

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume X, Number 15

September 9, 1991

CONGRESS RETURNS TO SLATE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS; LENGTHY, PARTISAN SESSION EXPECTED *HS*

Following five weeks of an August recess during which major upheavals in foreign countries once again took center stage, the 102nd Congress returns to work on September 10. No doubt there will be many hearings concerning the transformation of the Soviet Union and the U.S. response to it, but Congress will also have to deal with the unfinished agenda of domestic politics and FY 1992 spending decisions. With threatened presidential vetoes looming and Democrats attempting to provide issues (and maybe even candidates) for the 1992 presidential election, this fall promises heightened partisanship between the executive and legislative branches.

Despite moving relatively swiftly on appropriations legislation this year, Congress is now expected to remain in session until at least Thanksgiving. The previous schedule had called for an October 4 adjournment. Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court will be the focus of Senate hearings starting September 10. Also in September, the nomination of Robert Gates to head the Central Intelligence Agency will be scrutinized, with a revival of the Iran-Contra scandal a major part of that show. In addition, major legislation on crime, civil rights, energy, campaign finance, extension of unemployment benefits, and the highway and mass transit reauthorization continue on the agenda. There may even be a "tax fairness" bill, and a long-awaited vote on the family leave bill.

Appropriations

Three FY 1992 spending bills -- District of Columbia, Legislative, and Energy and Water -- cleared Congress before the August recess. The President vetoed the first and signed the latter two. The House has passed all thirteen appropriations bills. The Senate has passed seven, two others have been approved by the appropriations committee. Four remain to be marked up by the Senate appropriations panel: defense, foreign operations, military construction, and transportation. Whether all this will be done by the start of FY 1992 on

October 1, 1991 remains to be seen. It could be another year when "Continuing Resolution" (CR) becomes part of the vocabulary of budget and Congress watchers.

NSF Funding

The conference committee that must resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill, which includes FY 1992 funding levels for the National Science Foundation (NSF), is expected to have a difficult time. Although, both Houses funded NASA's Space Station at almost similar amounts, there are differences in funding for the rest of NASA that must be resolved. In addition, the bill assumes that the Department of Defense (DOD) will pick up part of the funding for NASA and the NSF Antarctica program. Some members of Congress have complained that this would violate the Budget Enforcement Act which prohibits transfer of funds from defense to domestic programs. Thus, NSF funding for FY 1992 might not be determined until after the DOD appropriations bill is finished.

Labor, HHS, Education

The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill is expected to come to the Senate floor shortly after Congress returns. Faced with a threatened presidential veto because of

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its provision overturning the *Rust v. Sullivan* Supreme Court decision restricting abortion counseling at federally funded family planning clinics, the bill will set FY 1992 funding for research at the National Institutes of Health, the Office of Education Research and Improvement, and many agencies in all three departments covered by the legislation. It also provides FY 1992 funding for international education programs, graduate student support programs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the United States Institute of Peace.

Furthermore, an amendment similar to the Dannemeyer amendment defeated by the House of Representatives (see UPDATE August 5, 1991) may be offered prohibiting NIH funding of surveys of sexual behavior.

Both the Commerce-State-Justice and Agriculture and Rural Development bills will go to conference committee. In the former, issues that need to be resolved include funding for the Census Bureau, USIA, and NIJ and BJS (see UPDATE August 5, 1991). In the latter, both the House and Senate provided \$4 million for the Markets, Trade and Policy part of the Competitive Grants National Research Initiative. However, differences in funding for numerous special grants need to be worked out.

The Foreign Operations appropriations bill also faces a veto threat. The House version, which includes \$5 million for the Soviet-East European research and training program, also provides support for the United Nation's population fund which the Bush administration accuses of condoning China's policy of coercive abortions.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$50; institutional subscriptions, \$100, overseas mail, \$100. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788

NIH Reauthorization

While the House already passed its NIH reauthorization bill, Passed by the House, the Senate's version is expected to be marked up by the Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), sometime in September. The White House objects to the House's provision overturning the ban on certain types of fetal tissue research and accuses the House bill of "micromanaging" NIH research. The Senate bill does not contain a fetal tissue research clause. An amendment prohibiting NIH funding of surveys of sexual behavior may be offered to the Senate bill.

Crime Bill

Issues of crime and criminal justice will be before Congress this fall when the House Judiciary Committee resumes consideration of a crime bill. Shortly before the August recess, the Senate adopted S. 1241, the Violent Crime Control Act, and companion legislation in the House is currently being drafted by the House Judiciary Committee. Consideration by the full House may occur this fall.

The Senate-passed version of the crime bill contains two provisions directly related to social science research, a study of the extent of rural crime in the United States and ways to address it, and grants to states to establish studies of the role of race in their criminal justice systems.

The Senate bill directs the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct a national assessment of the nature and extent of rural crime, with an emphasis on formulating strategies for local communities and law enforcement agencies to address rural crime. The study will examine issues of drug and alcohol abuse, family violence, and juvenile delinquency in rural areas, as well as drug cultivation and distribution in these areas.

The legislation also creates a grant program whereby states can receive federal funding to study issues of racial and ethnic bias in their justice systems, and make recommendations on how to correct any bias which may be found. This is a substitute for the Racial Justice Act which relied on already existing evidence from social science studies for use in challenging death penalty sentences.

Paperwork Reduction Act

After lying dormant most of 1991, the reauthorization of the Office of Information and

Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget is back on the agenda. The Paperwork Reduction Act has been revived with the introduction of two competing Senate bills. One, supported by Sen. John Glenn (D-OH), Chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, resembles the compromise bill worked out at the end of the 101st Congress (but never passed because of last minute objections) and attempts to balance the burdens and benefits of information collection. The other, introduced by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA), has the support of the small business community and focuses almost exclusively on the burdens of information collection. So far, the House has not become involved.

Motor Voter

Legislation to make voter registration easier by allowing people to register when applying for a driver's license may also surface again in the Senate. Republican opponents of the bill have successfully blocked Senate consideration twice this year. Similar legislation passed the House last year, but this year the Senate will have to act first.

COSSA AND HEALY DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR RESEARCH AT NIH *DA*

Concern about the erosion of support for health and behavior research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) prompted an exchange of correspondence this summer between COSSA and NIH Director, Bernadine Healy. COSSA was reacting to two developments in particular: First, was the release of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations report for FY 1992, which noted an actual decline in the total proportion of NIH's budget devoted to health and behavior research, from 4.3 percent in FY 1991 to 4.1 percent proposed for FY 1992. The report underscored the appropriation subcommittee's determination to see the Director "present a long-term plan to increase the amount of health and behavior research projects throughout NIH."

COSSA also was spurred to action after reviewing a document sent by the Associate Director for Science Policy and Legislation to institute, center, and division (ICD) directors at NIH and ADAMHA regarding the development of "science initiatives for the promising areas of science" to be included in the NIH Strategic Plan--a four-year planning effort

SEPS UPDATE *HS*

The question of whether to create a separate directorate for the social, economic and psychological sciences (SEPS) at the National Science Foundation as recommended by the Task Force "Looking to the Twenty-first Century," remains in the hands of Director Walter Massey. Since the June National Science Board meeting which discussed the proposal, Massey has been meeting with various groups of scientists from the SEPS disciplines seeking input to help him with his decision.

The final version of the Task Force report remains "at the printer." Assistant Director Mary Clutter and the division directors of the current Biological, Behavioral and Social Science Directorate are going on retreat on September 10, 11 and 12. Strategic planning for the future is on their agenda, but what structure they will be planning for is still a mystery.

spearheaded by Director Healy. COSSA was concerned about the general lack of reference to social and behavioral (other than neuroscience) perspectives among the guidelines presented for these initiatives.

The guidelines include eleven promising areas of science, many of which could be expected to include social and behavioral research, for example, Infant Mortality; Aging and Chronic Diseases; Health of Women, Minorities, and Underserved Populations; and Prevention, Health Education, and Control. Upon further examination of the descriptions of these areas, however, it appeared that social and behavioral science perspectives did not qualify as "promising," as evident by their absence from the guidelines.

Quality of life, health education, and intervention evaluation are mentioned as appropriate research initiatives only in three areas; other social and behavioral approaches are absent altogether. Since, according to the document, the guidelines are intended "to set the substantive parameters or scope within which initiatives are to be proposed," COSSA argued that this exclusion is "quite serious and puts a number of ICDs in the position of not including 'cutting-edge science' already underway at their institutes."

As an example, COSSA pointed to the guidelines regarding Aging and Chronic Diseases, which refer only to physical functioning and physical intervention related to chronic diseases, "even though some of the most promising research on the aging process (supported by NIA) focuses on the impact of work and retirement, social support and caregiving, and the cultural context of aging on health." COSSA noted that a recent Institute of Medicine (IOM) report highlighted the importance of social and behavioral research on aging, the very kinds of research supported by the Behavioral and Social Research program at NIA. COSSA also argued that "to not have this program's perspective represented in [the] strategic plan guidelines for science initiatives effectively undercuts progress already made at NIA to better address both the causes and the treatment of diseases and disorders that affect older persons."

A similar point was made about lack of reference to important social and behavioral science initiatives at the three Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) institutes that soon may be transferred to NIH (see story below.)

Finally, COSSA expressed concern to Dr. Healy that the operational definition of "behavior" dominating current discussions seems to be narrowly confined to neuroscience phenomena. "Whether in the context of addictive disorders, mental illness, or Alzheimer's Disease," COSSA wrote, "behavior is being viewed primarily as it is linked to neurological events."

COSSA ended its letter with a plea to Healy to revise the NIH Strategic Plan guidelines to better reflect the interrelationships of biology, society, and culture in the experience of health and disease.

On August 9, COSSA received a lengthy reply from Healy responding to our concerns. She argued that the President's FY 1992 budget request includes an increase in support for health and behavior research at NIH over FY 1991 levels, and that her support for behavioral research is underscored by "a substantial behavioral component" in the Women's Health Initiative currently underway.

In responding to COSSA's remarks about the NIH Strategic Plan, Healy described the process as "flexible and inclusive." She noted that the Plan process involves a number of stages, including review by all institute Advisory Councils and a

number of public meetings, which will insure "that all major areas are addressed appropriately."

Healy furthermore said that the guidelines "are not intended as comprehensive definitions of areas of science, and are not intended to be exclusive in any sense." Final determination of initiatives rests with the ICDs, and "you may be assured that the NIH ICDs with important behavioral and social research components will be forceful in presenting their initiatives in those areas," she said.

COSSA will continue to monitor the NIH strategic planning process as it is reviewed by institute Advisory Committees this Fall and during public meetings this Winter.

SENATE PASSES ADAMHA REORGANIZATION BILL *JA*

On August 2, the Senate passed a modified version of S.1306, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration Reorganization Act of 1991, introduced by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT). This bill separates the research and services components of ADAMHA by transferring the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and retaining services programs in the reconstituted Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Services Administration (ADAMHSA). (See Update, June 24 and July 22, 1991).

The version of the bill passed by the Senate reflected attention to many of the comments conveyed by groups, such as COSSA, that were concerned about how social and behavioral science research would fare under the reorganization outlined in the original legislation. Some of these changes include:

- A clearer definition of the purpose of each institute being transferred to NIH as "the conduct and support of biomedical, behavioral, epidemiological, social and clinical research" with respect to alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and mental illness, respectively;
- The explicit assignment of services research to the NIH institutes instead of to ADAMHSA;

- Identification of specific measures to assure collaboration between NIH and ADAMHSA research and services programs that overlap;
- Authorization of more than one intramural research program. (The original bill authorized one composite intramural program for NIAAA, NIDA, and NIMH);
- Language to ensure the retention of currently existing or approved peer review processes at the three institutes after they are transferred to NIH.

Although the Senate bill passed without a hitch, and ADAMHA and NIH administrators are behaving as though the reorganization is a 'fait accompli', nothing is official until both houses of Congress approve legislation. So far, no action has occurred in the House, but it is anticipated that earlier opposition is waning and that a bill will be forthcoming and will move swiftly.

NSF RELEASES REVISED ARCTIC RESEARCH PLAN *MB*

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released its second biennial revision to the United States Arctic Research Plan. This report, prepared by NSF's Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC), contains a social science component.

In discussing social science research, the IARPC states that its long-range goal is, "To investigate the human dimensions of global, regional and local change through the study of past and present northern cultures and societies, and to gain an understanding of human-environment interactions relating to health and well-being." To this end, an Interagency Social Science Task Force was established to prepare Arctic social science and health research and budget crosscuts, facilitate coordination between researchers, promote educational and training opportunities, and promote public understanding of Arctic social science research.

In its statement of research principles, the report says that all investigations should "be assessed in terms of potential human impact and interest" and "promote mutual respect and communication between scientists and northern residents." It also states that this cooperation will help contribute to the development of "northern" science.

The social science task force has focused its priorities in three areas: cultural resources and historical processes, social change, and health. These priorities have also been divided into two dimensions, one includes archaeology, ethnography, and history, and takes a long-range cultural historical perspective, while the other includes health sciences, ethnography, sociology, and economics, and examines contemporary issues that are correlated with the interaction between northern and Western cultures.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Noel D. Broadbent, Program Director for Arctic Social Sciences, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20550 / Phone: (202) 357-7817.

WHITE HOUSE REPORT ON ENVIRONMENT CITES ROLE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE *MB*

The President's Council on Environmental Quality, chaired by Michael R. Deland, recently released its annual report on the state of the environment, a report that cited the need for social science research and criticized the nation's higher education system for the way it teaches environmental engineering.

The Council's report stated that pollution prevention strategies must now address forces such as economic competition, regulatory costs, and public concerns. The panel urged research on the range of social reactions to pollution prevention initiatives as a way of more accurately estimating the costs of an environmental proposal.

The report criticized the higher education community for defining environmental technology as being limited to control devices and approaches to remediation. It was also critical of universities for teaching environmental engineering as a distinct discipline. "Such thinking is inadequate as the nation demands a more integrated approach to environmental and economic issues," the report stated.

The White House Council report referred to the Tufts University's Environmental Literacy Institute as a positive example of the study of environmental management. At Tufts (where White House Chief of Staff John Sununu was once a faculty member), environmental themes are inte-

grated into a wide range of courses, based on the premise that environmental decisions are made by people in a wide array of public and private sector capacities. The Institute receives funding from both the Environmental Protection Agency and from several major corporations.

RILEY NAMED TO NEW SOCIAL SCIENCE POST AT NIA *MB*

Dr. Matilda Riley has been appointed to a new position of Senior Social Scientist at the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

This new position will allow Dr. Riley to work independently in pursuing her studies at NIA and at other research sites with a network of policymakers and social scientists. Riley intends to focus initially on social structure and structural changes as these interact with aging processes over the life course. NIH views this as a neglected research area, with potential for defining interventions to enhance quality of life, health, and functioning at every age.

Dr. Riley has served for 12 years as Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Research at NIA. Upon assuming her new post on October 6, Riley's current position will be temporarily filled by her long-time Deputy, Dr. Ronald Abeles.

ROCKWELL NEW ICPSR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *MB*

Richard C. Rockwell has been named executive director of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. He will succeed Jerome M. Clubb, who is leaving the position after 16 years.

Rockwell is a former staff associate at the Social Science Research Council in New York and will assume the directorship of the 350-member consortium in September. He also will serve as a research scientist at the University of Michigan's Center for Political Studies.

He received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1970, and has authored over 35 books and articles of a variety of subjects, including global change, AIDS, and social science methodology. Rockwell was an assistant professor of sociology at the University of North

Carolina, Chapel Hill before joining the staff of the Social Science Research Council.

COSSA, SIGMA XI TO HOLD FORUM ON GLOBAL CHANGE *MB*

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, will hold a forum titled Global Change and the Human Prospect: Issues in Population, Science, Technology, and Equity. The event will be held in Washington from November 16-18, 1991.

COSSA is co-sponsoring this forum along with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Engineering Societies, the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, and the Social Science Research Council.

The forum's plenary sessions and working groups will explore three overarching questions: What kind of world do we have? What kind of world do we want? What must we do to get there? Emphasis will be placed on formulating action agendas for scientific disciplines and individual scientists that will mitigate the negative consequences of global scale migration, population growth and urbanization, and foster improved public health, a sounder industrial metabolism, and the maintenance of biodiversity and a habitable biosphere. Consideration of human aspirations and values will be an integral component of forum activities. The forum is intended to support and enrich the discussions that will occur at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil in 1992.

The Sigma Xi Global Change Forum is unique in representing the interests and concerns of over one million engineers, humanists, scientists, and social scientists. The outreach to social scientists undertaken by the forum steering committee offers a unique opportunity for members of COSSA to familiarize themselves with the demographic economic, environmental, and social dimensions of global change, and to contribute to the solution of global change problems.

Details of the forum may be obtained from Forum Coordinator Nancy Berry at Sigma Xi, P.O. Box 13975, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, Telephone (919) 549-4691, Fax (919) 549-0090.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION *KC*

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Fulbright-Hays Training Grant Programs

Applications are invited for new awards under the Fulbright-Hays Training Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 1992. The Fulbright-Hays Training Grant Programs include the Faculty Research Abroad and Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad programs. Research projects which focus on Africa; East Asia; Eastern Europe and U.S.S.R.; Near East; South Asia; Southeast Asia and the Pacific; or the Western Hemisphere will be given priority by the Secretary.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education.

Budget: Available funds for the Faculty Research Abroad Program are \$862,502 with an estimated 30 awards and project periods lasting 3 to 12 months. For the Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad program the available funds are \$1,688,621 for an estimated 90 awards lasting from a period of 6 to 12 months.

Deadlines: Applications must be received by November 1, 1991.

Contact: For more information and application materials contact: Department of Education, Center for International Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202, telephone (202) 708-8763.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Water Resources Research Grant Program *KC*

Applications are invited for water research projects under the Water Resources Research Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to provide matching grants for research concerning any aspect of water resource-related problems deemed to be in the national interest.

Review Process: This program supports research related to the following general areas of national interest: (1) aspects of the hydrologic cycle; (2) supply and demand for water; (3) demineralization of saline and other impaired waters; (4) conservation and best use of available supplies of water and methods of increasing such supplies; (5) water reuse; (6) depletion and degradation of groundwater supplies; (7) improvements in the productivity of water when used for agricultural, municipal, or commercial purposes; and (8) the economic, legal, engineering, social, recreational, biological, geographic, ecological, and other aspects of water problems.

Eligible Applicants: Applications may be submitted by water resources research institutes and other qualified educational institutions, private foundations, private firms, individuals, and agencies of State or local governments.

Deadlines: Applications are tentatively due on or before November 19, 1991. The announcement with the actual date may be obtained by writing to Ms. Mary Burkett, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Procurement and Contracts-MS 205C, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 22092.

Contact: For additional information contact Melvin Lew, U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division-S 424, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 22092, telephone (703) 648-6811.

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