NCDA
WASHINGTON REPORT

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

THE YEAR AHEAD

With the start of the second session of the 106th Congress just two weeks underway, both Congress and the White House have outlined ambitious priorities for the coming year, some of which coincide with one another and others that collide. This is also an election year. The nation will elect a new President in November and numerous Congressional seats are at stake as well. Because of these elections, Congress will have a much shorter work schedule, and therefore, less time to accomplish legislative priorities this year.

The President's FY 2001 Budget

As of the release of this newsletter, the President has not yet made his FY 2001 budget public. The President's budget is scheduled to be sent to Congress on Monday, February 7. We will provide a full report of the President's budget in the next issue of the *Washington Report*. Some portions of the budget have been leaked, however. NCDA has learned that the President will propose $4.9 billion for CDBG in FY 2001, a $100 million increase over the FY 2000 funding level and $1.65 billion for HOME, a $50 million increase. The President's budget also includes $1.2 billion for HUD's homeless assistance programs in FY 2001.

The President's budget includes $690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers. Of the 120,000 vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 will be targeted to the homeless, and 10,000 to low-income families moving to new housing constructed through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The remaining 60,000 vouchers will be allocated to local HUD field offices to be distributed to local communities to meet their affordable housing needs.

The President's FY 2001 budget also includes a 75% increase in the Youthbuild (a CDBG set-aside) from $42 million in FY 2000 to $75 million in FY 2001. The program provides disadvantaged young adults with education and employment skills through rehabilitating and building housing for low-income and homeless people.

Most of the President's priority proposals were outlined in his State of the Union address last week. At the top of his list is protecting Social Security and Medicare and paying off the national debt. Other top priorities include increased funding for education, targeted tax incentives, new gun safety legislation, and promoting international trade. Of note to NCDA's members, the President proposes full funding of his New Markets Tax Initiative which is intended to spur investment in distressed urban and rural areas through tax credits and loan guarantees. The initiative includes the creation of a New Markets Tax Credit, new Empowerment Zone funding, and additional funding for his America's Private Investment Companies (APICs) proposal.

What Priorities May Be Enacted This Year?

Surprisingly, the President and the Republican leadership agree on some priorities. First and foremost, is paying of the $3.6 trillion national debt by 2013. Both Clinton and Congress also want to pass legislation this session that provides permanent trade relations status for China. Both sides are also supportive of new trade with Africa and the Caribbean basin.

Tax Cuts

Still stinging from a Presidential veto of a $792 billion tax cut measure from last year, Congressional Republicans are calling for smaller tax cut measures this year. The House hopes to move tax legislation in three areas this year, including a marriage penalty measure, legislation to expand education savings accounts and a bill to enact the New Markets Tax Initiative. The Senate will likely follow with similar legislation. Clinton is also supportive of tax measures in each of these three areas.

Rep. Bill Archer (R-TX), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, introduced H.R. 6 last week – a bill that would eliminate the existing marriage penalty tax. The legislation is designed to remove from the existing tax code provisions that result in married couples paying more federal income tax than they would as single taxpayers. The legislation would increase the standard deduction for couples, broaden the lowest tax bracket, and allow couples to collect more from the Earned Income Tax Credit. The House Ways and Means Committee marked-up H.R. 6 on February 2, and voted by a 23-13 margin to move it to the House floor next week. The legislation comes prior to completion of a House budget resolution, something that has never been done before. This has angered Democrats who see Archer as circumventing the budget process to move forward a measure that would cost $182 billion over 10 years. A Senate version will likely move later this year.

Budget/Appropriations Process

Speaker of the House, J. Dennis Hastert, told House Republicans to expect a speedy budget process this year. Hastert wants the House to adopt its FY 2001 budget resolution by March 15 (a month ahead of the April 15 deadline). Hastert wants to move all 13 appropriations bill through the House by the July 4 recess. Likewise, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici plans to move the Senate's budget resolution through the full Senate by early March.

In terms of discretionary spending, Hastert has publicly claimed the spending caps adopted by the 1997 balanced budget law as outdated and not useful, therefore, they will likely not be adhered to this year, allowing for possible increases in discretionary spending. Some Congressional Republicans support increasing discretionary spending to at least the rate of inflation. We're hopeful that additional discretionary spending increases will occur, and we will continue to advocate for larger increases for CDBG and HOME.

Two Year Budget Cycle

Some of the Republican leadership, such as Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Rep. Dick Armey (R-TX), are pushing for a two-year budget process. Advocates of a two-year budget cycle argue that it will allow more time for members to enact authorizing legislation and conduct oversight of federal agencies. Says Senator Domenici, "Its's a hot issue. It seems like all we do is appropriate and write budgets." The budget process does take up most of a congressional session; however, this proposal is likely to draw strong opposition from members of the House and Senate appropriations committees who are responsible for writing the annual spending bills because it will take away much of their responsibility, thereby focusing more time and clout on members who sit on authorizing committees. Nevertheless, enacting a two-year budget cycle will likely be a top priority for many in Congress this year.

NEW BATTLE OVER MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX CUTS BREWING

One of the few things congressional Republicans and Democrats and the White House are all supposed to be in agreement about is the need to get rid of the so-called marriage penalty affecting married couples that file joint tax returns. (Due to a quirk in the tax code, many married couples are often required to pay more in taxes when they file jointly than they would as single individuals filing separately.) Whatever hope there was of a quick and easy legislative solution to this problem appears to have gone out the window today as the White House and congressional Republicans began sparring over the size of the Republican proposal to address the issue.

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee, led by chairman Bill Archer (R-TX), marked up H.R. 6, which is rather conspicuously dubbed "The Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act of 2000." House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert III (R-IL) intends to have the measure ready for a vote on the House Floor by Valentines Day (February 14, 2000). This is well before work on the FY 2001 budget resolution is expected to be done.

The Archer marriage penalty relief bill raises the standard deduction for couples filing jointly to twice the standard deduction for single filers. Currently the standard deduction for single filers is $4,400. Also, for married couples filing jointly the income limit to qualify for the lowest tax bracket (15%) would be expanded to twice that of the corresponding limit for single filers. Right now, for single tax payers the upper income limit for the lowest tax bracket is $26, 250. This ceiling would be raised to $43, 850 over six years for couples filing joint returns. There is also a provision to make more low-income couples eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by increasing the program's income eligibility limit for couples. Archer's tax plan would raise the beginning point of the phase-out range of the EITC benefit for couples filing jointly by $2,000. For example, a married couple with two qualifying children would be phased out of the tax credit's benefit at $33, 152 instead of the current rate of $31,152.

The total estimated cost of the Archer plan is $182 billion over ten years. The bulk of this cost is attributable to the provision which expands the amount of married couples eligible for the 15% tax bracket. No offsets are proposed in H.R. 6.

Today the White House and Congressional Democrats criticized the Republican proposal as "too much, too soon." In his State of the Union address earlier this week, President Clinton outlined the major contours of the Democratic counter-proposal. Clinton's marriage penalty relief scheme also calls for doubling the standard deduction for two earner married couples to twice that of single taxpayers. However, the Administration plan restricts the number of new married couples eligible for filing in the lowest tax bracket to taxpayers in the top 25 per cent of earnings, since couples beneath that income level experience little to no penalty effect when filing jointly. There are also provisions in the Administration plan to limit the increase in the standard to deduction for one earner married couples to $500, as well as increase by $250 the standard deduction for single taxpayers. The Administration marriage penalty plan contains no mention of the EITC but the White House intends to push for a substantial EITC expansion in other legislation. The price tag for the Administration proposal is $45 billion. As always, rumors of a compromise abound. An end game could see the President rolling the marriage penalty, New Markets initiative, EITC, and new tax credit plans all into one comprehensive tax package.

CONTROVERSIAL BANKRUPTCY BILL SAILS THROUGH SENATE

The United States Senate wasted no time in getting right back to work after the long winter recess. Wednesday, February 2, 2000, on a vote of 83-14, the body overwhelmingly passed S. 625, commonly called the "Bankruptcy Reform bill." If approved into law, the Bankruptcy Reform Act would overhaul the nation's bankruptcy laws by requiring most debtors to file under Chapter 13 of the bankruptcy code, which requires substantial repayment of debts, as opposed to Chapter 7, which erases most debt after liquidation of assets. The U.S. House of Representatives already passed a companion piece of bankruptcy reform legislation, H.R. 833, in May of 1999. Not surprisingly, the banking and credit card industries are lobbying hard for this legislation

The underlying aim of the bill enjoys wide support among members from both parties. S. 625 was a high senate priority during the last session of Congress but like so much else fell prey to partisan bickering over a series of controversial provisions and unrelated policy riders. Unfortunately for the Senate's leaders, prospects for final passage in this session aren't looking much better. The fact is, Wednesday's lopsided vote in the Senate belies the level of deep disagreement between Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate both over key facets of the legislation, not to mention a number of its more contentious amendments. Indeed, on Tuesday S. 625 was on its way to a tie vote in the Senate due to the introduction of an amendment by Democrats to block bankruptcy protection for abortion protesters facing criminal and civil penalties for damaging abortion clinics. After weighing the thought of having Vice President Gore cast another dramatic tie-breaking vote in the Senate, Republican leaders concluded that discretion would be the better part of valor and encouraged their caucus to vote for the bill as is, vowing to remove the amendments in conference.

In addition to the germane provisions that rewrite the bankruptcy code, S. 625 is also the vehicle of choice for Senate Republicans' attempts to pass their version of a minimum wage hike and a plethora of tax breaks for small businesses and self-employed individuals. The Republican minimum wage amendment would raise the federal minimum wage from $5.15 per hour to $6.15 per hour over three years. To compensate small business for the higher labor costs Senate Republicans are offering up a reduction in the federal unemployment tax from 0.8 per cent to 0.6 per cent, as well as accelerations in increases to current small business deductions and a boost in meal deductions for small businesses and the self-employed. There are also provisions to increase employer flexibility in contributing to worker pension plans, add a tax deduction for workers whose employers don't provide health insurance, a plan to establish a 100 per cent deductibility for health insurance for self-employed individuals, and an amendment to make permanent President Clinton's welfare-to-work tax credit.

As with last year's Financial Services Modernization Act, a number of low-income community development and consumer rights advocates (e.g, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the Public Interest Research Group, and Consumers Union) remain bitterly opposed to this legislation. David Butler, Media Director for Consumers Union, says that S.625 is basically a give away to the credit card industry. The legislation does nothing to address the aggressive and often times unscrupulous lending practices that have fed the explosion of bankruptcies in the first place. Credit card companies and banks would not be required to stop targeting unfit borrowers, or to provide clear disclosure about the real cost of consumer debt. Nor, for that matter, would they even have to stop targeting the very young and the very poor with teaser rates that later balloon into high interest loans.

Perhaps most disturbing to community development advocates, S.625 includes language that would make it harder for low- and moderate-income families and individuals to protect such key assets as homes and cars, as well as compromise the payment of high priority debts like child support and alimony after bankruptcy. As for predatory lending practices by shady fly by night contractors and others who prey on low-income elderly, the law doesn't even mention such practices. Moreover, the means test authorized under the proposed legislation relies on an IRS income scale that does not take into account such basic family and individual needs as money for rent, food, and transportation.

So far, the Clinton Administration is vowing to veto S.625 in its current form. The White House objects to the high cost of its business tax-cut riders, which might, it says, "take benefits away from working families." But after what happened with the Financial Services Modernization Act last year, no one in the consumer rights or community development community is prepared to rely on promises of steadfast opposition by the Administration.

HUD NEWS

LEAD-BASED PAINT UPDATE

NCDA will continue to update members on the Lead-Based Paint final rule through the *Washington Report.* Please check each edition of the *Washington Report* for new updates.

HUD is in the process of finalizing the next round of training sessions and hopes to have this process finalized within the next couple of weeks. HUD has provided NCDA with a list of the locations and the month in which the next 28 training sessions will be held. Please see to the attached training dates and locations for this information. Remember, in order to get into a training session, you must register early. ICF Consulting is the entity responsible for conducting the training sessions for HUD. ICF now has a direct line, 703-934-3392, for registrants to call regarding their registration. If you have any questions regarding the process, contact ICF Consulting at this number. You can also check your registration status by HUD's lead-based paint web site, which is http://www.hud.gov/lea/leahome.html. *Please check the web site for your registration status before contacting ICF.* This will free-up more time for ICF to deal with more substantive questions.

NCDA staff will meet with HUD officials on February 24 to discuss NCDA's member concerns and questions regarding the Lead-Based Paint final rule. NCDA has collected some questions and concerns regarding the rule; however, we are trying to hear back from as many members as possible. If you have a particular question or concern regarding the rule, please contact Vicki

Watson at vicki@ncdaonline.org or at 202-887-5532 **by February 17**. We want to make sure your concern or question is presented to HUD.

HUD will publish the notice of funding for its Lead Hazard Control Grant Program in its next round of Super NOFA funding, which is expected to be released within the next several weeks. The purpose of the program is to reduce the exposure of young children to lead-based paint in homes. Last year, HUD provided $56 million in grants to State and local governments to remove lead-based paint hazards. Congress allocated $80 million for the program in FY 2000. NCDA has been told that HUD has asked for a 50% increase in the program in FY 2001. In addition to higher funding levels for CDBG and HOME, NCDA plans to advocate for a much higher funding level for this program in FY 2001 in order to provide communities with additional financial resources for lead hazard reduction. It is an important resource for local governments to use in implementing their lead-based paint programs. **NCDA's members should consider applying for these funds.**

The awards are normally announced in October. Last year, the following communities received funding through this program: Phoenix, AZ; San Diego County, CA; Norwich, CT; Manchester, CT; Chicago, IL; St. Clair County, IL; Baltimore, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Lowell, MA; Cambridge, MA; Omaha, NE; Hudson County, NJ; Albany, NY; Syracuse, NY; Toledo, OH; and Mahoning County, OH. The funds can be used for (1) blood testing of young children; (2) inspection and testing of homes for lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust; (3) temporary relocation of families during hazard control; (4) community education and outreach; and (5) data collection, analysis, and evaluation.

HUD RELEASES HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS; WILL PUSH TO FUND SHELTER PLUS CARE RENEWALS IN SECTION 8 LINE ITEM

HUD officially announced the release of $900 million in homeless assistance grants to communities across the country in late December. A total of $150 million was allocated to States and local governments through the Emergency Shelter Grants Program. The remaining $750 million was awarded through HUD's "Continuum of Care" NOFA process. HUD received 3,000 applications for funding and was able to fund 1,875 applications. Please see HUD's web site www.hud.gov for a complete listing of the awards by state and community.

At a recent NCDA Housing Committee meeting, John Garrity, Director of HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, told NCDA's members that the FY 2000 NOFA (as part of HUD's Super NOFA process) will be issued in the next few weeks. The NOFA will contain legislative provisions from the FY 2000 HUD appropriations bill that requires HUD to use 30% of its homeless assistance funding to fund projects that provide permanent housing solutions to the homeless, and a requirement that applicants provide a 25% match for supportive services activities. HUD is aiming for an October awards announcement.

John also informed NCDA's members that HUD is recommending to Congress that the Shelter Plus Care renewals be funded in the Section 8 line item in order to free up funding for new homeless projects in the "Continuum of Care" application process. In addition, HUD is recommending to Congress that the Shelter Plus Care renewals have flexible contract terms, instead of a flat 5-year term.

HOME TRAINING AVAILABLE

NCDA, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will sponsor a HOME workshop at the NCDA Region V conference in March. The one and a half day workshop will be held on March 27-28 in Rockford, IL. *HOME Again: A Refresher Course for PJs* will provide an overview of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to both new HOME administrators and experienced administrators who may need a "refresher" of some portion of the program regulations. The workshop is free; however, it is limited to 70 people. Please contact Vicki Watson by phone at 202-887-5532, or by e-mail at vicki@ncdaonline.org if you or your staff would like to attend the workshop. Please see the attached flyer for more information on the workshop.

HUD's Region V Office is providing funding for this workshop. NCDA strongly encourages any of its members who need training on the HOME program to attend the workshop. It is open to all jurisdictions across the country, and not just limited to Region V members.

HUD TO HOLD FORUM TO DISCUSS ITS OVERSIGHT OF FREDDIE AND FANNIE MAE

On February 10, 2000, in Durham, North Carolina, HUD Assistant Secretary and FHA Housing Commissioner William Apgar will be host another of many forums on HUD's oversite of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac lending activities. The first such meeting was held in Hartford, CT. This forum will provide updates on HUD's proposed rule on Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's affordable housing goals, Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's affordable housing initiatives and results in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic areas. The forum will hold discussion groups on; housing credit and community development needs in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic areas, and discuss high-cost mortgages and predatory lending. Also up for discussion will be trends and the impacts on consumers and underserved areas; Is there a role for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in helping to curb abusive credit practices? For more information, please contact Sue Siettmann, Multifamily Housing Clearinghouse, 301-519-6655, or e-mail the request to mfhc@aspensys.com. You can also ask questions about the forum by calling 800-685-8470. The location for the forum is the Durham Marriott, 201 Foster Street, Durham, NC 27701.

HUD TO HOLD FOUR DRAWDOWN WORKSHOPS IN 2000

NCDA and NACCED will co-sponsor four drawdown workshops with the Department of Housing and Urban Development beginning in April 2000 in Washington, DC. NCDA staff and its members have been and will be asked to participate in these four regional workshops. Dates and times have not been set, however a tentative agenda has been reviewed by NCDA staff. As soon as the agendas and dates are finalized, they will be forwarded to members. As you know, the CDBG drawdown rate is a top priority for Secretary Cuomo as well as Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper. HUD has chosen two-pronged approach to address this issue. One is through conducting the four workshops designed to be a "best practices" approach to helping those communities that do not meet the 1.5/1.0 spend-out ratio. The other is a report being completed by Booz Allens, Assoc. to determine the reasons some communities do better than others with similar allocation levels and programs, and what HUD to can do to improve processes on its end of the distribution cycle. This report, which is not necessarily designed to complement the workshops, is on a very tight schedule for completion. In our discussions yesterday with Booz Allen staff, they have approximately nine weeks to complete the study. NCDA will inform our members of the results of the study, when it is completed.

NCDA NOTES

National Community Development Week is April 24-30, 2000

People Strengthening Communities Strengthening People

This year National Community Development Week is April 24-30, 2000. This is the week directly following Easter and Passover celebrations. Being that this is an election year, members will spend more time in their home districts. Please let them know of your community development programs. Invite them to your awards presentations. This year's theme is "People Strengthening Communities Strengthening People." The following is the 2000 Congressional Calendar to assist you in preparing your own calendars for the year.

The House of Representatives

February 18 - 25	District Work Period
April 17 - 28	District Work Period
May 29 - June 2	District Work Period
July 3 - 7	District Work Period
July 31 - Sept. 5	District Work Period
Sept. 29	Rosh Hashanah
October 6	Target Adjournment

The United States Senate

February 12-21	Not In Session
March 11- 19	Not in Session
April 15 -24	Not in Session
May 27 - June 4	Not in Session
July 1 - 9	Not in Session
July 29 - Sept. 4	Not in Session
Sept. 29 - Oct 1	Not in Session
October 6	Adjournment

NCDA THROWS RETIREMENT BASH FOR ITS FOUNDER AND LEADING LIGHT JOHN SASSO

The Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel in Washington was definitely jumping between 7:00 p.m. and midnight on January 29, 2000. Two hundred fifty of John Sasso's family members, dearest friends, long-time NCDA colleagues, fellow association executives, HUD partners, even some new admirers, all came together to celebrate his thirty plus years in the field of neighborhood community development and, of course, his momentous service to the National Community Development Association. Keeping in step with the man of the hour's penchant for casual informality and dedication to the proposition that a good time should be had by all, the event was designed to be far more of a party than a formal program.

The evening commenced with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres outside the Grand Ballroom. While guests munched on smoked salmon and delighted in a vast array of beverages, a video camera man circulated among them recording quotes of their goodbyes to John and their best wishes for him during retirement. (NCDA has arranged for the production of a thirty-five to forty-five minute commemorative video of the event). Thirty minutes later the real party began. The Mustangs, a stellar live classic soul and golden oldies cover band began to play, quickly drawing a nice-sized crowd on to the dance floor. For those who weren't dancing, there was more eating and drinking and talking and laughing about memories of some of John's colorful exploits as NCDA's founder and leader.

Two of John's closest friends, J. Thomas Cochran, Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and NCDA executive board member Terrence R. Duvernay, took the floor at 8:00 p.m. to act as co- masters of ceremony for a short formal program of speeches and gift presentations recognizing John for all the contributions he has made to locally driven community development. The evening's four keynote speakers included Dwight Robinson, Executive Vice-President for Industry Relations at Freddie Mac; NCDA past president Diane Voneida; Bess Donaldson, one of the first HUD professionals to work on the CDBG program and a treasured friend of John Sasso's for over twenty years; and John's soul-mate and blood brother, Cressworth Lander, former Director of the Tucson Model Cities Program. In addition to kind words of praise, appreciation, and fond remembrance from these friends, John also a went away with a substantial kitty of life time service awards and gifts of appreciation.

National Association of Counties President (NACo) President Larry Nake presented John with a plaque honoring his years of distinguished service. The City of Providence, represented by Amintha Cinotti, informed the assembly that Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci has declared January 29th to be John Sasso day. On behalf of the Association, our own Executive Director Chandra Western presented John with a beautiful, blue-green glass wedge inscribed with the following message: *Presented to John A. Sasso, on this day, January 29, 2000, From the National Community Development Association: In Grateful Appreciation for Thirty Years of Dedicated Service and Visionary Leadership in Advancing the Work of Local Government in the Field of Housing and Community Development.*

Tom Cochran gave John a diverse selection of jazz CDs in celebration of all the fun they've had belting out great American songs together. The NCDA Board of Directors followed up with a stupendous drawing that captures John's changing likeness throughout the stages of his career in community development. The Association also gave John a few of his favorite things: a beautiful gold watch inscribed with the original Latin construction of his family name, SAXSO, as well an assortment of fine cigars.

While the laudatory speeches, awards, and gifts were all great, I'm sure John and everyone else who attended the party last Saturday would agree that a real highpoint of the evening was the slide show prepared by Dick Wright. Dick created a multi-media retrospective, tracing John's life from birth to the present day. As he himself said, details about John's early life are sketchy at best. So, like any determined journalist, the missing parts of John's life Dick couldn't learn anything concrete about he simply made up. The end result was a terrifically funny romp through the life and times of John Sasso, complete with baby pictures and a hilarious 'what we'll miss most about working with John segment.'

A beautiful memorabilia book honoring John and recording his years of involvement with NCDA was prepared for distribution at Saturday night's celebration. A copy of this book is being sent out to all NCDA members as part of the current mailing of *The Washington Report*. NCDA members and others interested in receiving additional copies of the memorabilia book or in purchasing copies of the edited video should contact Romulus Johnson at 202-887-5526. As soon as the video is available, NCDA staff will report on its cost and the shipping and handling details.

CAMPAIGN 2000 POST CARDS AVAILABLE

In conjunction with the other low-income housing and community development advocacy groups that make up the Campaign for Housing and Community Development, NCDA is participating in **Campaign 2000! Campaign 2000!** is a coordinated, grass roots effort to get the major presidential candidates from each party–Governor George W. Bush, Senator John McCain, former Senator Bill Bradley and Vice-President Al Gore--to speak publicly about their plans for housing and community development policy should they be elected.

The chief vehicle **Campaign 2000!** is using to solicit responses from the candidates is a post card campaign. Enclosed in this mailing is a small green post-card cut out asking the candidates to state their policy agenda on low-income housing and community development issues.

We urge all NCDA members not only to fill out these post cards and mail them to the candidates headquarters but also to contact the National Low Income Housing Coalition to order more post-cards for yourselves and distribute them to your co-workers, local non-profit partners, and just about anybody else you can think of. The more responses the candidates get, the greater the likelihood that they will come to know that affordable housing and community development issues are just as important to millions of Americans as taxes, gun control, education, healthcare, etc., etc. For your convenience, an informational sheet listing the addresses of the campaign headquarters for the four Republican and Democratic front runners is also enclosed.

To order more post-cards, contact **the National Low Income Housing Coalition at (202) 662-1530. Sheila Crowley and Linda Couch are the NLIHC contacts for this project.** The cost of the post cards is a mere 2 cents a piece. Please do your best to get involved!

NCDA REGIONS IV AND V TO HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCES IN MARCH

NCDA Region IV will hold its Annual Conference and Training Symposium on March 11-14, 2000 in Jacksonville, FL , at the Radisson Hotel 1515 Prudential Drive, 904-396-5100. Please see the attached agenda and registration form. For more information, please contact Chester Wheeler, III, Director, Economic and Community Development, 439 Cotton Avenue, Macon, GA, at 912-751-7190.

NCDA's Region V will hold a conference on March 25-28 in Rockford, Illinois. NCDA encourages all of its Region V members, as well as other bordering regions, to attend the conference. This is an attempt by Region V to activate its region and NCDA strongly supports this effort. The conference promises to provide a variety of sessions and activities for members. Please refer to the enclosed Region V conference registration and agenda for further information on the conference.

NCDA WELCOMES TAMIKA MCRAE

NCDA has a new staff person. Her name is Tamika McRae and she has replaced Carla Sauls. Tamika's primary responsibilities will be to assist Karen Means as Office Assistant. Tamika will be answering phones, copying, invoicing and general office duties. Please welcome her to the team.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

January 21, 2000. Requirements for Notification, Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing Receiving Federal Assistance and Federally Owned Residential Property Being Sold; Correction. This document makes several corrections to HUD's September 15, 1999 final rule implementing sections 1012 and 1013 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. Among other corrections, this document corrects the numbering of the sections containing the regulatory requirements governing lead-based paint disclosure; corrects the September 15, 1999 final rule to reflect the effective date of a related rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency; and corrects several typographical errors contained in the final rule. **A copy of the document can be downloaded here.**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ATTACHMENTS
For hyperlinks to all attachments, go to the February 4, 2000 Washington Report Launch Page on the NCDA*online*.

- CD Committee Minutes
- ED Committee Minutes
- Technology Committee Minutes
- NCDA 2000 National Community Development Week Promotional Items Flyer
- Region IV and V Annual Conference Agendas
- John Sasso Tribute Book
- Campaign 2000 Post Cards and Informational Sheet