

**RUSH TO ADJOURNMENT:
CONGRESS RACES TO
PASS SPENDING BILLS** AS

Congress returned from its August recess on September 3, with the leadership hoping to adjourn the 104th Congress by September 27. Before then, Congress' race to the finish will focus on completing the appropriations process of funding federal agencies by the October 1 start of Fiscal Year 1997. In addition, the White House and the Republican Congressional leadership do not want a repeat of last year's stalemate and government shutdown.

As this is written on September 13, only one of the thirteen appropriations bills, Agriculture and Rural Development, has been signed into law. Of the remaining 12, three are on their way to the President, having come through a conference committee and been approved by both Houses (DC, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction). Three more have made it through the conference committee and await passage of the agreements before being sent to the President (Transportation, Defense, and Energy and Water). Two more have passed both Houses and await action by a conference committee that will reconcile differences, including the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies bill. (Foreign Operations is the other) Three have passed the House, but have not made it through the Senate (Commerce, Justice, State; Interior, and Treasury and Postal Service). Finally, the massive Labor, Health and Human Services and Education bill, has passed the House, but only this week emerged from the Senate Appropriations Committee. Its chances of passing the full Senate are not good.

The need for a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund those departments and agencies whose appropriations bills do not make it through the process by October 1 is evident. Although Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) said he had hopes to enact 12 of the 13, this now seems an unrealistic goal. A more probable outcome is to push as many bills as possible through the conferences, use those

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**SENATE PASSES NSF
APPROPRIATIONS BILL** HS

As one of its first orders of business upon returning, the Senate took up and passed the FY 1997 Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies appropriations bill. This legislation, passed on September 6, includes funding for the National Science Foundation.

The bill now goes to a House-Senate conference committee to settle the different funding levels allocated by each legislative body. With regards to NSF, no changes in funding were made on the Senate floor. The Senate appropriated \$3.275 billion, a \$55 million increase over FY 1996 funding, and \$22 million above the House allocation. For NSF's Research and Related Activities account, the Senate gave \$2.432 billion, the House \$2.431 billion, the FY 1996 appropriation was \$2.314 billion. For the Education and Human Resources Directorate, the Senate surpassed, both the House appropriation of \$612 million, and the President's request of \$619 million, by allocating \$624 million, a \$25 million increase from last year.

The Senate rejected the House cut of \$9 million in the Salaries and Expenses account, appropriating \$134 million, the administration's request. The House reduction occurred during consideration of the

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SENATE BILL FUNDS COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE PROGRAMS

MB

The Fiscal Year 1997 appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State is currently pending before the full Senate. As approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 1, the bill contains several items affecting social and behavioral science research.

For the **Census Bureau**, the bill allocates \$139.7 million for Salaries and Expenses. This is \$11.0 million below the Administration request, and \$6.0 million above the House figure and current funding. This account supports ongoing economic and demographic statistical programs conducted by the Bureau.

The legislation appropriated \$210.5 million for Periodic Censuses and Programs, which supports decennial and other cyclical programs. The Senate amount is a reduction of \$38.2 million from the request and \$5.4 million above the House allocation. For the 2000 decennial census, which has a costly ramp-up in the years preceding the survey, both the House and the Senate provided only about half of the Bureau's requested increase. The Senate report repeated the House report's frowning upon the lack of a widely accepted methodology for the 2000 Census. The Senate report went one step further than the House, as it specifically told the Bureau that "no funds

be spent on preparation for a plan using statistical sampling." Congress has reacted with considerable skepticism toward the Bureau's plans to incorporate such techniques into the survey (see *Update*, June 10).

The FY 1997 bill provides \$49.4 million for the economic and statistical analysis programs of the Commerce Department, which includes the **Bureau of Economic Analysis**. This is \$4.1 million below the administration request, and \$3.5 million above the House figure and the FY 1996 appropriation. The Senate increase is to improve gross domestic product data.

For the **National Institute of Justice**, the bill provided \$31.6 million, an increase of \$1.6 million over both the House figure and current funding. NIJ will receive \$20 million in additional funding from the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program for research and design of new technologies. In recent years Congress has paid considerable attention to the law enforcement technologies component of NIJ, but has shown far less interest in the Institute's efforts to better understand the causes and prevention of crime through social and behavioral science research.

In funding for the **Bureau of Justice Statistics** the Senate concurred with the House and held funding flat at \$21.4 million. **The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** was funded at \$158.5 million, a \$9.0 million increase over the House and current funding. Legislation is pending before both the House and the Senate to reshape the Office's structure and functions, and the appropriations bill would defer to any legislation enacted this year.

For the educational and cultural exchange programs at the **U.S. Information Agency**, the Senate voted \$183.0 million, down \$16.7 million from current funding and \$2.0 million below the House figure. The Senate report joined the House in urging USIA to establish a mechanism for an open competition to administer the Fulbright Program. The Senate eliminated funding for two USIA programs, the National Endowment for Democracy and Radio Free Asia, both of which were funded by the House.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral scientists. *Update* is published 22 times per year. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. 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.

SHALALA DISCUSSES RESEARCH AND POLICY AT SOCIOLOGY MEETING *AS*

Saying that policy makers' decisions are "more disorganized" than social science literature often states, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala conducted a "town meeting" at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting in New York in mid-August. Shalala's appearance sought to examine "how social research contributes, or fails to contribute, to the current policy debates on welfare reform, health, and social well-being."

"Social science research is used extensively in the development of policy," she said, citing Head Start as an example of a public policy with a strong research foundation. The Secretary also assured the standing room only audience that President Clinton often "reads the studies himself" and "does not lack information." However, echoing a thought usually heard from policy-makers, Shalala noted that "most social science research is not fast enough for decision making." Many times the "social science research is quite distant from actual legislation," that gets enacted, she added.

Referring to the controversial welfare reform bill recently signed into law by the President, Shalala said that welfare is a highly complex subject that one has to approach "with an enormous amount of humility." She noted that "the problems with the bill are serious and the president has noted them." While the legislation reflects the President's recommendations, she acknowledged that there are concerns about it. She urged people to view the bill in the larger context of other administration accomplishments, such as the "carefully awarded welfare waivers" for many states, which cover seventy-five percent of welfare recipients. The Secretary also noted that the bill has "extensive reporting and data gathering" requirements -- a long list of information that the states will have to provide on a monthly basis.

Also at the ASA meeting was what panel chair Felice Levine, the association's Executive Officer, called a "barometer check" session. *Social Science as a Science Priority: Opportunities and Constraints* provided three social scientists active in setting public policy agendas a chance to examine how social science

research impacts the development and implementation of those plans.

Baldwin on Areas of Change

Wendy Baldwin, Deputy Director for Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health, cited what she called "touchstones" of areas of change and concern to which the social science community should pay attention. These include:

Violence research -- There is unprecedented cooperation between the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services in exploring the causes and consequences of violence (see Anderson story later in this issue). The two agencies are working together in a practical way, that Baldwin hopes will serve as a model for interagency activities.

Genetic Research -- The social and behavioral science community need to convince folks that their research can help with the difficult health problems non-social scientists are investigating. Research around genetics, Baldwin asserted, is an issue particularly under-attended to by social scientists. We can lose the benefits of genetic research, if we do not understand the social issues that accompany such studies, she continued. Baldwin emphasized that she was "not convinced that the social science community is looking at what their role will be" in genetic research. She also emphasized that "the problems around health care are social science" research agenda concerns.

Demographic Change -- Baldwin told the group that shifting demographics will continue to shape the social science research agenda, citing low fertility rates, changes in work and family, and attempts to stem adolescent pregnancy as examples.

Information Technology -- The social science community, declared Baldwin, is also not paying much attention to the major changes in this area. Changes in information technology are clearly leading to cultural changes. According to Baldwin, we have not fully explored what the changes will mean to different constituencies. The potential is so fundamental, Baldwin said, that "I urge the social science community to pay attention."

Justus on Expanding the Presence of Social Science

Joyce Justus, outgoing Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology (OSTP), told the audience that she found the OSTP position "a challenge too big to resist." She described herself as the lone self-described social scientist at OSTP who has had to educate others on the value of these sciences.

Justus cited two growing areas for future research funding and activities: children and families and welfare. The White House and particularly First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton are interested in the first topic. The OSTP is sponsoring a children's initiative where behavioral scientists will play a large role. On the second topic, the new reform bill will certainly necessitate evaluations and monitoring of state activities, another important opportunity for social and behavioral scientists.

Emphasizing the need to bring the knowledge of social/behavioral scientists to bear on science policy, she also noted the importance of information technology, particularly since Vice President Al Gore has a major interest in this area. She urged the audience to prevent the creation of "a technology apartheid," where the affluent have access to the technological advances and the rest are left out.

Concluding, Justus noted that her successor "will have to work to bring together all agencies across a common topic," that will continue to raise the visibility of social science. She felt the Human Capital Initiative offered an opportunity to accomplish this goal.

Justus has returned to the Office of the President of the University of California System in Oakland. She will be a Special Assistant to UC President Richard Atkinson.

Torrey on International Collaboration

Barbara Torrey, Executive Director of the Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education at the National Research Council, predicted that the "21st Century will be the social science century" since understanding complex problems will become the goal of scientific inquiry. Social and

behavioral scientists have long studied the most complex research subjects -- human and societal behavior -- and will be well placed to lead future investigations.

In doing that, however, Torrey expressed the need for more collaborations across disciplines "because no discipline [by itself] can provide the answers that we need." The collaborations will also have to be international, even though "America's social scientists are better than anywhere in the world." And social and behavioral scientists will need to accumulate more and better data, particularly from longitudinal studies. Sharing of data will become imperative, Torrey declared, because "we don't have the resources to continue reinventing the wheel." Finally, she noted that behavioral and social scientists need to do a better job presenting their data to non-behavioral and social scientists.

Concluding her remarks, Torrey said non-social/behavioral scientists realize that they do not have the tools to answer the complex questions they are now examining. More and more, "they are looking to us for answers," she said.

ANDERSON REFLECTS ON FIRST YEAR OF OBSSR

The Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health, headed by psychologist Norman B. Anderson, has had a number of accomplishments since the office opened officially in July of 1995. "The first year for OBSSR has been both exciting and challenging," said Anderson, the OBSSR's first director. "I look forward to continuing to work closely with the behavioral and social science community to remove the artificial separation between biomedical and behavioral and social science research and have them viewed as equal and complementary partners in achieving the nation's health goals," he said. Below is a brief update on some of the office's activities in its first year.

Defining Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

The OBSSR has developed a draft definition which has subsequently been reviewed by nine focus groups of scientists from fields such as psychology, epidemiology, behavioral neuroscience,

psychopharmacology, behavioral physiology, and health and behavior. Based on comments from the focus groups the definition was revised and distributed to the governing boards of various behavioral and social science organizations for further review. After "testing the definition to ensure that it is effective in capturing all behavioral and social science grants, while excluding those outside this field," Anderson said the definition will be used to assess the NIH portfolio and report to Congress.

Developing a Strategic Plan

The OBSSR is also working to develop a strategic plan "to assist in charting the future direction of the office and in establishing its priorities." The strategic plan will outline the "specific goals, strategies, and actions that will serve as the core activities of the OBSSR for the next three to five years." The recommendations from two strategic planning meetings involving over 80 scientists, science administrators, and representatives of science organizations, including COSSA, will form the basis of the OBSSR Strategic Plan.

Funding Behavioral and Social Science Research

The OBSSR has organized a trans-NIH and trans-agency Requests for Applications (RFA) on violence against women and violence within the family. The collaboration will serve as a prototype for other planned funding initiatives -- those that cut across institute boundaries and are suitable for RFA or Program Announcement mechanisms -- coordinated by the OBSSR. Collaborators include: the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health, the NIH Office of Research on Minority Health, the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Mental Health, the National Institute of Justice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Additionally, Anderson emphasized the OBSSR will also use a portion of its budget to support behavioral and social sciences research grants. Thirty-nine research grants and conference grants were supplemented in Fiscal Year 1995. These grants were fully-funded or co-funded with an institute. In FY

1996, the OBSSR is focusing its support on basic behavioral and social sciences research. "Peer-reviewed grants that were highly rated but missed the payline will be considered," Anderson said.

Increasing Behavioral and Social Science Visibility in the NIH Community

The OBSSR has both organized and participated in several activities designed to highlight discoveries in the behavioral and social sciences. Two examples include: sponsoring in conjunction with the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Coordinating Committee, (formerly the Health and Behavior Coordinating Committee) a seminar series that brings to NIH some of the top behavioral and social scientists; and coordinating monthly briefings for NIH Director Harold Varmus where individual behavioral and social scientists discuss their research in an informal setting.

To increase the visible presence of behavioral and social sciences research in the vibrant intellectual community on the NIH campus, the OBSSR is planning three major scientific conferences that will be held there. The conferences will focus on (1) the science of self-report, (2) the contributions of basic behavioral and social sciences research to prevention, and (3) the task of facilitating collaborations between behavioral and social and biomedical researchers in the oral health field.

For more information contact the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research, Building 1, Room 326, NIH, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892. Telephone: (301) 402-1146.

CONGRESS TO FINISH SPENDING BILLS

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agreements as the basis for incorporating them into a CR that will probably last the entire fiscal year. Negotiations between the Congress and the White House will have to occur for those bills that do not make it through the conference stage of the process.

In addition, President Clinton has sent up a supplemental appropriation request to fund his airport

anti-terrorist measures and for increased disaster relief funds. The Republican congressional leadership has noted that these increases in funds would need corresponding offsets. How the increases are paid for could threaten some of the funding decisions already made.

Some non-appropriations bills that are currently in conference may make it into law. These include an overhaul of the job training system, immigration reform, and changing the nation's public housing programs into a block grant. Again, time is short and agreements may be difficult to reach.

SENATE PASSES NSF BILL

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bill by the full House. The bill that emerged from the House appropriations committee had the full request of \$134 million. The argument in the House for reducing the size of the S&E account was tied to the House Science Committee's authorization bill that included the provision calling for the elimination of one NSF directorate (see *Update*, June 10).

NSF's final FY 1997 appropriation may be affected by factors outside the narrow discussion of specific House-Senate differences on the Foundation. Total available funding for all the agencies in the bill, including NASA, HUD, EPA, and others, may impact NSF. The conferees will meet the week of September 16 to ratify decisions that will be reached by the key actors, the chairs of the respective subcommittees, Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) and Sen. Christopher 'Kit' Bond (R-MO) and their ranking members, Rep. Louis Stokes (D-OH) and Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD). The Republican Congressional leadership, as they did last year, will also have some say in the final outcome.

NSF'S PETERSEN FETED AT FAREWELL

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Anne Petersen, Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation, was honored at an August 22 farewell reception sponsored by COSSA, the American Psychological Association, and the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences.

Over 80 people came to say thank you for Petersen's help in steering NSF through rough waters during the past two years. The first female to hold one of the top two positions at NSF, Petersen noted that she anticipated that her job as the Chief Operating Officer would be a challenge, but she did not expect the contentiousness of some of the battles.

Perhaps, the most difficult was the conflict with the House Science Committee to eliminate the SBE directorate. In brief remarks, COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver, Federation Director David Johnson, and APA Deputy Director for Science Christine Hartel, all expressed the scientific community's appreciation for NSF's resistance to congressional admonitions to eliminate the directorate. They thanked Petersen for her leadership in this dispute and for her commitment to making the SBE sciences an integral part of NSF. They also acknowledged the departing deputy director for her support of the Human Capital Initiative and the Learning and Intelligence Systems Initiative, two innovative research programs for social and behavioral scientists now in NSF's portfolio. In addition to the SBE situation, during Petersen's tenure NSF faced threatened budget reductions, reinventing government requirements, compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act, and other difficult tasks that required strong leadership from the Foundation's top level managers.

Petersen will join the Kellogg Foundation on September 16, as the Senior Vice President for Programs. NSF Director Neal Lane has announced that Joseph Bordogna, Assistant Director for the Engineering Directorate, will serve as Acting Deputy Director until the White House names and the Senate confirms Petersen's replacement. Bordogna has worked quite closely with Cora Marrett, Assistant Director for SBE, on a number of important projects during their tenures at NSF.

NEWS BRIEFS MB

NSF AWARDS GLOBAL CHANGE GRANTS

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced that six research centers, assisted by \$16.8 million from NSF, will study the human dimensions of global change.

According to program director Cheryl Eavey, the research teams will examine the interactions of factors such as population change, political and economic shifts, public health, and technological advances. "By combining research in the natural and social sciences, we hope to discover ways to better predict the impact of changes on populations and their environment," she said.

The six new grantees are: Indiana University, Carnegie Mellon University, Harvard University (in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, and Duke), Pennsylvania State University (along with University of Arizona), and the National Bureau of Economic Research (working with Yale).

For more information contact (703) 306-1729

MEETING TO DISCUSS FEDERAL STATISTICS

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) will host a seminar, Statistical Methodology

in the Public Service, November 12-13 in Bethesda, MD.

The conference will focus on topics contained in the Statistical Policy Working Paper series developed under the auspices of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, and will examine issues such as: electronic dissemination of federal data, data sharing among federal agencies, the use of administrative records, revising economic classification, and training of federal statisticians.

For more information, contact COPAFS at (703) 836-0404.

GEOGRAPHERS HONOR VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Vice President Al Gore was awarded the Planet and Humanity Medal by the International Geographic Union (IGU) at its conference in the Hague, Netherlands. Thomas Wilbanks, chair of the American delegation, accepted the award on Mr. Gore's behalf.

Gore was awarded the medal for his leadership in "promoting attention to the health of global environment at the highest levels of government, for his sponsorship of the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program, and for his leadership in developing the National Information Infrastructure." The IGU also cited his best-selling book, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*, and his role as chair of the U.S. Senate

delegation to the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit.

For more information on the award and the IGU, contact the Association of American Geographers at (202) 234-1450.

ARCHIVES PUBLISHES GUIDE TO HOLDINGS

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently published an updated and expanded edition of the three-volume *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States*. This new edition supersedes the 1974 edition and its 1987 reprint.

For information contact NARA at (800) 234-8861 or <http://www.nara.gov>

PEACE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES GRANTS

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has announced its 1997 Solicited Grants competition.

The awards will examine topics such as post-settlement peacebuilding, negotiation and mediation, and regional security.

USIP is an independent, nonpartisan institution created and funded by Congress to promote research, education, and training on the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

Applications are due January 2, 1997. For more information, contact USIP at (202) 429-3842.

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Socio-Economics
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
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Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association

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