Rep. John Businger was the only vocal supporter of extension; Committee Chairman Sen. Lewis and Vice-Chairperson Sen. Anna Buckley meekly voted against the study, but took no other action despite their powerful positions. Leading the effort to delay the bills were Reps. Vigneau, Gaudette, Trudeau, Holland, Bourque, Scelsi and Elwell, as well as Reps. McGowan, Almeida, Frazier, Grenier and Bussone. If this study order is accepted it will leave less than four months in 1975 for legislative action before the law expires. It will also be viewed as an indication that the issue lacks support.

Therefore, it is essential that the pro-rent control forces move to allow a direct vote on extending the enabling act within the next month. Since a floor vote in the House and Senate is the key step, constituents are urged to contact all local representatives and senators. Ask that they vote FOR rent control extension and not to allow a delaying "study".

Health Insurance Politics

Many supporters of a comprehensive plan for national health insurance were appalled by Senator Kennedy's recent decision to modify his original bill (S. 3286) to make it more acceptable to conservatives. Hardest to swallow was Kennedy's capitulation on the role of the health insurance industry. The revised version of S. 3286 entrenches private insurers as expensive middlemen in the health provision system. The draft is weakened additionally by higher deductibles, an exclusion of many preventive health services, limitations on benefits for mental illness and a means test for families with incomes below \$8800 per year.

Both houses of Congress need to hear grassroots reaction to these changes. Is a weakened plan better than none at all? Should there be a strong effort to pass the modified Kennedy plan this session or should supporters of comprehensive reform wait until after the November elections for a new Congress which is likely to be more liberal.

Washington Report

Back from its Spring recess, Congress enters its busiest period of the session trying to get through a maze of budget legislation rapidly enough to get back home for an early start to the campaign season. Here is a run-down of some of the more important issues to be faced in the next month.

INDOCHINA: In the first test of the Administration's Vietnam policy this year, the House of Representatives dealt a staggering blow to Nixon's plans for increasing aid to South Vietnam. In a surprise decision on April 4, the House rejected 177-154 any increase in military assistance funds for South Vietnam for the remaining months of Fiscal '74, even after the Administration had offered to "compromise" by cutting the \$474 million request to \$272 million. Eleven of Massachusetts' twelve representatives voted against the request. Rep. Heckler was absent, but she had spoken against the bills during the floor debate. Constituent pressure played an important role in attaining this victory. Administration supporters now concede that Congress will not give supplemental aid to Thieu and are mobilizing behind an alleged correction of a Pentagon "accounting error" to get the extra money. In view of its defeat on the supplemental, the Pentagon can be expected to reduce somewhat its request for \$1.6 billion in military aid for South Vietnam for Fiscal '75. The task of peace forces is to reduce the total to less than last year's \$1.1 billion, and to prevent Nixon from supporting Thieu's military machine through his new request for \$940 million to "assist South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos shift their economies from war to peace". The entire Massachusetts delegation should be encouraged to maintain a firm posture against all military aid to the Thieu regime.

DEFENSE SPENDING: The mammoth military authorization bills which are about to come out of committee will be the targets for a variety of amendments to impose overall spending ceilings, cut unnecessary weapons systems, and trim manpower. First on the agenda is an amendment by Ron Dellums to reduce the ceiling on troops assigned overseas by 300,000 men. Eighth District Cong. O'Neill's support for this legislation is crucial to its success. Last year, Minority Leader O'Neill forced a similar amendment to be sent to a needless study committee. Letters to O'Neill should stress the importance of the Dellums amendment in the overall struggle to eliminate military waste.

IMPEACHMENT: Although appearing on no formal legislative calendars, the (good) possibility of a House impeachment vote and subsequent Senate trial weighs heavily on all congressional activities. A memo from Senate Whip Robert Byrd urging his colleagues to expedite work on regular legislation so as to be able to deal with "the uncertainty of developments" in July or August may well be a portent of things to come. Meanwhile, the Judiciary Committee's decision to trim its list of allegations under investigations, which may be sound pragmatic politics in terms of the ultimate impeachment vote, has an immediate effect of letting Nixon off the hook on some of his greatest transgressions such as the invasion of Cambodia and the impoundment of OEO funds. Another reason for the Judiciary Committee's "moderation" may be a reduction in the intensity of the public outcry for impeachment. Several Massachusetts congressional offices report a dramatic drop-off in the level of mail, phone calls and telegrams. Even known supporters of impeachment need regular reminders of their constituents' concern for a swift application of justice.

ENVIRONMENT: Senate hearings begin on April 30 on bills to ban non-returnable beverage containers. Sponsored by both Oregon Senators, Mark Hatfield and Robert Packwood, and modeled after the state's successful first-in-the-nation legislation, the bottle and can ban faces strong industry lobbying. Since the Massachusetts Legislature has failed to approve similar bills at the state level, Federal regulation may be the best opportunity. Neither Brooke's nor Kennedy's position is known---they need to hear from you.

VETERANS: The Veterans' Education and Rehabilitation Amendment (HR12628) which corrects most of the inequities which exist in benefits to Vietnam veterans has passed the House and is now on the Senate calendar. An important feature of the bill is the establishment of a Vietnam Era Veterans Center within the VA headed by Vietnam veterans. Again, Brooke and Kennedy need to hear from you.

Coastal Zone Planning

"Citizen participation in Coastal Zone Planning" is the theme of a series of meetings planned to discuss offshore drilling, superports and refineries. CPPAX members and others interested are invited to attend one of the meetings, sponsored by a broad coalition ranging from Mass Forests and Parks, LWV, and Sierra Club to local conservation commissions. (See the Political Calendar for dates, places of meetings.)

Political Calendar

- Tues. Apr. 30: Derek Shearer, co-author, The Pentagon Watchers, speaks on "Economic Conversion, The Problems and Potential"-114 McElroy Hall, B.C., 10am
- Wed. May 1: Coastal Zone Planning mtg., Gloucester City Hall, 7.30pm
- Sat. May 4: Ward & town caucuses to begin Dem. Party mid-term conf. del. sel. process. Call Dem. State Committee (723-1914) for local caucus sites.
- Mon. May 6: Peace Action Comm. Platform review mtg., CPPAX office, 8pm
- Tues. May 7: Human Rights Comm. Platform review mtg., CPPAX office, 7pm
- Wed. May 8: Electoral Reform Comm. Platform review mtg., CPPAX office, 8pm
- Sat. May 11: "Privacy, A Right?"--symposium on who knows what about you and why, Campus Center, U. Mass., Amherst, 9am-5pm
- Wed. May 15: Coastal Zone Planning mtg., Faneuil Hall, Boston, 7pm
- Sat. May 18: CPPAX ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION, Framingham North H.S., 9.30am - 6pm
- Sun. May 19: Benefit concert to aid Chilean refugees, with Robert & Rosalind Koff, County School Auditorium, Weston, 8.30pm, \$12.50 donation (235-5048 for info)
- Sat. May 25: Coastal Zone Planning mtg., Bourne Mem'l Community Bldg., 10.30am
- June 1: District caucuses to elect delegates to Dem. mid-term conference

CPPAX & The Postal Service

This is the second month that the CPPAX Newsletter has been mailed to you as Second Class Mail. This service is complex and restrictive, but is significantly less expensive and supposed to be more efficient than bulk rate. This issue was in the mail on or before the date on the first page; you should receive it in a reasonably short time, probably no longer than 5 days. If it took much longer, please let us know....we may go back to 1st class for distant locations if this system does not work as well as it is supposed to. Also, be certain to notify us of changes of address immediately; otherwise, the Postal Service automatically disposes of your Newsletter and charges us 12¢ for an "Address Correction" notice. Thanks for your help.

CPPAX Newsletter

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

Second Class
Postage
PENDING
at Boston, Mass

MR RICHARD CAUCHI
52 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET
BOSTON MA 02114

Convention Wrap-up...

In a small but heated session at Framingham's North High School on Saturday, May 18, the statewide membership convention voted endorsements to gubernatorial candidate Michael Dukakis and Secretary of State aspirant Paul Guzzi; briefly discussed and voted upon nearly fifty platform proposals; and elected a new twenty-member CPPAX Executive Board.

Twenty-one candidates submitted detailed questionnaire responses for the four constitutional offices under consideration and more than a dozen of them came before the convention to answer questions in a series of hour-long panels. A point of contention quickly developed as approximately 40 people, led by Harrington staff personnel and including almost twenty who had joined CPPAX five minutes before the office closed on the previous day, voted as a block to endorse a Dukakis-O'Neill-Guzzi-Harrington slate and to elect themselves to the Executive Board. Other members started organizing against this manoeuvre. This remained a major factor in nearly all the subsequent voting, although an open floor discussion of what was happening never developed.

Dukakis won endorsement on the first ballot with over 70% of the votes cast. His nearest contender, Don Gurewitz (SWP), drew less than 10%. Sargent, Quinn and Sheehan, none of whom attended, received only scattered support. Guzzi won overwhelmingly on the first ballot, despite efforts of John Quinlan (R), who claimed during the discussions to have a more progressive record than Guzzi. In the other two races, Rep. Thomas P. P'Neill III and Edward ("Ted") Harrington both failed by narrow margins to achieve endorsements, despite four rounds of balloting for Lt. Governor and three for Attorney General. (For a copy of the 60-page question and answer booklet covering 21 candidate responses, send 75¢ to the CPPAX state office. Non-member price is \$1.50.)

Sandwiched among the candidate panels and ballots were reviews by the convention of platform proposals from the CPPAX issue committees working in areas of Human Rights and Civil Liberties, Electoral Reform and Governmental Structure, and Peace Action and Foreign Policy. Controversial items which received the necessary 2/3rds approval included a plank opposing a cut in the size of the Massachusetts House, and a campaign financing proposal calling for a system of mixed public and private funding. Any(or all) of these three committee platforms is available on request from the CPPAX state office.

The race for At-large seats on the CPPAX Executive Board drew nearly two dozen contenders, and necessitated seven ballots before 10 winners were chosen. A complete list of the new Executive Board is available on request from the CPPAX state office.

... And Follow-up

CPPAX endorsements have always carried the implicit promise of real support from our members. If you want to help, you can contact the candidates' headquarters to volunteer your time:

Dukakis for Governor: 18 Tremont St., Boston 02108 (742-5605)

Guzzi for Secretary of State: 1383a Washington St., Newton 02165 (244-0740)

Along with the campaigns, CPPAX must remain faithful to the issues on which our strength and reputation are based. Our vitality depends upon membership action. At a minimum, this means writing the letters and postcards, making the phone calls, that translate public concern into political pressure. But to be truly effective, CPPAX activists must devote more time to concentrated local organizing around a few critical issues.

A Modest Rent Control Victory

As of this date, tenants and rent-payers throughout Massachusetts have won a partial victory by beating back the efforts to kill the statewide rent control enabling act. Although the landlords and real estate interests tried to sidetrack extension of the law by suggesting that the entire subject be studied, a compromise was formulated calling for both a nine-month extension (until Dec. 31, 1975) and a study to be funded with \$50,000. The study is a poor use of state money, and only nine months extension may discourage additional communities from adopting local rent controls, but approval in the House by voice vote and expected Senate approval indicate the strength of constituent pressure in an election year.

Much less certain is the fate of bills to expand the rent control structure to include FHA-funded private apartment buildings (H. 2096, etc.). There is still time for pressure to adopt the FHA provisions: call your Senator and Representative now, and urge support for efforts to pass H. 2096.

The December 1975 expiration date means that rent control and rights of tenants will be in for a major battle in the 1975 session. With all House and Senate seats on the ballot this fall, now is the best time to confront both incumbents and challengers regarding their positions on these issues.

Massport's "New Noise Experience"

On May 16, the Mass. Port Authority voted 6-1 to expand Logan Airport by construction of a STOL (Short Takeoff and Landing) runway and extension of two other runways 2000' toward South Boston, Winthrop and the North End waterfront. Nearly 100 area residents appeared at the Port Authority meeting to plead their case as to the serious health and safety impact this construction will have on their communities. Their pleas fell on deaf ears.

This is the latest indication of Gov. Sargent's neglect of this irresponsible agency. These projects are directly at odds with the Governor's 1971 airport policy speech which pledged an end to airport expansion, reduced noise levels, and repayment to communities surrounding Logan for past damages to them. The STOL runway in particular, besides increasing noise and expanding Logan capacity when it is not needed, directly conflicts with the Governor's commitment to high-speed rail for inter-city transit. And in June, former Gov. Volpe will be flying in on a Concorde SST to dedicate the new international terminal to be named after him, a terminal which Gov. Sargent promised would never be built.

The ball is now in the Governor's court. He has appointed 5 of the 7 members of the Mass Port Board. He can stop any federal monies for these projects by refusing to sign the applications. And under the new state environmental policy act, he can stop the projects by insisting that his Secretary of Transportation refuse to approve the plans. Instead, as of this date, Altshuler has waived state environmental requirements.

Although MAPNAC (Mass. Air Pollution and Noise Abatement Committee) and the City of Boston are seeking to halt these projects in state and federal court, it is urgent for CPPAX members concerned with the environment and sound transportation policy to join in the statewide effort to demand that Gov. Sargent live up to his 1971 pledge against jetport expansion, and urge that he use all the powers of his office to stop these Logan expansion projects. For further information, or for speakers, contact MAPNAC at 56 Boylston St., Cambridge 02138 (491-5314 or 491-6350).

The state office was saddened by news of the death of long-time activist and CPPAX member Billie (Mildred) Burton of Chelmsford. She was untiring in her efforts to help the farmworkers, in the peace movement and at the Lowell Women's Center. Her friendliness and kindness will be long remembered. Friends have established a "Billie" Burton Memorial Fund, c/o Rev. R. Morin, Unitar. - Univ. Church, Chelmsford.

Bad Days on Beacon Hill

The Massachusetts Legislature's continued pandering to the right-wing was again in evidence during the past weeks as law and order hardliners in the House, spurred on by Atty. Gen. Quinn who termed the action a great personal victory, cut the guts out of the highly successful furlough program, while liberal leaders led by Gov. Sargent and former state Rep. Dukakis capitulated on racial imbalance.

FURLOUGH PROGRAM DISEMBOWELED: Though disguised as a tightening of controls for public protection, the real thrust of the Marshall bill, passed overwhelmingly by the House in late May, is the gutting of the two-year-old Massachusetts furlough program, with one of the highest success rates in the country, 98.4%. Rep. Marshall, running for Norfolk County Sheriff, is encouraging public fears about offenders and is making a clear bid for the law and order vote. His bill not only bars first degree lifers (lifers, ironically, have an even higher than average success rate, 99.3% return) but also provides that no offender will be considered for furlough unless within 24 months of parole eligibility. This provision defeats the basic idea of the furlough system: those who face longer sentences have greater need to keep some contact with their families and with the society to which they must one day return. And without the lifers, the furlough program would be unworkable. It would be almost impossible, without driving morale inside penal institutions to rock bottom, to allow furloughs to some while denying all hope to others.

This bill must be defeated in its entirety. As sent to the Senate, the bill contains amendments providing for refusing furloughs to those who may refuse a work detail, or who are accused of striking a corrections officer. Those legislators who would delete these amendments and who are opposed to repeal of the furlough program in general, but who would vote for this bill which eliminates "only" the lifers and imposes the 24-month limit have rationalized themselves into a position of irresponsibility.

Among those who are uncertain in their support of lifers as part of the program are Senators Olver, McKinnon, Sisitsky; and Chester Atkins, who has built a reputation on his commitment to prison reform. If you are a constituent of any of these, contact them today to call for votes against the Marshall bill in toto and to sustain the veto that Gov. Sargent has promised. It is also important to lobby Senate Republicans, who with the exception of MacKenzie are not publicly committed to vote against the bill or to sustain a veto. Of the Democrats, only Backman, Burke and Fishman are pledged to vote against the bill and to sustain the veto.

The timing of the Senate vote is not definite, so letters and calls should be made immediately! And send copies of your letters to your representatives as well. It is appalling to note that in the House, three CPPAX members, Reps. Tim Bassett, Paul Guzzi and Jim Smith all voted for this horrendous bill. They should hear from all of us.

RACIAL BALANCE EMBALMED: The last few weeks have seen the defection of both Gov. Sargent and Michael Dukakis from the ranks of supporters of implementation of the state's racial imbalance law. The proposals of each represent a capitulation to those in Boston who have fought a 9-year battle to evade the responsibility of de-segregating the public schools. Boston School Committees, over the last decade and more, have refused to commit needed funds to its school system, particularly in the black areas. Its refusal to face how bad many of the city's schools are has helped bring about the hateful and hate-filled situation that exists today. What is a "voluntary" scheme that places the entire burden of rectifying years of discrimination entirely on the shoulders of those who have been discriminated against? Voluntarism has been tried elsewhere; it hasn't worked. Sargent's free choice plan is a farce. If parents "choose" to bus their children to a school already full, he suggests that additions be built, with the state picking up 75% of the tab. Will those additions be ready three months from now, when pupils enter school this fall? And what is his offer to give \$500 to any suburban or city, mostly-white, school that takes a black city child but a bribe? Black leaders are terming it a bounty prize.

Dukakis' "solution" of dividing the city into sections whose schools would be locally controlled is a thinly-disguised "separate but equal" program, unconstitutional under

more...

RACIAL IMBALANCE continued . . .

federal law. Few seem to have remembered that Boston has already lost federal funds for violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and neither the Dukakis nor Sargent plan is likely to meet federal requirements and both may be unconstitutional as well. Neither plan contains any commitment to eliminate all-white or all-black schools in the city.

Both Sargent and Dukakis need to be reminded that September (and November) votes will be earned by their stands on issues. So far, neither looks good on this issue.

CPPAX has joined with other progressive organizations in an ad hoc "Clearinghouse" whose sole purpose is to assist efforts for peaceful implementation of the state plan this fall. During the summer, we will be calling upon members to help with specific projects such as monitoring trial bus runs and staffing information telephones. More details in later Newsletters.

Washington Report

IMPEACHMENT: Pundits now agree that, barring some unforeseen circumstance, such as a Presidential resignation, the House of Representatives will vote on the impeachment of Richard Nixon in mid-summer. It is tempting to be overconfident about how the Massachusetts delegation will vote, but the issue is far too important to be lost for lack of a little homework. According to reports from several congressional offices, constituent communications about impeachment have fallen off to a trickle. As the House vote approaches, that trickle must be turned back into a torrent. And now is not too early to begin mounting pressure on Senators Brooke and Kennedy who most likely will sit in judgment in the late summer and early fall.

FEEDING THE MILITARY MACHINE: The first round of congressional consideration of the Administration's military budget proposals for Fiscal '75 produced mixed results. In a series of amendments to the Military Procurement Authorization Act, House progressives were able to cut \$274 million from the request for aid to South Vietnam, but fell shy on votes to further slash funds for Thieu, to cut the number of troops assigned overseas, or to impose a no-growth ceiling on Department of Defense expenses. Amendments to delete all \$499 million authorized for the B-1 bomber and to prohibit the use of funds to develop "nuclear counterforce capabilities" were soundly defeated. Once again, sustained citizen pressure resulted in the Massachusetts delegation compiling the best record of any state: all twelve representatives voted for the strong Vietnam aid cut, the manpower reduction, and the spending ceiling. Drinan, Harrington and Studds supported all the other amendments as well, and the three demonstrated their strong convictions by voting against final passage of the overall spending package which authorized a 12.2% increase in spending for new weapons systems. Because of the complicated procedure by which Congress authorizes and then appropriates funds, the amendments that failed are likely to be considered again when the Military Procurement Appropriations Act comes to the floor in June or July. These are issues which receive little attention from the general public; just a few letters can switch a vote.

TAX REFORM: The country's current economic woes, coupled with outrage at abuses of current tax laws by Richard Nixon and the oil companies, have again stimulated congressional action to reform our complex and archaic systems of personal and corporate taxation. As always, political insiders stand ready to use public concern as a cloak for inventing more loopholes to aid their favored friends and supporters. Wilbur Mills, for example, is brazenly trying to discredit the campaign to eliminate major abuses such as the oil depletion allowance by cynically proposing a "reform" package which would hurt low and middle-income wage earners, through elimination of deductions for health insurance and the first \$200 of business-related expenses, union dues, etc. The Senate seems ready to pass the progressive (if modest) Kennedy-Mondale package, but Mills' powerful position as head of the House Ways and Means Committee makes a general re-ordering of the tax burden unlikely unless there is a public outcry of major proportions. "Tip" O'Neill, House Majority Leader, and James Burke, a close confidant of Mills on Ways and Means, are good targets for those concerned with altering the tax system in this session of Congress.

1974

Citizens for Participation in Political Action
11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111 TEL 617-428-3040

Massachusetts Senate Votes on Human Rights

(April & May '74)

The following are some of the key votes on human rights and civil liberties issues recorded in the Massachusetts State Senate during the mid-Spring weeks of the '74 session. Although the Senate frequently avoids roll calls on controversial issues, those listed here did reach the floor for full debate and vote. The results indicate a pattern of attitudes regarding personal rights and liberties, but are not intended as a comprehensive review. A plus (+) indicates a vote consistent with the CPPAX position; a minus (-) is a vote against that position; (a) means absent or not voting; a period (.) after the vote indicates a "paired vote" not officially counted in the total.

- 1 - REESTABLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY.... This bill restoring capital punishment (H. 5360), defined as a mandatory penalty for nine specific categories of murder, was passed by both House and Senate, but vetoed by the Governor. This was on a final motion to override the veto and adopt the bill without the Governor's signature. The motion and the bill were defeated on April 1 by 25 Y to 14 N, with 2/3rds required. (NO is a +)
- 2 - BOSTON SCHOOL SEGREGATION REFERENDUM.... This vote was on final Senate passage of a bill (H. 5495) providing for a special city-wide election referendum in Boston on the question of pupil assignments based on race. Based on deceptive wording, it was intended to discredit racial balance efforts and busing. It was passed 29 Y to 10 N on April 1 (NO is a +)
- 3 - BOSTON SCHOOL REFERENDUM, continued The above bill was also passed by the Senate and sent to the Governor, who vetoed it on the grounds that its binding intent was unconstitutional. On April 22, this motion sought to override the veto. It was defeated 20 Y to 14 N, 2/3rds required. (NO is a plus)
- 4 - REPEAL OF RACIAL IMBALANCE LAW.... On April 29 this vote gave final Senate approval to the bill (H. 233) completely repealing the state Racial Imbalance Law, thus further promoting segregated public schools. It was passed 22 Y to 15 N. (NO is a +)
- 5 - REPEAL OF TEACHER LOYALTY OATHS.... This bill (S. 878) would have repealed the law requiring public school teachers to take a loyalty oath to defend the state and federal constitutions. This motion attempted to overturn an "ought not to pass" committee report, and substitute the actual bill. The motion and the bill were defeated on April 29 by 11 Y to 26 N (YES is a +)
- 6 - REDUCED MARIJUANA PENALTIES.... Passage of bill (S. 681) providing for reduced penalties for use or possession of under 1 oz of marijuana, including a non-criminal fine structure comparable to parking violations. The bill was defeated on April 23 by 11 Y to 24 N with 4 paired (YES is a +)
- 7 - SEXUAL PREFERENCE DISCRIMINATION.... This bill (S. 1585) would make it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of sex or sexual preference, including rights for homosexuals. This motion to send it to the Rules Committee and thus effectively kill it for the year passed on April 18, by 20 Y to 7 N with 12 paired. (NO is a +)

[Votes on reverse]

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE VOTES ON HUMAN RIGHTS [continued]

- 1 - Reestablishing the Death Penalty
- 2 - Boston School Segregation Ref., I
- 3 - Boston School Segregation Ref., II
- 4 - Repeal of Racial Imbalance
- 5 - Repeal of Teacher Loyalty Oaths
- 6 - Reduced Marijuana Penalties
- 7 - Sexual Preference Discrimination

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Atkins, Chester G. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Aylmer, John F. (R)	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
Backman, Jack H. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bernashe, Roger L. (D)	-	-	-	-	a	-	-
Boverini, Walter (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buckley, Anna P. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulger, William M. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bullock, John W. (D)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burke, Edward L. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Conte, John J. (D)	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
DiCarlo, Joseph J. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishman, Irving (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fitzpatrick, John H. (R)	-	-	+	+	-	-	+
Foley, Daniel J. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fonseca, Mary L. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hall, Robert A. (R)	-	-	+	+	+	-	+
Harrington, Kevin (D)*	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Kelly, James A, Jr (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lewis, Arthur J. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locke, David H. (R)	-	-	+	+	-	-	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LoPresti, Michael (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
MacKenzie, Ronald C. (R)	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
McCann, Francis X. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
McGrail, Stephen J. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
McKenna, Denis L. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
McKinnon, Allan R. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mendonca, George (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Olver, John W. (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Parker, John F. (R)	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Quinlan, John M. (R)	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
Rurak, James P. (D)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Saltonstall, William (R)	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Schlosstein, Frederic (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sisitsky, Alan D. (D)	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Timilty, Joseph F. (D)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tobin, Arthur H. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tully, B. Joseph (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wall, William X. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walsh, Joseph B. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zarod, Stanley J. (D)	-	-	-	-	a	-	-

* the Senate President normally does not vote

This is one of a series of special-topic vote studies published in convenient form for the '73-74 session. Copies of earlier votes for comparison and details of these and other legislative topics are available from the CPPAX office on request. Plus and minus notations are intended as a quick-reference method of reporting votes; they are not endorsements or condemnations of the individuals concerned.

CPPAX Newsletter

Citizens for Participation in Political Action

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

MAY CONTENTS

- CONVENTION RE-CAP
- FURLOUGH POLITICS
- RACIAL IMBALANCE SELL-OUT
- IMPEACHMENT TIMETABLE
- TAX REFORM JOCKEYING
- VICTORY ON RENT CONTROL
- LOGAN EXPANSION
- SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS ROLL CALLS

MR RICHARD CAUCHI
52 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET
BOSTON MA 02114



Citizens for Participation in Political Action

NEWSLETTER

STATE HEADQUARTERS

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Vol. 2, No. 6

TELEPHONE 617-426-3040

June 29, 1974

Needed Now: AN ACTION AGENDA

TUESDAY, JULY 16 - 7:30 - CPPAX STATE HEADQUARTERS

CPPAX needs a focus for immediate issue action.

The CPPAX platform defines a tremendous range of issues that are important to us. We are tempted to tackle them all at once: the Newsletter provides information on most of them; our local chapters, individual members and staff take action on many. But we splinter our effort to such a degree that we are seldom effective enough on any issue to win meaningful victories.

Without a well-defined program, it is easy for CPPAX to function solely as a reactive organization--one that responds effectively to salvage progressive programs such as rent control when they are under attack, but one that fails to advance new ideas. If CPPAX is to remain at the cutting edge of public concerns, we need a clearly articulated set of short-term goals.

We urgently need to narrow our focus and concentrate our resources. We simply cannot accept every struggle on the radical-liberal agenda. Only by uniting behind a few key programs can CPPAX expect to move the new politics constituency and the general public.

The first step is an open membership meeting on July 16th. All members who attend will select from the programs suggested a set of action plans that will dominate our issue efforts in the coming months. The number of programs and their duration will be determined at the same time. Once the meeting has reached agreement on priorities, we will immediately set to work to bring as many members as possible into their implementation and then devise effective strategy and tactics.

BRING YOUR PROPOSALS FOR CPPAX ISSUE ACTION

What do you think CPPAX should be doing? This is your opportunity to make a specific proposal for an action program.

Bring your proposals, in writing to the July 16th meeting. Any program in any issue area will be considered provided it is now in the CPPAX platform.

Only projects approved by the meeting will be undertaken by the full CPPAX membership--if your idea isn't presented on July 16, it can't become a priority concern for action for the immediate future.

If you can't attend this important meeting, send your action proposals by mail or phone them to the state office. The enclosed response form also includes some ideas for action prepared by the staff and executive board. This list is intended as a series of examples, not as the entire range of choices. If you like a particular idea, let us know, but we're most interested in the original programs you propose. Try to be as specific as possible both in defining the issue concern and the action to be taken.

JOIN US ON JULY 16th

The meeting will be held at the CPPAX state headquarters, 11 South Street, Boston (across from South Station) at 7:30 pm. It is open to all current members (as of June 30) and those 1973 members who renew by the day of the meeting. Since this is a membership meeting, outside speakers will not be allowed to participate.

The Second Step: Long Range Planning

At the same time that we choose a short term action agenda, we must develop clear plans for CPPAX focus, structure, and action in the long run. A series of meetings has begun to develop proposals. The next meeting will be held July 11th, at 7:30 p. m. at the CPPAX state headquarters, 11 South St. in Boston, and will concentrate on strengthening local organizing and community chapters, determining a long-range focus on issues, and ways and means to work effectively in elections for state offices.

Judge Garrity's Decision

CPPAX hails the recent decision of Federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity, Jr., ordering the immediate implementation of the State Board of Education's plan for desegregating Boston's schools. By ruling that the state racial imbalance law is a necessary first step to remedy Boston's pattern of public school segregation, Garrity has confirmed the position advocated by individuals of good conscience for the last decade.

Attention must now turn to initiation of the program in September. CPPAX is working with an ad hoc coalition known as "Clearinghouse" to ensure that implementation will be peaceful. Plans are underway to hire buses to take parents and children on trial runs; to establish telephone information centers to combat rumors and offer accurate details; and to carry out a media campaign to increase public acceptance of the racial balancing plan.

Support from outside of Boston will be needed as September approaches. During the summer months, this Newsletter will present specific details on help that is needed. Right now CPPAX members should contact legislators (and their challengers) to deliver the message that further legislative attempts to weaken the law are futile and potentially disruptive.

The Art of Endorsement

One characteristic which distinguishes CPPAX from other progressive organizations is a willingness to carry issue action into the electoral arena. CPPAX and its predecessors have a long history of making endorsements for candidates who are pledged to campaign on progressive issues, and then following through with time and money.

Nineteen seventy-four is shaping up as no exception. Hardly a day passes without the state office being contacted by some aspiring candidate seeking CPPAX support. While the staff is always willing to assist anyone with voting records, issue materials, and facts about election laws, it is not up to the state office to decide which candidates to endorse.

It is a fundamental principle of CPPAX that policy is made by those members who will be directly affected by the decision. Thus, the full membership in convention had the opportunity to vote for endorsements for statewide offices. But for races at the Congressional and county levels and for contests for State Senator and Representative the decision must be made by members in the election district.

The actual endorsement process is quite flexible provided that several key steps are followed: every paid member in the district must be given an opportunity to vote; a 2/3 affirmative vote is required to endorse; and write-ins as well as votes for "no endorsement" must be counted in the total of ballots cast.

Endorsements for races whose boundaries fall within the area served by one chapter are the sole province of the local group. All other endorsements may be initiated by the Executive Board. But with 280 state legislative seats and several score contests for Congressional and County positions, it is not possible for the Executive Board to judge which races deserve attention. The initiative for endorsements must come from concerned members.

If you or your community group wants to begin an endorsement process for any non-local office, contact the state office at once. The staff can help devise the most practical plan for your situation. Don't hesitate to get started--endorsements done the week before election have little effect either on the candidate or on the general public.



Citizens for Participation in Political Action

11 SOUTH STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111
TELEPHONE: 617-426-3040

ISSUE ACTION TASK FORCES

CPPAX has a focus for immediate issue action.

The meeting of July 16th reached a solid consensus on five programs to form our action agenda for the next six months. We are now ready to begin work on these programs. Task force meetings have been called for the coming week, as detailed below. Each task force will tackle two questions at the initial meeting: What specifically do we want to accomplish between now and December? What immediate action should be taken?

Due to the short timing, this notice could only go out to chapter chairpeople and to those who wrote in or signed up on the 16th. Invite any other members who may be interested. And bring your own ideas for action on these programs.

**** All meetings are being held at the CPPAX State Headquarters, 11 South St., Boston****

~~~~~  
TAX REFORM: FEDERAL AND STATE  
Wednesday July 24 8 pm

Convener for the first meeting: Dorothy Weitzman, 731-4578  
~~~~~

Federal: The public is already outraged by the inequities of the U.S. tax system, but they need persistent organizing efforts to hasten meaningful change. Given record inflation rates and the energy crisis, action to raise needed funds and assist low income families should now be taken through tax reform. CPPAX can catalyze a campaign for tax justice by mobilizing public pressure to close specific loopholes such as the oil depletion allowance and support the Tax Justice Act, to be introduced in the 94th Congress by the National Committee for Tax Justice. CPPAX can focus its actions on ending special tax treatment of Capital Gains income, initiating a tax credit as an optional alternative to personal exemptions, and reforming the Social Security Tax. Petitions, publicizing upcoming tax bills and disseminating Congressional voting records through the media, publicizing existing lobbying groups and information sources, circulating literature and holding educational forums, questioning candidates during upcoming elections, monitoring tax committees and votes, and working to open the House Ways and Means Committee and limit its jurisdiction and powers, will all be related actions, likely to gain some Federal Tax Reform.

State: Next year the State may have to find new means to raise revenue to balance the budget. We must work to force the legislature to pass a tax package which places the tax burden on those most able to pay, by designing and circulating anti-sales tax increase literature and lobbying for an increase in the personal and dependency deduct-ions for low-income wage earners.

~~~~~  
DISARMAMENT AND DEFENSE BUDGET REDUCTION  
Thursday July 25 7:30 pm

Convener for the first meeting: Elmer Fehlhaber, 734-7812  
~~~~~

Disarmament: The continuing arms race escalates the threat of nuclear holocaust. Massachusetts activists can initiate the same sort of nationwide citizens campaign for disarmament that we launched against the Vietnam War and the ABM. We should begin at once with a program of wide scale public education, using resources such as the SANE slide show, while simultaneously pressing our Congresspeople to take the lead on the issue in D.C.

over please-.....

Defense Budget: Lack of funds for social services because of grossly inflated arms spending. The action: Education of the public on the relation of taxes and cost of living to the outrageous amount of funds for the Defense Department. We need to put pressure on Congress toward re-ordering of priorities on spending.

~~~~~

RENT CONTROL EXPANSION

Friday July 26 8pm

Convener for the first meeting: Pat Jehlen, 666-9479

~~~~~

Candidates for the state legislature must be pressured to take positions favoring the extension of rent control beyond its December 1975 expiration. In addition the rent control study commission should be monitored and legislation written for submission to the 1975 session of the General Court. A network for lobbying can be initiated now.

~~~~~

HANDGUN CONTROL

Monday July 29 7:30 pm

Convener for the first meeting: Don Ross, 628-1346

~~~~~

A group of citizens including Middlesex Sheriff John Buckley have started an initiative petition drive to assure legislative and voter action on gun control statutes by November 1975. A massive campaign including publicity, local organization, and canvassing is necessary to gather the required 60,000 signatures between September and November of 1974.

~~~~~

RACIAL BALANCE AND ACTION AGAINST RACISM

Tuesday July 30 7:30 pm

Convener for the first meeting: Margie Small, 361-6687

~~~~~

Statewide support is needed to guarantee the smooth inception of the state's racial balancing plan in Boston and Springfield this fall. Volunteers can assist in the start-up of the transportation program, as classroom assistants. Public pressure on elected officials will be needed to encourage them to accept Garrity's decision and begin positive planning for the fall. Back to School Unity Demonstration, posters, leaflets. Youth poster contest against prejudice.

Struggle against racism and segregation: by working to make sure the plan is implemented peacefully, and by working to help fight back against racist and political repression.



Citizens for Participation in Political Action

NEWSLETTER

STATE HEADQUARTERS

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Vol. 2, No. 10

TELEPHONE: 617-426-3040

October 25, 1974

1974 General Election Edition

ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Mike Dukakis for Governor In the few days remaining before the election, the Dukakis campaign needs to maintain momentum to make certain that the lead in the opinion polls is translated into victory in the voting booths. A full array of election week activities is scheduled beginning with an issues-leaflet distribution on November 2 and peaking on Election Day with a full scale turn-out-the-vote and poll watching operation. To volunteer, contact your local coordinator or The Dukakis Committee at (617) 742-5605. All contributions go to 18 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Paul Guzzi for Secretary of State The controversy over Guzzi's accepting political loans makes a strong pre-election push mandatory. Guzzi has complied fully with the ruling of the new Director of Political Finance and refinanced the loans with a personal mortgage which "resolves the issue" according to the Director, even though many of those most expert in interpreting the new campaign finance law, including the head of the legislative committee which drafted the bill, believe that Guzzi did nothing illegal. To prevent any possible defection of supporters, a major leaflet "drop" in areas with large Democratic or Independent registration is planned. New eight-page brochures and single-page leaflets are now available for this purpose. Call Guzzi headquarters at (617) 244-1870 for literature and Election Day assignments. Naturally, money is needed to finance this final round of printing as well as television and radio advertising: checks go to 1383a Washington Street, Newton, MA 02165.

Robert Drinan for Congress CPPAX members in the Fourth Congressional District have overwhelmingly endorsed Congressman Robert Drinan for reelection. Overall nearly 98% of the votes cast in a recent membership poll went to Drinan (more than 600 members live in the 4th C.D.) reflecting CPPAX's satisfaction with Drinan's voting record and leadership on the issues. For the third time in as many elections, Drinan is involved in a tough three-way race. Because Drinan has never attained more than half the vote in a general election contest, his supporters feel that a vigorous campaign is necessary in the closing days. There's plenty of work to be done including leafletting, mailings, and phone soliciting. If you can give an afternoon or evening, call (617) 969-9300. Campaign contributions should be sent to Drinan for Congress, 80 Rowe Street, Newton MA 02166.

Paul Tsongas for Congress The Fifth District contest for U.S. Representative is the hottest in the Commonwealth and also the closest. No poll shows a gap of more than three points separating the two contenders. Most importantly for the new politics movement, Paul Tsongas' bid to unseat Paul Cronin is an excellent opportunity to replace Massachusetts' most conservative Congressman with another strong progressive voice in the tradition of Drinan, Harrington, Moakley, and Studts. Tsongas' overwhelming 3:1 primary victory gave the campaign a tremendous boost, but an "all out" effort on the final weekend and Election Day will be the key to victory. Money is also crucial to finance a pre-election media effort. Checks go to Tsongas for Congress, 157 Andover Street, Lowell. Volunteers should call either 454-7873 or 369-8962.

. . . over please

ENDORSED CANDIDATES (continued)

John Buckley for Sheriff The issues could hardly be drawn more clearly than in the race for Middlesex County Sheriff. John Buckley, running for reelection on his model progressive record, faces an opponent who speaks in the broadest generalities of a return to a "sensible" administration. Buckley must also contend with the concerted energies of the gun lobby which is incensed by the Sheriff's leadership of the movement to end private possession of handguns. The Buckley campaign believes that a major door-to-door push on the final weekend is necessary to make more voters aware of Buckley's record. Call the Buckley headquarters at 391-0524 to offer your help.

Attorney General At the May Convention, CPPAX members voted to make no endorsement in this race. But because the issues involved in the contest for Attorney General are so crucial to progressives, the Executive Board believes it is important to appraise the membership fully of the the positions of the candidates. Therefore, the responses from each of the three candidates to a CPPAX issues-questionnaire are enclosed.

ELECTION WEEK RESOURCES

Mass. Senate Voting Profile A complete profile of the major votes cast by the forty members of the Massachusetts Senate is now available from CPPAX. Based upon 77 significant roll calls taken during the 1974 session, the compilation includes full descriptions of each issue, a quick-reference chart showing how each Senator voted, and a subject index. The profile is available by mail, to CPPAX members only, for 75¢ post-paid. Individual profiles of State Representatives are also available to members for 75¢. Please specify the Representative(s) for which you request information.

Ballot Questions Voter's Guide Though listed at the bottom of the ballot, the referenda questions are, nevertheless, extremely important since they are the only opportunity the electorate has to vote directly on issues of major public concern. This year, there are six statewide questions and a score more which appear in one or more voting districts. The enclosed "Voter's Guide", prepared by the CPPAX 1974 Referenda Campaign Committee describes the issues and the official CPPAX position. Additional copies of the leaflet are available from the CPPAX office. Also available are special single-issue leaflets on the Boston School Referendum and the questions on amnesty and gun control.

Election Day Legal Outline An outline of Massachusetts Election Laws applicable to the conduct of general elections is now available from CPPAX. Compiled by Alvin Levin and Richard Cauchi, the 18 page guide can aid campaign coordinators, legal advisors, and poll workers in dealing with most of the "legal" situations which appear on election day. Copies will be sent by first class mail for 50¢. Call CPPAX for further assistance.

Statewide Candidate Questionnaire Responses In early May CPPAX sent issue questionnaires to all known candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. The answers received from candidates whose names will appear on the November 5 ballot have been assembled into a 17 page booklet. Copies are available to the general public for \$1.00 postpaid.

Call to Convention -- November 23

The 1974 CPPAX membership convention, winter meeting, will begin at 10:00 am on Saturday Nov. 23rd at Framingham's Hastings School. Its primary purpose is to hammer out CPPAX issue positions and action plans for the coming months. The agenda includes: consideration of those platform areas not covered in May (Health and Social Welfare, Urban Affairs, Environmental Protection, Education, Consumer Protection, Tax Reform and Fiscal Affairs); evaluation of the five present issue-action programs and adoption of a new Action Agenda for the next six months; and consideration of the amendments to the CPPAX Charter described below. A detailed agenda and directions to the convention site will be included in next month's Newsletter. Every CPPAX member should plan to attend this event to participate in determining the future course of action for the new politics.

. . . continued

PLATFORM REVIEW SESSION: To develop proposals for platform changes to be submitted to the convention, a joint meeting of the six issue committees in the areas listed above will be held on Thursday, November 14th at 7:30 pm at the CPPAX State Office. This meeting is open to all CPPAX members.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS (as received by the Oct. 18 deadline):

- On the State Assembly - now composed of elected reps., and required to meet quarterly
- 1) Replace the Assembly with a provision for "emergency convention" open to all members, and called on at least 13 days notice by the Executive Board or upon petition of fifty members from at least five chapters.
 - 2) Abolish the Assembly.
- On the Executive Board - now 22 members: 10 at-large and 12 Congressional Dist. Reps.
- 3) Expand the Board to 32 members: 20 at-large and 12 C.D. Reps.
 - 4) Expand the Board to 34 members: 10 at-large and 24 C.D. Reps.
 - 5) Add to the responsibilities of the Executive Board, that it "shall exercise a leadership role in enlarging the membership and insuring that action is taken on issues of concern to CPPAX."
- On mail ballots - now full statements of the case for each side of a proposition, or for each candidate who so wishes, must be sent out with any mail ballot.
- 6) Statements on either side of an issue would be sent out if submitted by 3 or more members, or failing this, at the option of the Executive Board. Candidate material would be furnished by the candidate or would consist of questionnaire results.
- The full text of these amendments will be available at the convention, or can be mailed to you upon request. Written arguments pro or con on any amendment may be sent to the state office for distribution at the convention.

Fred & La Donna Harris to Kick-off "Politics '76" Speaker Series

"Politics '76: The Issues and the Candidates", a new CPPAX speakers series, opens on Sunday, November 17, when Fred and La Donna Harris appear at Brookline High School at 8 pm. Fred Harris served eight years in the U.S. Senate ending in 1972. He has gained recognition as an advocate of the "new populism" which stresses thorough tax reform as the first step to a redistribution of the nation's wealth. La Donna Harris is a noted woman's activist and has also been a leader in the movement for rights for Indians.

The Harris event is the first in a series designed to expose Massachusetts political activists to potential Presidential candidates. Already committed to future appearances are Senators Mondale, McGovern and Kennedy, and former Senator McCarthy. General admission to the November 17th speech will be \$2.00--tickets may be ordered below.

Prior to the speech at Brookline High School, there will be a cocktail fundraising reception to benefit CPPAX at the home of June and Peter Spackman, 650 Centre St., Newton. Featured guests will be both Fred and La Donna Harris and Representative John Conyers. A donation of \$10 per person is requested. Contact CPPAX for reservations.

All members are encouraged to attend both the public speech and the reception. Let your friends and neighbors know, too!

ORDER FORM

Please send me/us the following material:

- _____ copies Election Day Legal Outline @ 50¢
- _____ copies Statewide Candidates Questionnaire Responses @ \$1.00
- _____ copies Mass. Senate Comprehensive Voting Profile @ 75¢
- _____ copies Mass. House Comprehensive Voting Profile for Rep. _____ @75¢

Enclosed is: \$ _____ for the material listed above
\$ _____ for _____ tickets to the speech by Fred & La Donna Harris
at Brookline High School on Nov. 17th.
\$ _____ as a general contribution to CPPAX

\$ _____ TOTAL

(Unless otherwise indicated, the material will be sent to the address on the reverse of form)

Political Calendar

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS: In late October and early November each of the major departments of state government will hold public hearings to take testimony on their proposed budgets for the coming Fiscal year. A complete list of dates and locations is available by calling or writing the CPPAX office.

- Oct. 31, Wed. - Boston Vigil for Peace and Education. City Hall Plaza, Boston. Assemble at Old West Church, Cambridge St. at 11 am.
- Nov. 5, Tues. - Election Day. Polls close at 8 pm.
- Nov. 6, Wed. - CPPAX Racial Justice Task Force. Open meeting to develop further programs to aid desegregation in Boston and to gain greater suburban support for integrated education. CPPAX State Office. 7:30 pm.
- Nov. 8, Fri. - "After Watergate, What?", a rally and teach-in with Jane Fonda, Daniel Ellsberg, and Holly Near. Cousins Gym, Tufts U., Medford. 8 pm.
- Nov. 12, Tues. - CPPAX Tax Reform Task Force. Review of National Tax Justice Act and planning of action strategy. CPPAX State Office. 7:30 pm.
- Nov. 13, Wed. - Public hearing on proposed regulation governing collection, maintenance, access and dissemination of criminal offender record information (CORI) in Mass. Gardner Auditorium, State House. 10 am.
- Nov. 14, Thurs. - CORI hearing (see above). Fall River City Hall. 10 am.
- Nov. 14, Thurs. - CPPAX Platform Review meeting. Discussion of proposed additions, amendments, and deletions to be submitted at the Nov. 23 Convention. All members interested in CPPAX issue positions are urged to attend. CPPAX State Office. 7:30 pm.
- Nov. 15, Fri. - CORI Hearings (see above for details). Springfield City Hall. 10 am.
- Nov. 16, Sat. - Rally for National Health Security with actor E.G. Marshall, American Fed. of State, County, and Municipal Workers Union President Jerry Wurff, Leg. Council of Older Americans President Frank Manning, and Harvard Med. School Dean Robert Ebert. Faneuil Hall, Boston. 2 pm.
- Nov. 17, Sun. - CPPAX Fundraising cocktail reception. Guests include Representative John Conyers, Senator Fred Harris, and women's rights activist La Donna Harris. Home of June and Peter Spackman, 650 Centre Street, Newton. 5 - 7 pm. \$10 donation. Call 426-3040 for information.
- Nov. 17, Sun. - "Politics '76: The Issues and the Candidates". Public forum featuring Fred and La Donna Harris. Brookline High School. 8 pm. \$2.00 admission.
- Nov. 21, Thurs. - "Juvenile Justice: Lives in the Balance" an open conference. John Hancock Hall, Boston. 9 am - 3 pm. Adult admission, \$4.00.
- Nov. 23, Sat. - CPPAX Annual Membership Convention, winter session. Hastings School Framingham. 10 am - 5 pm.

CPPAX Newsletter

second class postage paid at Boston, MA

Citizens for Participation in Political Action

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

MR RICHARD CAUCHI
52 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET
BOSTON MA 02114



Citizens for Participation in Political Action

NEWSLETTER

STATE HEADQUARTERS

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Vol. 2, No. 12

TELEPHONE: 617-426-3040

December 30, 1974

State "Fiscal Crisis" Spurs Tax Reform Efforts

As members of the General Court begin returning to Beacon Hill, the task of balancing the state's three billion dollar budget looms as the overriding issue for the 1975 legislative session.

CPPAX has already reacted strongly to Governor-elect Dukakis' suggestion that "meat cleaver" cost-cutting was the only solution. In a public statement, the CPPAX Tax Reform Task Force charged that major reductions in social programs such as mental health, higher education and public health would "make the poorest and most hard-pressed pay for the state budget deficit." A follow-up meeting with incoming Secretary of Administration and Finance John Buckley has been scheduled for mid-January.

Instead of program slashes, CPPAX favors immediate changes in the revenue side of the state budget. In keeping with the belief that the income tax is the best source of state revenue so long as specific provisions are included to provide relief for those with low incomes, CPPAX has filed legislation to substantially increase both the personal exemption, dependency deduction and sales tax allowance. Coupled with revised income tax rates, these proposals could meet the projected deficit while at the same time easing the tax burden upon low and middle income families and forcing the wealthy to pay a fair share. In addition to these proposals, CPPAX will be working for a strong vote to place a graduated income tax constitutional amendment on the 1976 state ballot.

To gain broader public support for its programs, the Tax Reform Task Force is planning a "People's Tax Hearing" for early 1975. Proposals for the hearings and other state and national tax reform activities will be discussed at the next meeting of the Task Force on Thursday, January 9th at 8 pm in the CPPAX State Office. All members interested in tax justice are urged to attend.

Rep. Udall Featured in February 2nd "Presidential Politics" Speech

Arizona Representative Morris Udall will deliver the second address in the CPPAX series "Presidential Politics '76: The Issues and the Candidates" on Sunday, February 2, at 8:30 pm in the M.I.T. Student Center.

An outspoken environmentalist and leader of Congressional liberals, "Mo" Udall was the first Democrat to officially declare as a candidate for the Party's 1976 Presidential nomination. Udall who has served in the House of Representatives since 1961 plans a low-key grass-roots campaign to build a nationwide network like that which won the 1972 nomination for George McGovern. His candidacy has already been endorsed by fifty other progressive members of Congress.

The "Presidential Politics" series is designed to give Massachusetts activists an opportunity to hear and question potential candidates well in advance of the 1976 primary election campaign. Former Oklahoma Senator Fred Harris opened the series on November 17. Other major political figures committed to participation in the series include Senators Eugene McCarthy, George McGovern, and Birch Bayh and Georgia State Representative Julian Bond.

Representative Udall's speech on February 2nd will be open to the public. Admission is two dollars. CPPAX members and friends may reserve advance tickets by completing the appropriate line on the enclosed membership renewal form.

"Recess Study" Bolsters Rent Control Prospects

Rather than deal with rent control directly during the 1974 session, and face potential election day reprisals from either angry tenants or landlords, the state legislature set up a "study committee" to examine the issue. Many activists viewed this as purely a delaying tactic, and thought little effort would ever be expended to investigate the functions of rent control. But the first draft of the report from the consulting firm hired to undertake the study was gratifying. In a well documented 600 page report, Harbridge House, Inc., recommended an extension of the state rent control enabling legislation through 1980, inclusion of all communities regardless of population, and coverage of FHA properties. Although the rent control bill co-filed by CPPAX calls for permanent extension and coverage of "luxury" or high rent housing as well, the generally positive conclusions of this study will be quite helpful to all who advocate strong rent control.

However, the consultants' recommendations will not be enough to sway the legislature. Strong constituent pressure, particularly in suburban and rural communities will be necessary. The CPPAX Rent Control Task Force has set a meeting at 8 pm on Thursday, January 16, to plan legislative strategy, prepare testimony and divide lobbying assignments. The meeting will be held at the CPPAX office, 11 South Street, Boston and is open to all interested members.

Washington Report: A Landmark Session Ends

The 93rd Congress which finally adjourned late on December 20th may well have brought about a fundamental reordering of the balance of power in the national political arena. Three decades of increasing executive domination came to an end with the passage of the War Powers bill, Budget and Impoundment Control, the Freedom of Information Act, Campaign Finance Reform and the forced resignation of Richard Nixon.

The historic session ended in an intensive post-election blitz which featured the confirmation of a second Vice President in two years and passage of a score of major bills such as emergency unemployment compensation, strip mining control, mass transit operating subsidies, and public service employment. Final month activity of particular interest to CPPAX included:

TAX REFORM: The downfall of Wilbur Mills and the enlargement of the Ways and Means Committee from 25 to 35 members have removed major impediments to tax justice. Both legislative leaders and tax reform lobbyists now agree that a comprehensive review of the entire Federal Tax Code will be undertaken in the 94th Congress. As a result pending tax legislation including Ford's proposed surcharge and repeal of the oil depletion allowance was postponed until the new year.

RACIAL JUSTICE: Under the guise of an amendment submitted by Marjorie Holt of Maryland, busing opponents sought to gut HEW of its authority to enforce regulations banning race and sex discrimination by attaching a provision banning the collection of data listing the race or sex of students, teachers, or school administrators to a crucial \$6 billion supplemental appropriations bill. But strong Senate opposition led by Massachusetts Senator Ed Brooke blocked passage. Both the Holt amendment and a proposed Constitutional amendment banning busing will be reintroduced in 1975.

MILITARY SPENDING: Constituent lobbying around an amendment sponsored by Representative Silvio Conte was successful in placing a \$200 million ceiling on military aid to Cambodia (a cut of more than \$150 million from administration requests). Though the vote on Conte's amendment was by voice, it appears that all Massachusetts Representatives voted for the measure. Similarly strong grassroots efforts will be necessary to force major reductions in the Fiscal 1976 military budget which is likely to exceed \$100 billion. At present, several members of the CPPAX Disarmament Task Force are working with a group of M.I.T. and Harvard faculty to develop a "minimum military budget" as an alternative to Pentagon proposals. Contact the CPPAX office for details.

RENT CONTROL: Recent wage-price control legislation, such as that filed by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, could jeopardize existing Massachusetts rent control law. In an effort to make our Congressional delegation aware of the possible dangers, the CPPAX Rent Control Task Force has written to local Representatives urging that any legislation include provisions to ensure that "No order, regulation or policy under this act shall allow or permit any higher prices or rents than are allowed or permitted by any state or local laws, orders, regulations or policies."

Tough Gun Control Bill Filed

The CPPAX Handgun Control Task Force has joined with eighteen state legislators and eight other organizations ranging from People vs. Handguns to the Mass. Federation of Women's Clubs in filing a bill to end the private possession of handguns by anyone other than police and military personnel. In a statement delivered at a State House news conference, CPPAX cited the results of last November's CPPAX-sponsored gun control referenda in Winthrop, East Boston, Wellesely, Newton and Brookline as evidence of public support. Claiming that the Bartley-Fox bill which increases penalties for illegal possession is no substitute for adequate handgun control, CPPAX demanded "immediate legislative action... to stem the tide of handgun deaths."

The pro-gun lobby recognized that this year's gun control vote will be very close: they have already hired former state legislator and defeated Attorney General aspirant George Sacco as their lobbyist. Strong grassroots action will be needed to counter their efforts. Let you Senator and Representative know your views today!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR CPPAX MEMBERSHIP FOR 1975

Your \$5.00 per person will cover full participation in CPPAX for the coming year, including newsletter subscription, meeting notices, voting records, issue and action publications, and the right to decide on our programs and candidates.

PLEASE RENEW TODAY Payment before February 1, 1975 will save CPPAX the added expense of sending personalized renewal reminders by first-class mail. The money saved will be used for our political activities. Note: new members who joined after October 1, 1974, are considered paid for 1975.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN Despite rising costs, dues remain at \$5.00 to assure that people of all income levels will be able to participate as CPPAX members. But our many activities for issues and candidates, on the local, state and national levels, require additional contributions from our members. Actual CPPAX expenses average over \$15.00 per member.

OR MAKE A REGULAR PLEDGE A monthly or quarterly pledge is a good way to spread out your contribution. And it helps assure a regular flow of support for CPPAX programs throughout the year.

SIGN-UP FOR CITIZEN ACTION Task forces and local groups are the foundation for CPPAX activities. You can begin working with your fellow members by indicating your interests when you return the membership form.

Citizens for Participation in Political Action

11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

MR RICHARD CAUCHI
52 SOUTH RUSSELL STREET
BOSTON MA 02114

**RENEW Your
Membership
TODAY**

The CPPAX Newsletter is published monthly by Citizens for Participation in Political Action, 11 South Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111. Two dollars of each five dollar CPPAX membership covers a subscription to this publication. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, MASS.

Fall Convention Wrap Up

The November membership convention was crammed, as usual, with speeches, workshops, debate and policy votes, but in a rare turn of events it actually ended a few minutes before the scheduled adjournment. The basic results were:

- THE CPPAX ACTION AGENDA WAS SET FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. Priority programs will include: Racial Justice, with an increased emphasis on development of a metropolitan integration plan; Disarmament and Military Spending Reduction, including educational work on detente; State and Federal Tax Reform; and Rent Control.

- THREE CHARTER AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED. They add to the responsibilities of the Executive Board, "exercising leadership for enlarging CPPAX membership and for insuring that action is taken on CPPAX priority issues"; allow mail ballots to be sent out without arguments on each side if none are submitted; and replace the State Assembly with a provision for emergency conventions. Revised charters are available.

- A PROPOSAL FROM THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE WAS ADOPTED. Unanimous approval was given to a report calling for a major commitment to a campaign to substantially improve the performance of the state legislature. Write for a copy.

In addition to the items on the Action Agenda, four other issue-action proposals received major support: 1) development of alternate energy sources; 2) establishment of a state "economic bill of rights"; 3) expansion of the powers of the state Consumers Council; 4) extension of voting rights and further reform of other election laws. Call or write CPPAX if you want to help translate these ideas into action programs.