

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## GAO REPORT SAYS CENSUS NEEDS "FUNDAMENTAL REFORM" *MB*

A recently released report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) cites the need for "fundamental reform" in the decennial census, arguing that the changing nature of the American population has grown too diverse and too dynamic for an accurate census based upon traditional "headcount" approaches. The findings of the report were discussed at a June 10 hearing of the House Subcommittee on Census and Population, chaired by Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-OH).

L. Nye Stevens, Director of Government Business Operations Issues at the GAO, told the committee, "the current approach to taking the census appears to have exhausted its potential for counting the population effectively and economically." He noted that the 1990 census was the first one to be less accurate than its predecessor, even though it was the most costly census ever. According to the GAO, the 1990 census had at least 14.1 million errors, including people either not counted or improperly counted. Stevens said that the experiences of 1990 call for reform in three broad areas: improving address list development efforts, responding to public response rates, and reducing reliance on follow-up efforts.

With regard to the need to update address lists, Stevens said that the Census Bureau sent 1990 questionnaires to millions of vacant or nonexistent housing units, and spent an estimated \$317 million in follow-up on these units. He urged the Census Bureau to rely more heavily on the Postal Service in compiling accurate address lists, saying, "We believe that letter carriers, who deliver mail to addresses regularly, should be in a much better position than temporary, inexperienced census workers to identify the occupancy status of housing units."

The GAO report identified declining response rates as a major challenge facing the Census Bureau. It said that the pre-follow-up response rate was 63 percent in 1990, compared to 75 percent in 1980. The report said there was a noticeable difference in response rates between those who received long forms and those with the short forms. In addition

to mentioning questionnaire length as a factor in participation, Stevens commented that other things, such as lack of English proficiency, concerns about privacy, and non-traditional households, are relevant to the record-high levels of non-participation. To begin reform in this area, the GAO recommended experimenting with simplified questionnaires and obtaining some information through administrative records or periodic surveys, as well as researching "the extent to which rules conform with social reality," particularly regarding the definition of "household" or "usual residence."

According to the GAO, "the Bureau's long-standing policy of trying to gather data on each nonresponding household has resulted in a reliance on labor-intensive and time-consuming field operations" -- efforts that cost approximately \$730 million for the 1990 census. The report recommended exploring the possibility of sampling a portion of nonresponding households rather than attempting to reach all of them. According to Stevens, "results from census evaluations suggest that sampling could produce data of equivalent quality to the enumerations obtained at the end of the follow-up efforts." Stevens called for more research on identifying the point at which sampling can produce comparable quality data in a more cost-effective manner.

Sawyer praised the report, and agreed with its call for fundamental reform. He said that the

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planning process for the 2000 census should be based upon the belief that "we can't take the same census in 2000 that we did in 1990." Noting the recent hearings his committee conducted on demographic change (see *Update*, June 1, 1992), Sawyer commented that these changes require not only new census taking methods, but an examination of both the quantity and type of information asked for in the questionnaire. Saying that "everything is on the table," Sawyer called for a sweeping examination of reform options, and stated his belief that the census could be an excellent vehicle for experimenting with new sampling methods.

For a copy of the report, contact the General Accounting Office at (202) 275-6241. The first copy of the report is free; additional copies are \$2.00 each.

### NIH CONFERENCE REPORT PASSES OVERWHELMINGLY IN SENATE JA

On June 4, the Senate overwhelmingly endorsed the conference report (the joint House-Senate bill) on the reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The vote in favor of the bill (H.R. 2507)-- which, among other things, lifts the moratorium of federally-funded fetal tissue transplantation research, allows for federally-funded sexual behavior research, establishes statutorily the Office for Research on Women's Health, and reauthorizes the National Cancer Institute -- was 85 to 12, more than sufficient to override an expected presidential veto (primarily over the fetal tissue research provisions.)

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The House had approved the same legislation on May 28, but the vote was twelve shy of a veto-proof majority (See *Update*, June 1, 1992). Because 27 members were absent or not voting that day, and as a result of the strong Senate vote subsequently, it is still possible that the House will muster the necessary votes to override the veto. It is expected that the bill will go to the President during the week of June 15. If the President vetoes it, as he has repeatedly said he will, the bill will be returned immediately to the House for an override vote. If successful there, it will then go to the Senate for a vote; if not, it will die for another session of Congress.

### WHITE HOUSE GROUP DISCUSSES UNIVERSITY-FEDERAL RELATIONS KS

The June 4 meeting of the President's Council of Advisers for Science and Technology (PCAST) chaired by Allan Bromley, special assistant to the President for Science and Technology, featured further discussion of the upcoming study of the relationship of U.S. research intensive universities and the federal government announced in early April (see *Update* April 6, 1992). A report will be issued in December 1992.

The panel identified the audience for the report as congressional staff, the university community, the industrial community, and the Washington community. Pierre Perrolle, assistant director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy for the social sciences, and William Raub, former acting and deputy director of the National Institutes of Health and now a special assistant to Bromley at OSTP, already have begun writing drafts of the report for comment by the PCAST members.

The study, to be chaired by David Packard, CEO of Hewlett-Packard, and vice-chaired by Harold Shapiro, President of Princeton University, will identify and examine critical aspects of the current environment for research-intensive universities as well as some of the anticipated characteristics of the 1990s that bear on the evolution of these institutions. It will also explore the size and configuration of the nation's system of research universities. A companion study is underway through the FCCSET process and chaired by David Kearns, Deputy Secretary of Education, with Walter Massey, Director of NSF, and Bernadine Healy, Director of NIH, as vice-chairs.



During discussion at the meeting, Peter Likins, President of Lehigh and a member of PCAST, declared that the study's most important contribution would be to "communicate a sense of crisis" that afflicts America's research-intensive universities. Noting the financial problems facing many of these institutions, Likins argued that if current trends continue a "disaster" is likely.

The Lehigh President also stated that public support for universities as contributors to "general societal good" has disappeared. Bromley offered some reasons: large tuition increases, charges of scientific misconduct, misuse of indirect cost reimbursements, a perception that teaching suffers at the expense of research, the teaching of introductory courses, particularly those in the sciences, by foreign students who do not speak English well and who may harbor prejudices toward women. Bromley also referenced the recent rescission flap over "silly titles," suggesting it is "a mark we should take seriously." (He did not elaborate, however.)

There was also discussion about why costs for universities have increased. Ralph Gomory, President of the Sloan Foundation and a member of PCAST, cited a study by economist William Baumol of NYU and Princeton Universities. According to Gomory, Baumol found that improvements in manufacturing productivity led to increased wages in that sector of the economy. These increased wages were matched in the education sector without the corresponding increases in productivity, thus leading to increased costs. Productivity has not increased according to Thomas Murrin, Dean of Business Administration at Duquesne and another panel member, because universities were still doing things the same way they have for the past 30-40 years. John Mc Tague, Vice President of Ford and a member of the panel, contended that research productivity has improved, citing the increased use of computer data bases in the social sciences.

Another concern raised by Gomory was whether America's research universities were "national entities." Mary Good, Vice President of Allied-Signal and former Chair of the National Science Board and the newest member of PCAST, said that as a scientist she believed in the free flow of information, but that in an economically competitive world, where most of Japan's research is conducted behind closed doors in industrial labs, the U.S. with its "open" universities is put in a difficult position.

Bromley suggested that one of the questions the study must examine is whether it still will be possible to have departments in all traditional disciplines at all universities. Recent actions by Columbia, Washington University at St. Louis, the University of Maryland, and others suggest the answer may be no. Good also wondered whether the U.S. has too many institutions of higher education. Bromley commented that he is distressed by the unwillingness to have public discussion about the need for elitism at the highest ranks of our educational system. He noted that "elitism is based on excellence," and must remain that way.

The panel plans a series of public hearings in connection with the study. See box on following page.

## HOUSE DEFEATS BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The House of Representatives on June 11 defeated a proposed constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget. The 280-153 vote in favor of the amendment fell nine votes short of the two-thirds majority required under the Constitution to approve an amendment. The Senate, which had been scheduled to consider the measure in the coming weeks, cancelled its plans in the wake of the House vote.

Despite widespread support in public opinion polls for such an amendment, House members were apparently swayed by arguments from labor and senior citizen organizations, economists, and political scientists (see *Update*, May 18, 1992) that such an amendment would necessitate drastic spending cuts that would hurt many Americans and create economic chaos. Opponents of the amendment, led by Rep. Leon Panetta (D-CA), contended it was misdirected. "No amendment balances the budget. No amendment makes the tough choices that need to be made," Panetta said.

### Reischauer Warns of Hard Choices

Robert Reischauer, Director of the Congressional Budget Office, told a June 3 meeting of the House Budget Committee, chaired by Panetta, of the magnitude of reductions needed to balance the budget and the enforcement mechanisms that would likely be necessary. While Reischauer stated his preference that Congress enact the policy changes needed to eliminate the deficit, he said that



experience shows that some form of enforcement mechanism is usually needed.

Reischauer was quick to note the economic advantages of a balanced federal budget, but stated his opposition to the proposed amendment. "Deficit reduction should be of paramount importance to this Congress and future Congresses until the job is done. Making hard choices about taxing and spending accomplishes that, in contrast to enshrining a balanced budget goal in the Constitution. The bottom line is that real policy changes and enforcement are both necessary for deficit reduction; a constitutional amendment alone is not," he told the committee.

According to Reischauer, \$600 billion in deficit-reduction measures would be required to balance the budget by 1997, the year specified by the proposed amendment. He said this would be a mixture of discretionary spending cuts, entitlement changes, and tax increases, and that "the intensity of the pain" would be minimized if Congress and the Federal Reserve were to begin to act swiftly and provided an accommodative monetary policy. Reischauer stated that the lower incomes, employment, and tax collection caused by a concerted effort to lower the deficit would be offset somewhat if lower interest rates reduced the government's cost of borrowing.

Regarding enforcement mechanisms, Reischauer suggested four principles for effectiveness: it should encourage consensus on policy choices rather than rely on automatic, formula-based solutions; ensure direct accountability for participants in the budget process; minimize opportunities to evade the balanced budget requirements; and maintain flexibility to address economic and national emergencies.

## COMPETITIVENESS LEGISLATION PROPOSED *MS, HS*

Competing bills to improve America's competitiveness have been introduced by key members of the House Science, Space and Technology (SST) Committee. Rep. George Brown (D-CA), chairman of the committee, and Rep. Tim Valentine (D-NC), chair of the Subcommittee on Technology and Competitiveness, are sponsoring H.R. 5230, which includes provisions to expand federal support for research on critical technologies and markets. Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA), Ranking Republican on the SST Committee, has sponsored

## PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE HELD ON OSTP UNIVERSITY STUDY

During the next few months a series of public meetings on university-federal relations will be held to hear from university administrators, faculty, and students, representatives from industry, state and local governments, and the interested public. The hearings will begin on June 24 at MIT. Future hearings will take place on July 15 at University of California at Berkeley, July 17 at the University of Texas at Austin, July 21 at Duke University, July 24 at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC and September 24 at Northwestern University. Those wishing to participate in these meetings should contact Alicia Tenuta at OSTP 202/395-4692. Oral presentations will be limited, but written comments will also be accepted.

H.R. 5229, whose major components include making the R&D Tax Credit permanent (as does the Brown/Valentine bill) and other tax incentives for industries and individual taxpayers who make long-term investments.

Under HR 5230, the American Technology and Competitiveness Act of 1992, the Department of Commerce is directed to establish a research program to evaluate the effectiveness of programs designed to improve American competitiveness. It also authorizes the extension of the National Science Foundation's Academic Research Facilities Modernization Program at \$250 million annually for Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995. The bill mandates a 10 year plan for facilities modernization at the Departments of Defense and Energy, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It also directs NSF to increase its support for community college instrumentation, the Statewide Systemic Initiative education program, the engineering research centers, manufacturing technology centers, and the High Performance computing program. The Brown/Valentine bill also provides funding for education and training in advanced industrial, technological, and management skills including apprenticeship-like experiences.

The Walker bill includes provisions relating to professional and product liability reform, regulatory risk analysis, and the renaming of the Department of Commerce to the Department of Manufacturing and Commerce.



Valentine's subcommittee held two days of hearings on the legislation, with witnesses primarily from the business community. Testifying at the June 3 hearing was Lewis Branscomb, Director of the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, who spoke in favor of the research provisions of H.R. 5230. According to Branscomb, "The amount of solid research on policy alternatives, on data gathering about the competitive condition of the U.S. economy, and on program evaluation is entirely inadequate. The Commerce Department has fewer resources for this kind of vital work to be done by scholars and analysts outside the government than most other agencies have to support their missions."

The Valentine subcommittee is expected to mark up a bill without the tax and revenue parts within the next two weeks. The House Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-IL), would have to deal with those provisions.

### A.I.D. SEEKS TO INVOLVE UNIVERSITIES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT *MB*

In September 1990 the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) created the Agency Center for University Cooperation in Development. It began operating last fall, and *Update* would like to take this opportunity to outline this new initiative for our readers.

As set forth by A.I.D. Administrator Ronald Roskens, the purpose of the Center is to broaden and deepen the involvement of U.S. colleges and universities in international development. The U.S. system of higher education, according to Roskens, "is an extraordinary national asset which can be of significant benefit to the developing world if properly encouraged and focussed." Furthermore, the fact that many colleges and universities are moving to internationalize their programs "presents an unusual opportunity for productive collaboration with A.I.D.," Roskens added.

The Center's role in A.I.D. and its program plans are built on four important assumptions -- namely that (1) the developing country university is an essential contributor to the development process; (2) U.S. higher education is a great American asset, widely respected in the developing world and universally admired especially at advanced levels; (3)

### HISTORY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AT NSF PUBLISHED *HS*

Milestones & Millstones: Social Science at the National Science Foundation, 1945-1991 by Otto N. Larsen has been published by Transaction Publishers. Larsen, who was director of the division of social and economic research at NSF from 1980 to 1982, and senior associate for social and behavioral sciences from 1983 to 1986, describes the historical ups and downs of the social sciences at NSF, culminating in last fall's creation of the separate directorate for the social, behavioral and economic sciences. Larsen dedicates the book to COSSA. Copies are available for \$32.95 from Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, 908/932-2280.

A.I.D. has made major investments in building universities in developing countries; and (4) A.I.D. will be missing a unique opportunity if it does not now build on its previous investments.

Among the qualities and operating principles that guide program development at the Center are: short-term service and long-term programming perspectives; activities that involve the full range of college and university resources and capabilities; mutuality in terms of benefits gained and costs shared by A.I.D. and the college and university community; objective selection and evaluation procedures; and improvement in the policies and processes that govern existing and historically important contractual and other relationships between A.I.D. and many U.S. institutions of higher education.

The program of the Center has been planned with the help of a university task force and a high-level, broadly-defined advisory committee on which a number of university presidents served. In addition, Center Executive Director Ralph H. Smuckler has elicited advice and suggestions from within and outside A.I.D. in a wide range of consultations.

The Center's long-term programming began in 1991 with the University Development Linkages Program (ULDP). Designed to support and encourage long-term linkages between U.S. and developing country institutions, 13 matching grants totalling \$1.4 million were awarded last September. The awards culminated a lengthy process of selection which was necessitated by the great



interest shown in the program from its inception. From more than 400 institutions that inquired initially, there were 79 finalists. Over the five-year period of these agreements, A.I.D.'s \$7 million will be matched by more than \$13 million from U.S. and developing country institutions. The 1992 round of competition for ULDP matching grants will result in a similar level of effort. Interest in the program has not flagged. There have been inquiries from more than 500 institutions, approximately 25 percent of which have sent follow-up letters of intent.

Consideration is being given to the following types of other long-term programming: helping to sustain the progress and improve the quality of developing country higher education institutions; cooperating in the internationalization process in U.S. higher education; expanding and sharing expert personnel resources of value to both A.I.D. and the college and university community; providing more effective access to university resources and experience for A.I.D. and other development assistance organizations; and strengthening and broadening the commitment to development by higher education institutions.

The Center has signed a cooperative agreement with the American Council on Education (ACE) to engage the U.S. higher education community in helping plan and implement its program. Collaborating with the ACE as the lead association are five other higher education associations representing the broad spectrum of U.S. colleges and universities -- namely, the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC), American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), Association of American Universities (AAU), National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). An Associations Office in ACE serves as the focal point to coordinate relationships and dialogue among the associations and maintain contact with the Center. The member associations and other sources are helping to fund this initiative.

Among the continuing activities that the center inherited is the Research Grant Program for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Established in 1983, the program encourages HBCU faculty members to become involved in international development activities supported by A.I.D., and is part of the Agency's strategy in response to a presidential executive order directing federal agencies to provide opportunities for HBCUs.

## NORTH CAROLINA STATE JOINS CONSORTIUM

COSSA is pleased to announce that North Carolina State University has become a member of the Consortium. We look forward to working with the university in the years ahead.

More than 150 projects have been funded by this program. A compendium of abstracts of 72 completed projects was published recently, describing the results of research activities in agriculture, health, nutrition, and population in 25 developing countries and the United States. In 1991, 34 grants were made in this program.

The University Center services to A.I.D. and the U.S. higher education community include an information system and point of contact or liaison for interested parties, assistance in matching A.I.D. program needs and university resources, and staff services to advisory boards, special committees, task forces and review panels.

The Center also provides support services to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development and Economic Cooperation (BIFADEC), a presidentially appointed board that advises the A.I.D. Administrator on broad issues of development and on A.I.D.'s program. As a result of its expanded purview in 1991 beyond agriculture and to include all aspects of development, the BIFADEC has broadened its structure, in order to represent a larger constituency of U.S. colleges and universities.

Copies of the report of the BIFADEC Task Force on the University Center Program, the HBCU Research Grants Program abstracts, and the summaries of the 1991 UDLP awards are available on request. For these and for more information about the Center, write or call: Dr. Ralph Smuckler, Executive Director, Agency University Center for Cooperation in Development, Bureau for Research and Development, Agency for International Development, Room 900, SA-38, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20523-3802. Tel. no. (703) 816-0294. Fax no. (703) 816-0266.

*(Editor's note: this article was prepared by Ralph Smuckler, Executive Director of the University Center)*



**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE** 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.

**Centers for Disease Control**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the nation's disease prevention agency, announces the availability of Fiscal Year 1992 funds for cooperative agreements for the prevention of deaths and injuries associated with youth violence in high-risk communities. These projects will develop, implement and evaluate multi-faceted, community-based prevention programs to reduce the incidence of interpersonal violent behavior and associated injuries and deaths among adolescents and young adults in high-risk communities.

**Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants are state and local health departments, national organizations working at the community level, community-based organizations, research institutions, universities, colleges, and other nonprofit entities with a demonstrated capacity for working with youth in high-risk communities. Regardless of the type of organization from which the application originates, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have established a working partnership involving, at a minimum, a community-based organization, a university or other academic institution, and a state or local health department.

**Budget:** Approximately \$750,000 is available in Fiscal Year 1992 to fund up to two projects to evaluate multi-faceted community-based youth violence prevention programs. Awards are expected to range from \$325,000 to \$425,000 with an average award of \$375,000 for each 12-month budget period. Funds are expected to be awarded on or about September 30, 1992, for up to a five year period.

**Review Process:** Applications will be reviewed and evaluated on a point total basis (maximum 100 points). For a breakdown of the areas for which points are given, contact the person(s) listed below.

**Deadlines:** The original and two copies of the application PHS Form 5161-1 must be submitted to Henry S. Cassell, III, Grants Management Officer, Grants Management Branch, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control, 255 East Paces Ferry Road NE, Room 300, Mailstop E-14, Atlanta, GA 30305, on or before July 31, 1992.

**Contact:** A complete program description, information on application procedures, business management technical assistance, and an application package may be obtained from Adrienne McCloud, Grants Management Specialist, Grants Management Branch, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control, 255 East Paces Ferry Road, NE, Mailstop E-14, Atlanta, GA 30304, (404) 842-6634.

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