

NASSGP

National Association of State Scholarship and Grant Programs

September 19, 1980

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TO: NASSGP Members
FROM: Ronald J. Jursa

1. By this time you should have received official notice, together with registration materials for the annual NASSGP meeting to be held in Nashville, Tennessee on October 21-24. Ken Shook of Maryland and Ken Barber of Tennessee have done an outstanding job in handling program arrangements. The meeting promises to be interesting, informative and enjoyable. I urge each of you to make every effort to attend this meeting. Please send in your registration cards promptly.
2. As discussed in our meeting last April, our Association has become affiliated with the new National Student Aid Coalition. The Coalition is the successor to the previous Coalition for the Coordination of Student Financial Aid. Ken Reeher from Pennsylvania is our Association representative and Art Marmaduke of California is our alternate representative.
3. Jim McKelvey of Pennsylvania has distributed our Annual NASSGP Survey and I hope that each state has responded to the questionnaire promptly and completely. If you have not responded to that questionnaire, please do so immediately so that we can have a complete report at our October meeting.
4. As you know, the Higher Education Reauthorization Bill was passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives, but rejected by the Senate on a narrow vote. At this time, we do not know what the final action will be on this bill, but hopefully some positive action will have been taken prior to our October meeting.

In terms of the SSIG Program, the following are some of the significant features contained in the compromise bill which was rejected by the Senate:

- a. The maximum grant is raised from \$1,500 to \$2,000.
- b. Graduate students and less-than-half-time students would be eligible at the option of each state.
- c. Initial year and continuing year awards are combined and each state would be guaranteed funding at not less than the fiscal year 1979 level.

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- d. SSIG is authorized at \$100 million for FY 1981 and 1982, with increases of \$50 million each year through 1985.
- e. The bonus allotment for states operating a Guaranteed Student Loan Program has been eliminated.

Complete details concerning the SSIG Program will be reported on at the Nashville meeting.

RJJ/11h