

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

1755 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • [202] 234-5703

TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors and Friends
FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

December 10, 1982

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OTTO LARSEN RETURNS TO NSF

Otto Larsen, former Director of the Division of Social and Economic Science at the National Science Foundation (NSF), has accepted the position of Senior Science Associate for Behavioral, Social, and Information Sciences in the NSF Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS). The position, which is newly created, will provide a voice for social and behavioral science research interests in the office of the Assistant Director for BBS. Mr. Larsen's responsibilities will range from serving as the principal staff advisor in the Foundation for the social and behavioral sciences to preparing and presenting congressional testimony on the social and behavioral sciences and representing these sciences before the National Science Board. Mr. Larsen will begin serving in his new position in January, 1983.

TWO NSF OFFICIALS TO LEAVE: POLITICIZATION OF A SCIENCE AGENCY?

It was announced on December 8 that Donald N. Langenberg, Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) had resigned. Eloise E. Clark, Assistant Director for the Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences (BBS), is also expected to resign shortly.

According to an article in the New York Times (see Attachment 1), the Director of the Foundation, Edward A. Knapp, asked the two to leave because they are political appointees held over from the Carter administration. If true, this is a departure from previous practice. Other administrations have viewed NSF appointments as scientific rather than partisan and have not replaced Presidential appointees because of a change in administrations. Moreover, President Richard M. Nixon appointed a Democrat, William McElroy, to be Director of the Foundation. Dr. Knapp, the Times reported, would not say whether he had been ordered to dismiss the two officials.

Both Dr. Clark and Dr. Langenberg have been strong supporters of the social and behavioral sciences during their tenure at the Foundation. Dr. Clark, moreover, was appointed to her NSF position during the administration of Gerald Ford.

For another view of the situation at NSF, see Attachment 2 from the Washington Times.

OMB AGREES TO APPOINT CHIEF STATISTICIAN

In a December 3 letter to Representative Jack Brooks (D-TX), Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, Christopher DeMuth announced that a Chief Statistician for the United States would soon be appointed. Mr. DeMuth, who is Administrator for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), told Rep. Brooks that OMB will "...designate a professionally qualified and a respected individual as full-time head of our statistical policy staff to serve as our chief statistician and public spokesman on statistical issues."

The letter to Rep. Brooks and action on the issue of a Chief Statistician resulted from the Government Operations Committee report entitled "Reorganization and Budget Cutbacks May Jeopardize the Future of the National Statistical System." (For additional information on the report, see the COSSA Legislative Report, October 8, 1982.) In addition to recommending that a chief statistician be appointed, the report also emphasized the need for enlarging the statistical policy staff at OMB. Mr. DeMuth said that OMB was considering ways to increase the statistical staff with help from other federal agencies.

PROGRESS ON NIMH APPROPRIATION

The full Senate Committee on Appropriations met on December 7 and voted to accept the funding levels for research and research training that were adopted last week by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Those figures are \$152.3 million for extramural research at NIMH, the same level approved by the House of Representatives, and \$15.4 for research training, \$1 million more than was approved by the House. The bill will have to be approved by the Senate before it can go to conference, where differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill can be ironed out. The bill has not yet been scheduled for a vote in the Senate.

NSF SCIENCE EDUCATION PLAN EXCLUDES SOCIAL SCIENCES

At its November meeting, the National Science Board (NSB) adopted a plan for the use of congressionally appropriated science and engineering education funds that excludes the social and behavioral sciences.

After a severe budget cut in FY 1982, the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Science and Engineering Education was reduced in the administration's FY 1983 budget to a \$15 million graduate fellowship program. Congress subsequently restored an additional \$15 million, specifying that these funds should be used for precollege education.

The plan adopted by the NSB provides for two programs to use the \$15 million recently added to the science education budget. One will provide awards for teaching excellence in science and mathematics. The other, which is considerably larger, is directed toward the improvement of teaching in secondary school science and mathematics. Both programs specify that participants should be trained in mathematics and the natural sciences. Neither program is extended to the social and behavioral sciences. COSSA is concerned with the explicit definition of "science" as the natural sciences. A copy of the memorandum to the NSB describing these programs is enclosed as Attachment 4.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESSIONAL SEMINARS AVAILABLE

Copies of the proceedings of two recent congressional seminars are now available from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) through the COSSA office. The first of these seminars, "Black Youth Unemployment," was co-sponsored by AAAS, COSSA, and several congressional groups. The second seminar, "Our Nation's Children: The Invisible Constituency," was organized by AAAS and the Congressional Fellows of the Society for

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESSIONAL SEMINARS AVAILABLE (cont.)

Research in Child Development (SRCD). Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director of COSSA, served as moderator. Copies of the proceedings of the two seminars have been sent to each Member of the House of Representatives and the Senate. To obtain copies, write COSSA, 1755 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C., 20036, or call 202/234-5703.

RESEARCH LIBRARIES TO RECEIVE \$5.3 MILLION FROM NEH

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) finally obtained approval for its proposal to reprogram \$5.3 million of its FY 1982 funds. The money was originally appropriated for public sector programs intended to increase public understanding of the humanities. When it was unused in FY 1982, it was slated to be returned to the U.S. Treasury (see Attachment 3).

The Senate completed marking up its appropriation for the Department of Interior, which funds NEH. The appropriation would reduce the budget for administration in NEH by \$500,000 in FY 1983 because the agency returned \$800,000 in unused administration funds to the Treasury in FY 1982. The Interior appropriations bill may be considered by the Senate today, December 10.

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR AAAS MASS MEDIA FELLOWSHIPS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is now accepting applications for its 1983 summer Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program. The program is open to students, preferably at the graduate level, in the natural and social sciences and engineering. Fellows will spend 10 to 12 weeks as science journalists in radio, television, or the print media. Applications will be accepted until February 1, 1983. For further information, contact the AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20036.

New Leader for Science Foundation

By PHILIP M. BOFFEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 — When the White House announced a few weeks ago that President Reagan had appointed Edward A. Knapp, a physicist, to be director of the National Science Foundation, the three-sentence notice attracted little attention.

Obscurity is almost a way of life at the foundation, an agency that spends a billion dollars a year to promote the advance of American science, chiefly by supporting the research projects of thousands of academic scientists. In fact, Dr. Knapp is somewhat obscure even in the scientific community. His name was not on the list of candidates proposed by the foundation's board to fill the vacancy created when John B. Slaughter resigned to become chancellor of the main campus of the University of Maryland.

But the foundation's low profile seems to be an asset at a time when budget-cutters are scrutinizing programs. Its budgets have fared comparatively well, and the newly appointed director, who must still be confirmed by the Senate, says he is determined to maintain that trend.

How independent a hand he will have is not clear. On Nov. 12, Dr. Knapp scoffed at news reports that the Administration intended to clean out all of his top assistants who were holdovers from the Carter Administration. "I'm not about to have any head-hunting campaigns at the foundation," he said. "I'm not going to ask for any resignations."

'I Made the Decision'

But on Monday he acknowledged that, he has, in fact, asked the last two Carter holdovers to leave. He said he wanted his own team in place but declined to say whether he had been ordered to dismiss the holdovers. "I made the decision and I'll live with it," he said.

While the foundation is considered the most important source of Federal support for basic scientific research, it has not escaped criticism and even ridicule. Over the years, members of Congress have publicly made fun of some of its research projects, including those on the mating habits of a Central American toad, the language behavior of chimpanzees and the reasons people fall in love.

Religious conservatives once crusaded against the foundation, charging that it subverted the values of 10-year-olds with an anthropology course that discussed how primitive Arctic hunters practice infanticide and geronticide. And disgruntled scientists have sometimes complained that the foundation operates a



The New York Times / George Tames
Edward A. Knapp

science research by emphasizing "the nonpolitical aspects."

When the foundation was established in 1950, it was expected to become a potent political shaper of scientific progress in all Federal agencies, but that never happened. It has always been a puny actor compared with such agencies as Defense, Energy and Agriculture. Even today, after years of steady growth, the foundation provides less than one-fifth of the Federal Government's total support for basic research.

Science Adviser's Friend

That support can, however, be crucial to academic researchers in such fields as mathematics, ground-based astronomy, anthropology and environmental biology whose work is of little interest to other agencies. The foundation is the only Government agency charged with insuring the overall health of American science; it is the central bank to which any scientist can apply for financial support.

The 50-year-old Dr. Knapp seems to have been picked to head the foundation partly because he is a friend of President Reagan's science adviser, George A. Keyworth 2d, with whom he worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Dr. Knapp, who holds a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley, spent his entire professional career at Los Alamos, where he most recently headed the accelerator technology division.

Nevertheless, leaders of the scientific community who have spoken with Dr. Knapp since his appointment was announced have said that they see him as a solid scientist.

Dr. Frank Press, president of the National Academy of Sciences, said that Dr. Knapp "has the potential for being a great director even though he is relatively unknown to the scientific community."

"He is formidable, a first-class scientist, well-educated, with extensive management experience."

Lewis M. Branscomb, chairman of the foundation's board, said of Dr. Knapp: "All of us are favorably impressed. He was not on our first list of candidates, but he is an excellent man."

buddy system in which lucrative grants are handed out to scientists at elite universities while worthy competitors at lesser institutions are frozen out.

Congress Called 'Supportive'

But none of this has had much effect on the core of the foundation's programs. Total appropriations soared from \$322,000 in the fiscal year 1963 to more than a billion dollars for the fiscal year 1983.

"Congress has been very supportive," said a staff member of the House Science and Technology Committee. "People are looking at research as a way to deal with the economic problems."

Only two major programs have suffered severely in recent years. The Reagan Administration cut large chunks out of the budgets for science education, which it considers primarily a state and local responsibility. And it sliced research in social and behavioral science, a move widely interpreted as retaliation against liberal activists who use social science data to push for changes they favor.

Congress successfully pressed for restoration of some of the financing. And Dr. Knapp says he understands that the Administration has "reconsidered its position" on both issues. He believes that the foundation will be able to fashion a catalytic role in science education and slowly build social

'Purge' of Carterites on at science agency

By George Archibald
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

An expected housecleaning of top National Science Foundation officials has begun with the requested resignation of Deputy Donald N. Langenberg, one of three remaining Carter appointees at the \$1.1 billion grant-giving agency.

Two assistant directors who have not yet formally resigned, Francis S. Johnson and Eloise E. Clark, also are expected to do so to make way for a completely new Reagan team.

"The White House wants a team that will make the hard priority choices necessary to strengthen basic research and push science forward in areas that will strengthen the economy and create more and better jobs for Americans over the long term," a key administration source said.

Langenberg's departure was announced yesterday by Edward A. Knapp, appointed by President Reagan as an assistant director at the foundation last July and promoted over Langenberg as the new director Nov. 2.

Knapp had said earlier he wanted his own team in place but would not acknowledge whether his requests for Carter holdovers to leave were ordered by the White House.

The NSF shake-up was prompted when former Director John B. Slaughter abruptly left two months before his scheduled departure to become chancellor of the University of Maryland's College Park campus.

Rather than permit Langenberg and other Carter holdovers to take over control of the foundation, the White House asked Knapp to cancel a high-level scientific visit to India and placed him in charge of the agency.

Langenberg and Clark had allowed staff support as well as grant funds to projects opposing Reagan policies, an official reported.

One top NSF official had been assigned with Langenberg's approval to work for

One top NSF official helped prepare Democratic budget alternatives offered on the House floor opposing administration proposals.

several months this year in the office of Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., while NSF continued to pay her \$57,000 salary.

The official helped prepare Democratic budget alternatives offered on the House floor opposing administration proposals. The Democratic plans would have increased NSF's budget substantially above Reagan's proposals over the next five years.

The White House also was disturbed

by General Accounting Office and other investigations into possible improprieties in a \$260,000 grant to a university where another Carter assistant director returned shortly after he left NSF in August 1981, a top foundation official said.

The former appointee was also under investigation for use of approximately \$25,000 of NSF travel funds for about 60 trips to and from the university during the last 18 months he was at NSF, another official confirmed.

The report of the GAO investigation, requested by Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., is expected to be released soon, the official said yesterday.

Once the investigations of possible funds abuse are completed, other foundation officials, including some in the career senior executive service, may be removed or transferred, it was reported.

Langenberg, who is on extended leave as a physics professor from the University of Pennsylvania, could not be reached for comment. Aides said he was on "personal travel" but claimed they did not know where he had gone.

George Loomis, business manager for the university's physics department, said he had "heard nothing about Dr. Langenberg coming back here." Neither the university president nor department chairman could be reached.

Langenberg's resignation is effective Dec. 31, Knapp announced. His successor has not been chosen.

Johnson said yesterday he will return to the University of Texas in January. He said it was "unnecessary for them to ask for my resignation since there has been a tacit understanding that I am leaving."

Clark did not return a reporter's telephone call to discuss her impending resignation.

B20 THE WASHINGTON POST

Thursday, December 9, 1982

NEH Funds Folger, Other Libraries

By Phil McCombs

In a realignment of priorities, the National Endowment for the Humanities will give to 13 independent research libraries \$5.3 million left over from grant programs that were designed, among other things, to increase public understanding of the humanities through displays in the media and museums.

Under the new program, the Folger Shakespeare Library here will receive \$500,000 to complete a building renovation project and the Virginia Historical Society \$100,000 to install a climate control system in its book stack area. Each grant is to be matched by private donations three times the amount of the grant.

"This signals our interest in a time of appropriate budget reductions in focusing on essential resources, institutions that are the generators for some of the most important work in the humanities," said NEA Chairman William J. Bennett in a telephone interview.

Bennett said more grant money was now going into research and "special initiative projects" such as the library grants "and less into the divisions of public [education], media and museums."

According to NEH statistics, the endowment last year slashed general program grants by 48 percent to a total of \$15.4 million although the number of applications in that division had increased by 2 percent, and cut education grants by 31 percent to a total of \$11.5 million while the number of applications had dropped only 13 percent.

Endowment officials said the cuts were made because there were fewer high-quality applications than anticipated.

Last year the endowment returned \$834,000 to the U.S. Treasury that it didn't need for administration. "We like to think it testifies to Bill Bennett's good administrative sense of things," said Tom Kingston, director of the endowment's challenge grants program.

President Reagan met with Bennett and representatives of the 13 libraries in the Oval Office yesterday.

Other research libraries that will receive grants are the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif., the Newberry Library in Chicago, the New York Public Library, the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, and the libraries of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass., American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the New York Academy of Medicine and the New York Historical Society.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

NSB-82-368

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November 9, 1982

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

Subject: Awards for Teaching Excellence in Science and Mathematics and the Secondary School Science and Mathematics Teaching Improvement Program.

The Foundation appropriation for FY 1983 provides \$30 million for science and engineering education: \$15 million for graduate fellowships as originally requested, and an additional \$15 million designated in the Congressional Appropriation Conference Report for "an activity at the precollege level." After extensive discussions with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congressional staff, two new programs focusing on secondary school mathematics and science teachers are being proposed. A background paper (Attachment 1) describes the context in which these plans were developed and details on the programs are provided in Attachments 2 and 3.

The Awards for Teaching Excellence in Science and Mathematics will identify approximately 100 outstanding teachers (50 in mathematics and 50 in natural science). These 100 will include at least one from each state, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The Foundation will:

- o confer awards on those teachers in a national ceremony attended by appropriate national officials; and
- o give a cash award of \$5,000 to the school of each teacher to improve the school's mathematics or science program.

This program will be administered by the Foundation with the assistance of a national professional scientific organization selected through a competition conducted by an NSF Request for Proposals. This program has a budget of approximately \$750,000.

The Secondary School Science and Mathematics Teaching Improvement Program focusses on the continuing education of currently employed mathematics and natural science teachers. Its objectives are to encourage:

- o cooperative relationships among state, regional, and/or local school systems and the scientific and engineering personnel of U.S. colleges, universities, industries, and other institutions that can assist in the continuing professional development of secondary mathematics and natural science teachers;

- o to encourage the establishment of instructional programs that will improve the teacher's knowledge of the subject matter of mathematics, natural science and new technologies.

This program has a budget of approximately \$14 million and it is anticipated that about 200 awards will be made.

RESOLVED that the National Science Board approves the program plans for Awards for Teaching Excellence in Science and Mathematics and for Secondary School Science and Mathematics Teaching Improvement and the general guidelines for their management as set forth in NSB-82-368 further, the Board authorizes the application to these programs of the general authority of the Director, under the resolution approved by the Board at its 189th meeting on April 21-22, 1977, to take final action on grants, contracts or other arrangements without prior approval of the Board.



Edward A. Knapp
Director