

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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SENATE COMMITTEE EXAMINES MASSEY FOR NSF DIRECTORSHIP *HS*

Walter Massey appeared before a Senate panel February 7 for hearings on his nomination to head the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), offered Massey a warm welcome, and committee members of varied political stripes joined in a chorus of praise for the nominee. Massey, who currently serves as vice-president for research at the University of Chicago and who formerly headed the Argonne National Laboratory, faced friendly questions from the committee and responded in general terms about his plans for NSF.

Introduced by Democratic Senators Alan Dixon and Paul Simon, both from Illinois, Massey also won warm words from Republicans Orrin Hatch of Utah, Thad Cochran of Mississippi and David Durenberger of Minnesota. Minnesota's new Democratic Senator Paul Wellstone also applauded Massey's selection.

Kennedy explored a number of issues with Massey, including the elimination of funds for modernizing scientific facilities, a move included in NSF's proposed FY 1992 budget. Kennedy asserted he would fight the proposal, and Massey noted that he had discussed the facilities problem with presidential science adviser Allan Bromley.

Kennedy and others also expressed concern about the seemingly disjointed and divided responsibilities in the federal government's efforts to improve science education. Massey mentioned the recently-released report from the Education and Human Resources panel of the Federal Coordinating Committee on Science, Engineering, and Technology. In laying out the FY 1992 budget proposals for science and mathematics education, the document stresses inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

Kennedy also argued that NSF should "ensure the full participation of women and minorities in science and technology," and he noted the need to "maintain and enhance America's lead in basic

research." The United States must extend that lead into civilian technology "with as much success as the military is displaying with their smart weapons," Kennedy said.

Kennedy and Wellstone asked Massey about international scientific cooperation. Massey, who recently returned from a sabbatical during which he investigated European science and technology efforts (especially with regard to technology transfer), outlined several points. First, he said, given the complexity of current scientific research and the large resources necessary to conduct this research, greater international scientific cooperation is a must. Second, he stressed the need to encourage greater participation by U.S. scientists in overseas research projects. Such participation would increase Americans' understanding of foreign science and culture, he argued. Massey also said he has come to understand the importance of not dictating scientific work from a central source. The American system of permitting scientists to determine their own work allows the most creative endeavors to rise to the top, he maintained.

The committee is expected to ask Massey to respond to a number of written questions, including

INSIDE UPDATE . . .

- Bromley Announces Assistant Director for Social Science *HS*
- Anthropologists Opt for SEPS Directorate *HS*
- Senate Panel Lauds Nominee for Education Secretary *HS*
- Committees Reorganize: New Science Panel Has New Chair *HS*
- House Budget Panel Mulls State of the Economy *JT*
- Report Hails 10 Years of Social and Behavioral Science Research at Aging Institute *JA*
- Alzheimer's Research Is Focus at National Institute on Aging *JA*
- ACLU Conference Ponders "Ending the Cold War at Home" *JT*
- NewsBriefs: COSSA Welcomes New Contributor and Affiliate *JT*

some on the role of the social and behavioral sciences at NSF. The committee will then send his nomination to the floor, where confirmation seems assured. With luck, he will be approved before the House appropriations subcommittee scrutinizes NSF's FY 1992 budget on March 5.

BROMLEY ANNOUNCES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE

After much prodding from COSSA and other groups, Allan Bromley, assistant to the president for science and technology policy and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), announced February 4 the selection of Pierre Perrolle as an assistant OSTP director "whose responsibilities will include the social sciences." Bromley has promised the appointment of an assistant director for social science since his confirmation in the fall of 1989.

In making his announcement at the end of a press conference on the FY 1992 research and development budget, Bromley noted that Perrolle will report to Associate Director for International and Policy Affairs, Thomas Ratchford. Bromley said he hopes Perrolle's appointment will lead to greater inclusion of the social sciences in science policy.

A 46-year-old native of New York, Perrolle is currently the head of the Cooperative Science Section of the Division of International Programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF). He is responsible for the planning, development, implementation, and management of cooperative science and engineering programs throughout the world. Since 1980, he has held a number of other

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positions focusing on international science in NSF's Science, Technological, and International Affairs (STIA) Directorate.

With a 1975 Ph.D. in Political Science/Chinese Studies from Brown University, Perrolle has specialized in the Asian Pacific region, serving as the counselor for scientific and technological affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from November 1986 to November 1988. He has also served as senior staff officer for the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China. An article he wrote for the Winter 1989-90 *Issues in Science and Technology* journal explores "After Tiananmen: Science Relations With China."

Early in his career, Perrolle taught international relations and Chinese politics at Wheaton College in Massachusetts. He received his B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1966.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS OPT FOR SEPS DIRECTORATE

In a letter to BBS Task Force chairman Paul Magee, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) announced that "were the proposed reorganization to occur, [anthropology] would elect to be housed within the Social, Economic and Psychological [Sciences] (SEPS) Directorate."

The AAA, however, continued to oppose the creation of the SEPS directorate, believing the current structure serves the "bridge" function anthropology plays between the biological and social sciences. The letter also states that "under no circumstances would [anthropology] wish to be split in order to accommodate the diversity of disciplinary activity."

The task force is expected to meet again on March 9-10 to discuss future research in the disciplines and interdisciplinary activity. The panel will also discuss its final report, which is slated for April 1.

SENATE PANEL LAUDS NOMINEE FOR EDUCATION SECRETARY

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee took up February 6 the nomination of former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander to be

secretary of education. Led by Chairman Edward Kennedy (D-MA), the entire committee praised President Bush's selection of the University of Tennessee president.

In recent years, Alexander has been a leading proponent of national educational reform efforts, prodding state governors to improve their educational systems. In one interesting comment, however, Alexander told the committee that "as governor it didn't matter what the federal government did in education." To most members of the committee, the federal role should matter, and senators urged the nominee to be "a fierce advocate for education." As Kennedy noted, we are "in a state of crisis and too little progress has been made to end it." Phrases like "heightened degree of anticipation," "radical solutions," "nothing to lose," and "need for backbone," were thrown around by committee members.

Alexander responded by talking about "uneasiness in America about the educational system." He also commented on "realizing our full potential," "getting the train moving down the track," "breaking the mold" to restructure schools for today's children, and "creating brand new schools" for tomorrow's children. He said he hopes to be the "spark plug" to help "education make democracy work."

Alexander did not respond to Kennedy's criticism that Bush's "education president" rhetoric has not been matched by funding in the FY 1992 budget. The nominee and committee members discussed implementation of the national goals enunciated by Bush and the nation's governors at the 1989 national education "summit," but Alexander did not commit himself to specific actions.

Ranking Republican Orrin Hatch (R-UT) asked Alexander about efforts to improve the achievement scores of U.S. students. Alexander responded by suggesting that the severity of the problem has not been made clear to the public. Alexander agreed that scores need to be improved, both in an absolute sense and in relation to other nations. The game has changed, he declared, and the playing field is controlled by an international league with world standards.

Asked about education choice programs by Sens. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) and Paul Wellstone (D-MN), Alexander said he supports federal funding of demonstration projects for many different choice

models. He made clear, however, that the decision to initiate choice programs must be left to local communities. He voiced particular concern about the possible need to establish accreditation systems for elementary and secondary schools and contended that while choice can be a "powerful motivator for [educational] change," it was "by itself not an educational policy."

Alexander made two references to education research during his appearance before the committee. In his prepared statement, he noted that his agenda includes "the research that helps keep America out front." He also told the committee that research and information about education is "underutilized."

On the subject of higher education, particularly student aid programs, Alexander suggested it was time to "think boldly." He said the goal of these programs should be to "help people from the back of the line, get to the front of the line." Alexander expressed concern about the debt burden facing students, especially those "unprepared" for college, and he noted the changing structure of the higher education student body, especially the growing presence of older students.

Sen. Jim Jeffords (R-VT) asked about skills training for students not going to college. While agreeing that more options are needed for the non-college bound, Alexander voiced concern that students not be forced into early decision points (such as those created by standardized tests in some European and Asian countries).

Sens. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Wellstone made strong statements about concentrating efforts on national education goal #1 - school readiness. They suggested increased funding for social programs to provide maternal health and nutrition, Head Start, and other services to improve readiness. Alexander granted that government must "provide needs that families don't" but also agreed with Kassebaum that "schools can't do it all."

Alexander is expected to be confirmed swiftly and with no opposition, just as Lynn Martin was on February 7 to become the new Secretary of Labor.

COMMITTEES REORGANIZE: NEW SCIENCE PANEL HAS NEW CHAIR

The House Science, Space and Technology Committee, under its new chairman Rep. George

Brown (D-CA), has reorganized its subcommittee structure. The key move was to split the old Science, Research and Technology (SRT) Subcommittee into the Subcommittee on Science and the Subcommittee on Technology and Competitiveness.

Former SRT Chairman Tim Valentine (D-NC), will chair the technology panel while Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA) will head the science subcommittee. Boucher, just elected to his fifth term, represents the ninth district in southwest Virginia, which includes Blacksburg, home of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. A graduate of Roanoke College and the University of Virginia law school, Boucher is a former Wall Street lawyer. During his career in Congress, he has focused mainly on his other committee assignments, Energy and Commerce, and Judiciary.

In addition to Boucher's appointment, the Science Subcommittee will have a new ranking Republican, Rep. Ron Packard (R-CA). Packard, who was ranking member of the abolished International Scientific Cooperation Subcommittee, is from a district that is part of the suburban/exurban sprawl between Los Angeles and San Diego. A dentist who entered political life through local politics in Carlsbad, CA, Packard is entering his fifth term.

The Science Subcommittee will also have among its members three social scientists: political scientists Glen Browder (D-AL) and Tim Roemer (D-IN) and economist/law school professor Tom Campbell (R-CA).

In addition to the subcommittee split, the Science Committee made a variety of other changes: political scientist Howard Wolpe (D-MI) has been elected the new chairman of the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee with Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) as the ranking member; Rep. Ralph Hall (D-TX), is the new chairman of the Space Subcommittee; the jurisdiction of the Transportation, Aviation, and Materials Science subcommittee has been moved into the new technology subcommittee; and in a somewhat surprising move, committee chairman Brown did not take a subcommittee chair.

House Education and Labor

The ascension of Rep. William Ford (D-MI) to head the House Education and Labor Committee has also brought changes in subcommittee

leadership. Ford, as expected, opted to chair the Postsecondary Subcommittee. Rep. Tom Coleman (R-MO) remains the ranking Republican on panel, which will spend much of its time during the coming session on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Rep. Pat Williams (D-MT), former chair of the Postsecondary panel, will now head the Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations.

Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI) moves from the chair of the Human Resources Subcommittee to the top spot on the Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education panel. Rep. Matthew Martinez (D-CA) takes over Kildee's former slot.

Rep. Major Owens (D-NY) remains chair of the Select Education panel, which will oversee the reauthorization of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). Rep. Steve Bartlett (R-TX) remains the ranking Republican on this subcommittee.

House Appropriations

New members of the House Appropriations Committee recently received their subcommittee assignments. Political scientist David Price (D-NC) will join the Rural Development/Agriculture panel, as well as the Transportation subcommittee. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) replaces the retired Rep. Lindy Boggs on the VA/HUD/Independent Agencies subcommittee and also garnered a seat on the Agriculture panel. Rep. David Skaggs (D-CO) joins the Energy/Water and Treasury/Postal Service subcommittees, and Rep. Larry Smith (D-FL), received seats on the Foreign Operations and Legislative panels. Rep. Robert Mrazek (D-NY) switched subcommittees and became a new member of the Labor/HHS/Education panel. Republican newcomer Rep. Barbara Vucanovich (R-NV) was assigned to the Legislative and Rural Development/Agriculture Subcommittees.

House Judiciary Committee

The defeat of longtime committee member Robert Kastenmeier (D-WI) has led to chair shuffling at the House Judiciary Committee and has even prompted the elimination of a subcommittee. Rep. William Hughes (D-NJ), chair of the Crime Subcommittee, took over as head of Kastenmeier's subcommittee, newly renamed the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property and Judicial Administration. With Hughes' move, the Crime Subcommittee was merged with the Criminal Justice panel under the direction of Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY). In a

comeback of sorts, Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-KY), who lost the subcommittee chair two years ago, will again lead the immigration subcommittee, now called International Law, Immigration and Refugees.

HOUSE BUDGET PANEL MULLS STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The cost of bailing out U.S. savings and loans, combined with effects of the current recession, will push the federal deficit to almost \$300 billion in FY 1991, according to Robert Reischauer, director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). In testimony before the House Budget Committee on January 30, Reischauer also predicted that the Persian Gulf war is certain to add to this already record budget shortfall.

Reischauer's message to lawmakers, however, was not entirely bleak. After 1991, he said, the budgetary picture should begin to brighten. In fact, he contended, the total federal deficit will fall below \$100 billion by 1995 if last year's budget compromise is kept in force. "If fiscal policy is kept on its current course," he said, "the deficit should shrink significantly in a few years, even if it suffers further reverses in the meantime."

Other Economists

The day after Reischauer's testimony, the House panel heard from a variety of other witnesses on the U.S. budgetary outlook. Isabel V. Sawhill, senior fellow at the Urban Institute and a member of the COSSA board of directors, told the committee that Congress should not suspend the spending restrictions of the 1990 budget accord. While the current economic outlook is uncertain, she said, there is no cause for dramatic policy reversals. Suspending the budget accord is unlikely to affect the course of the current recession, she said, and would run counter to the need for deficit reduction.

Benjamin M. Friedman, a professor of political economy at Harvard University, offered the committee a gloomy picture of the economy. "Our economy is more vulnerable," he said, "than the likely scale of the recession would normally suggest." Friedman also argued that "extraordinary patterns of borrowing and lending during the latter half of the 1980s have left an unwelcome legacy of financial fragility." While offering qualified praise for last year's budget agreement, Friedman

contended that the pact is only a first step in resolving the nation's budgetary dilemmas.

Rudolph G. Penner, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute, added his support for the budget agreement, maintaining that the economy's current downturn does not merit suspension of the accord's spending restrictions. "I believe that it is now vital to abide by that agreement in all of its details," he stated.

REPORT HAILS 10 YEARS OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AT AGING INSTITUTE

Celebrating 10 years of existence, the Behavioral and Social Research (BSR) program at the National Institute of Aging (NIA) has generated a draft report evaluating its activities and charting its course for the future.

The BSR program, established in 1979 as a separate extramural program to complement biological and medical programs at NIA, is headed by Associate NIA Director Matilda White Riley, a sociologist, and Deputy Associate Director Ronald P. Abeles, a psychologist. BSR is concerned with studying the interplay of individual aging and age-related social structures through the use of a "socio-behavioral" model.

The overall goal of BSR research, the report states, is "to understand aging as a multifaceted process, with interacting biological, psychological, and social components; and to understand the place of older people in the changing society and its institutions and structures." This understanding is intended to suggest appropriate interventions for improving the life and health of the elderly.

The guiding principles of the socio-behavioral model articulated in the report involve the recognition of: (1) the dynamic character of aging cohorts; (2) the interrelatedness of old age with earlier ages; (3) the variability of age in society and of aging as an individual process; and (4) the multiple facets of age and aging.

Over the past ten years, BSR's research program has evolved from its original emphasis on individual psychological and social structural components of aging, to attention to "health and effective functioning in the middle and later years," to emerging issues in behavioral geriatrics, the

“oldest old,” aging in special populations, and forecasting life expectancy. All the while, BSR has been addressing both substantive issues – for example, the relationship between work/retirement, human performance and independent living – and methodological issues, such as improved longitudinal designs for linking psychosocial and biomedical aspects of the aging process.

According to Riley and Abeles, the authors of the report, the body of knowledge generated over the past 10 years illustrates the presence of a “structural lag” in our society, “a mismatch between the growing numbers of capable elders and the lack of role opportunities” for them. Reducing this lag requires the development of social, behavioral, and biomedical interventions, they argue. For example, BSR’s research in clinical trials has shown the importance of environmental and behavioral interventions for preventing falls and managing urinary incontinence, two major afflictions of the elderly population.

In addition to evaluating BSR’s past accomplishments, the report identifies special challenges for future research on aging, including the need to better examine the following: social structures and institutions within which people grow old; diverse populations of older people (such as racial/ethnic, gender, and geographic groups); intergenerational relationships; and the multiple facets of aging. These endeavors require further developing a “biopsychosocial approach” and engaging in more interdisciplinary research.

Comments on BSR’s performance and contribution over the past 10 years were solicited from researchers and experts on aging. Most pointed to the extraordinary pace of BSR’s accomplishments and its centrality in setting the research agenda on aging. For example, David L. Featherman, president of the Social Science Research Council, cites BSR’s responsibility for “recasting the agenda of aging research by social scientists from the narrow confines of social gerontology into the full spectrum of lifespan human development research and life course analysis.” This recasting, he says, is “a notable intellectual achievement” responsible for redirecting many social scientists to aging research.

Information about the report, which is still a “working document,” may be obtained from the BSR staff, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, Building 31C, Room 5C32, Bethesda, MD 20892; phone: (301) 496-3136.

ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH IS FOCUS AT NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) “remains the highest investment of research dollars” at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), according to its director, Frank Williams. This message was detailed at the National Advisory Council on Aging meeting held on January 31- February 1.

Williams noted that NIA fared better than other units of the National Institute of Health (NIH) in its FY 1991 appropriations, receiving a 36 percent increase over the previous year. Most of the new money will be targeted at Alzheimer’s research. While the focus of much of the AD research will be biomedical, “social and caring aspects” will also be addressed, said Williams.

In addition to the AD research, the council heard testimony on NIA’s initiatives to study minorities and aging. These activities are spearheaded by psychologist Manuel Miranda, the assistant director of NIA and director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Research. Miranda has already sponsored workshops on developing strategies for information dissemination to elderly Hispanics and on key research needs within the elderly Hispanic population. Furthermore, NIA is about to announce the availability of dissertation awards for FY 1991 on minorities and aging. (Watch UPDATE for details.)

The National Advisory Council on Aging meets quarterly to evaluate the activities of NIA and to review grant applications. The council is composed of a number of researchers on aging who serve for limited terms. Two social scientists departing the panel are Caleb Finch of the Andrus Gerontology Center at the University of Southern California and Dorothy Rice of the Social and Behavior Sciences program at the University of California, San Francisco. Anderson Smith, professor of psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, George Myers, a sociologist from Duke University, and Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women are joining the council.

ACLU CONFERENCE PONDERES “ENDING THE COLD WAR AT HOME”

Declaring that “the end of the Cold War is the definitive event of our time,” organizers of a recent Washington conference set out to explore the

domestic legacy of the decades-long East-West struggle. The conference on "Ending the Cold War at Home" was sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and sixty other organizations, including the American Historical Association. The meeting was held February 1-2.

According to an ACLU report issued in conjunction with the conference, "the Cold War left behind a deeply entrenched legacy of governmental secrecy and anti-libertarian practices." Among the manifestations of this legacy outlined in the report are:

- independent presidential authority for launching a nuclear strike or conventional military intervention;
- excessively secretive national intelligence agencies;
- extensive classification of governmental information; and
- visa denial based on ideological exclusions.

In a series of presentations and panel discussions, conference participants examined these issues and others related to Cold War restrictions. Mary Frances Berry, president of the Organization of American Historians, offered a keynote address on the need to dismantle the national security state.

In a workshop on "Unlocking the Doors to Government Information," Page Putnam Miller of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History outlined her efforts to preserve the integrity of the State Department's Foreign Relations Series. After objections from scholars that a recent volume on Iranian issues was distorted, supporters on Capitol Hill introduced legislation calling for all State Department records to be declassified after 30 years. While the bill passed the Senate, the House took no action during the last session of Congress. The legislation will be re-introduced this year, but this time as an attachment to the State Department's re-authorization bill. Miller stressed the need for a "systematic declassification process."

NEWS BRIEFS

COSSA Welcomes New Affiliate and Contributor

The Consortium is pleased to announce the arrival of two new members. The Brookings Institution has signed on as a Contributor and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex has joined as an Affiliate. We look forward to working with both organizations in the years ahead.

Key Lawmaker Dies

Rep. Silvio O. Conte (R-MA), ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, died February 8 in Washington, DC. In addition to his position on the full committee, Conte was the

ranking minority member of the Labor-Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Conte was the chief congressional sponsor of the Decade of the Brain, a government-wide effort to examine the biological and behavioral aspects of the brain.

ADAMHA and NIH Announce Science Education Awards

The Alcohol, Drug Abuse, And Mental Health Administration and the National Institutes of Health are seeking applications for a new program, the Science Education Partnership Award. The awards will support grants designed to encourage scientists to work with community organizations to improve student and public understanding of science and to increase the interest of young people in biomedical and beha-

vioral science careers. Letters of intent to apply are due March 15, 1991, and the full application is due April 25, 1991. For more information, contact Dr. Joel W. Goldstein, ADAMHA SEPA Program, Room 13-103, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857 (Phone: 301/443-9674); or Marjorie A. Tingle, Ph.D., NIH SEPA Program, National Center for Research Resources, Westwood Building, Room 10A11, 5333 Westbard Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Phone: 301/496-6743).

In Our Next Issue: The Federal Budget For Social Science Research

This issue is UPDATE's last until March 4. In the interim, we will be at work preparing a comprehensive analysis of the proposed FY 1992 federal budget for social and behavioral science research programs.

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