

NSF GIVEN 6.6 PERCENT INCREASE BY HOUSE PANEL

The House VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA), met on June 25 to make its recommendations on funding for FY 1998 for the agencies under its jurisdiction. The subcommittee provided the National Science Foundation (NSF) with a total of \$3.487 billion, a significant 6.6 percent increase over FY 1997 funding. As the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) and other science groups had sought increases in the 7 percent range, the vote was well-received in the science community.

The subcommittee's allocation for NSF was \$120 million above the 3 percent increase sought by the administration. For the Research and Related Activities account, the increase recommended by the subcommittee was \$105.7 million or 4.3 percent above last year, to a total of \$2.537.7 billion. The subcommittee expressed its support for the Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence initiative, NSF's major new cross-directorate research program.

For the Education and Human Resources Directorate, the recommendation was \$632.5 million, \$13.5 million or 2.2 percent above last year's funding level and \$7 million more than the request. The subcommittee directed NSF to spend \$5 million of the increase for graduate education for minority students and \$2 million to augment the Advanced Technology Education program that provides assistance for science and technology learning at two year colleges. In this Directorate, the subcommittee also declared its support for the Alliances for Minority Participation and the Summer Science Camps programs. It also encouraged increased support for Mathematics and Science Teacher Education.

The subcommittee provided full funding for rebuilding the South Pole Station in the Major Research Equipment account. The Salaries and

Expenses account was funded at the administration's requested level of \$137 million, a slight 2 percent increase over last year.

HUD Policy Research

In the same bill, the subcommittee provided the Office of Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development an allocation of \$39 million. This \$5 million increase over last year includes funding to support evaluations of the new welfare reform bill, as well as studies of new building technologies.

The full House appropriations committee is expected to consider the bill on July 8, with action anticipated for the House floor the week of July 14. On the Senate side, the VA, HUD, IA appropriations subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Christopher 'Kit' Bond (R-MO) is tentatively scheduled to mark up its bill the week of July 14. In addition, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT), hopes to report out a NSF reauthorization bill the first week of July.

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WANTS TO CLOSE WILSON CENTER

The House Appropriations committee voted on June 26 to end federal funding for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. It provided \$1 million in the FY 1998 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill to the Center for "close out costs." The Center received \$5.8 million in FY 1997.

The Center provides funding for about 35 Fellows each year to pursue research and writing at its location in Washington. It also holds conferences and produces publications, including the *Wilson Quarterly*. The federal government supports about half of the Center's budget. The complaint from the House is that the scholars did not focus enough on current public policy issues. The chairman of the Interior appropriations subcommittee, Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH) has been quoted as suggesting that the products of the research are "never read by anyone, but the author." The subcommittee also cited a National Academy of Public Administration evaluation of the Center that suggested problems with its operations.

In other actions, the committee voted to fund the National Endowment for the Humanities at the same level, \$110 million, as it received in FY 1997, but

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\$26 million below the administration's request. The Smithsonian Institution received \$388 million, a \$17 million increase over last year. The Institute of Museum and Library Services received a \$1 million increase to \$23 million. This account provides some support for college libraries, previously funded by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

In its most controversial action, the committee voted to provide the National Endowment for the Arts \$10 million, on the assumption that this would provide funding to close the agency. A battle on the House floor is expected, with the threat of a presidential veto looming. The Endowment received \$99 million last year, and the House Republican leadership has vowed to eliminate it. In mid-July the Senate appropriations subcommittee will weigh in with its recommendations on these agencies.

CRIME PREVENTION REPORT HIGHLIGHTED IN HOUSE HEARING

As part of a June 24 House hearing on the efficacy of federal drug and violence prevention efforts, a leading criminologist summarized the findings of a University of Maryland report evaluating the success and failure of these programs.

Lawrence Sherman, Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and main author of the study, testified before the Committee on Education and the Workforce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, and outlined three key findings:

1. **Most Crime Prevention Funds are Being Spent in Low-Risk Areas.** Noting that half of all homicides in the U.S. occur in the 63 largest cities, Sherman said that federal funds are mismatched. "Put bluntly, the formulas put violence prevention funding where the votes are, not where the violence is . . . only formulas identifying high-violence census tracts can reasonably assure that the funds are spent where they are needed the most."

2. **Most Crime Prevention Programs Are of Unknown Effectiveness.** Sherman said that criminologists and federal agencies differ on their

standards, commenting that "what many federal agencies fund and publish are merely program descriptions, or tallies of how many people have been served by a program." He called upon Congress to include a ten percent set-aside to fund evaluations of programs established by federal crime and drug prevention legislation. Sherman said that the National Institute of Justice is well-qualified to carry out scientifically-rigorous evaluations.

3. Some of the Least Effective Programs Receive the Most Federal Funds. Citing the work of co-author Denise Gottfredson, Sherman said that the largest federal effort, D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is "ineffective as it is most commonly implemented" while other less-supported programs work well. Students are more affected by how the school is run, than by what teachers say in the classroom, he said. What works: clear, consistently enforced rules, positive reinforcement of good conduct, anti-bullying campaigns, and self-control and problem-solving skills instruction. What doesn't work: peer-group counseling, fear-based instruction, such as "Scared Straight," and recreation and community-service programs aimed to prevent substance abuse. Sherman said that Head Start home visitation programs have been found to "extremely effective" but under-funded and scarce.

Panel member Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) praised Sherman's work, commenting "we spent a lot of money on criminal justice, but spend little time figuring out what works."

For a copy of the report, *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising*, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at (800) 851-3420.

LEGISLATION MERGES USIA INTO STATE DEPARTMENT

The State Department authorization bill that has emerged from both the House and Senate (H.R. 1757, S. 903) provides for the abolition of the United States Information Agency (USIA) and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) and the consolidation of their programs into the State Department. Both Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY)

and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), the respective heads of the foreign affairs panels in the Congress had sought this streamlining. Although the administration resisted at first, they agreed to go along in exchange for the chairmen's support for repaying some of the dues the U.S. owes the United Nations.

Both bills leave the final disposition of the programs from the two agencies to a reorganization plan the administration must submit to the Congress. ACDA will fold into the State Department on October 1, 1998. USIA will follow a year later.

Currently USIA has six task forces examining how the merger will occur. One of the task forces is looking at the future of the educational exchange programs sponsored by USIA as part of its public diplomacy activities. It is assumed they will be placed under a newly mandated State Department Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy. The House bill had a provision for an Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, but that did not survive. The task force is supposed to complete its work by mid-July.

There are some differences in the two bills that need to be worked out in a House-Senate conference committee, including the fate of programs from the Agency for International Development, but it appears that a streamlined U.S. public diplomacy effort is on its way.

SENATE HEARING LOOKS AT ETHICS OF CLONING

"As a scientist, I have grave moral concerns regarding the Commission's [National Bioethics Advisory Commission] inability to substantively address the ethical issues surrounding cloning," declared Senator Bill Frist (R-TN) and chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety. Frist noted his concern while chairing a recent hearing, *Ethics and Theology: A Continuation of the National Discussion on Human Cloning*. "Our task as citizens is to exercise responsible stewardship of the precious gift of life," he said at the outset of the hearing, which heard testimony from experts in this area.

"Safety is a fundamental ethical consideration. It is not merely a scientific consideration." said University of Virginia Professor of Religious Studies and Professor of Medical Education and National Bioethics Advisory Commission member James F. Childress. Childress emphasized that "other important ethical considerations arise from the prospect of human cloning, and these require careful and thoughtful reflection over time so that society will be ready to respond appropriately to human cloning if the technique appears to be safe."

"It may instructive to point out that the Catholic Intellectual tradition sees no conflict between science and religion," said Richard Haas, President of the Pope John Center for the Study of Ethics in Health Care. "[T]he discussion regarding cloning will help define our societal understanding of the very nature of human life." Concluding his testimony, Haas quoted the Archbishop of Philadelphia, Anthony Bevilacqua: "We are all aware of things that we can do, but for the sake of morality ought not do. Science is not exempt from that same obligation."

Summarizing a wide a range of opinions of scholars of Islamic law and theology, University of Virginia Professor of Religious Studies Abdulaziz Sachedina, noted that "at the center of the ethical debate about cloning in Islam is the question of the ways in which cloning might affect familial relationships and responsibilities . . . Islam regards interpersonal relationships as fundamental to human religious life," Sachedina urged the subcommittee to "look at the research from a broader global perspective to formulate its recommendations." He said "there is a consensus to look into prioritization of our national resources to achieve fair distribution of health care resources in country. From a standpoint of our moral commitment to the principle of distributive justice, it will be hard to justify a heavy investment in embryonic research related to animal cloning without addressing some immediate and serious problems of poverty in our own backyard."

Ezekiel J. Emanuel, Associate Professor of Medical Ethics and Medicine at Harvard Medical School and also an NBAC member, noted that the Commission did not focus on the issue of the creation of embryos for research. "While the creation of

embryos for research raises serious ethical issues, . . . the unique and distinctive ethical issue raised by Dolly and the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology to create human beings are unrelated to the use of embryos." Emanuel emphasized that NBAC "believed that at this time somatic cell nuclear transfer to create a human being is unethical not only because of the physical harms," but that "many of the arguments raised against cloning are serious and express the worries of many Americans . . . [further] articulation and deeper exploration of these ethical concerns is necessary."

Human Narcissism Will Lead to Abuses

"A permanent ban on human cloning while morally correct will not prevent uses and abuses of this technique," argued Georgetown University Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics Edmund D. Pellegrino. "Human narcissism and commercial advantage suggest that humans will be cloned. Legislation cannot assure that citizens will act morally. What it can do is restrain an inherently immoral practice, refuse social legitimation, and provide legal recourse for children harmed," he concluded.

John Robertson, a professor at the University of Texas School of Law, noted that an essential part of the debate on human cloning "is the recognition that cloning could serve important reproduction needs." A closer, more considered look at the debate, continued Robertson, "reveals that the most likely uses of human cloning would be by married couples who are infertile or at risk for severe genetic disease who want to rear healthy, biologically-related children." Too little attention has been given to this area, he emphasized. "At this early stage in the development of cloning . . . it is essential to continue the debate about potential uses and harms of cloning . . . and not hastily enact legislation."

HHS OFFICIAL DISCUSSES HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH

William Raub, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science Policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recently briefed the Professional Society Ethics Group on the work of the

presidentially-appointed National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC). He said that while the Commission is presently "preoccupied" with the issue of cloning, it does have a broader mandate.

According to Raub, NBAC's charter lays out two themes: (1) assessing mechanisms to protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects, and (2) analyzing issues related to the management and use of genetic information.

Protection of Human Subjects

A major question of the White House and NBAC is the "state of play" regarding the "common rule" used by the agencies and departments for the protection of human subjects. Noting that there currently exists a hierarchical arrangement of the entities established to protect human subjects, including, Institutional Review Boards, funding agencies and regulatory entities, Raub emphasized that what is absent is the "capstone" — some continuous group that looks at issues such as these on a multi-year basis. That group would provide guidance and critiques. Many are looking at the Commission to perform this role, he said.

The Commission, Raub said, should look at the systems, processes and outcomes to answer the overarching question: "Is it working?" Acknowledging that while there have been individual instances with unacceptable lapses in human subject protection in research, he emphasized that the role of NBAC would be to understand the nature of the systems and make the common rule better. He further emphasized that the Commission is mindful of its charge and was not created to deal with specific projects. Its charter is to deal with "crosscutting issues and policy interpretation," he said. The Commission would issue a report on the state of human protection in the fall.

Genetic Testing

Raub noted that NBAC would also look at the issues surrounding genetic testing, specifically those issues dealing with privacy and discrimination. There are also questions surrounding the genetic testing of stored tissue samples, according to Raub. If there was informed consent in the gathering of the tissue — what does that informed consent mean?

What are the future risks? Many, said Raub, "argue that nothing short of a new informed consent should be used."

Raub explained that NBAC, established by President Clinton in October 1995, and initially designed to dissolve after two years, did not hold its first meeting until October 1996. In President Clinton's proposed Cloning Prohibition Act of 1997, NBAC's charter would be extended beyond 1999.

The President's legislation, Raub said, designed to implement the Commission recommendations, would require "further review of the state of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology and the ethical and social issues attendant to its potential use to create human beings." The legislation assigns the responsibility for the review to NBAC to be completed in the fifth year after enactment.

Currently, the Commission has a staff of eight and is looking to expand in FY 1999 with individuals who could perform independent research and analysis with the support of the Commission. Its budget for FY 1998 is \$1.6 million, raised from a combination of sources. The largest contributor is the National Institutes of Health. Other agencies providing support include: the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research; the Food and Drug Administration; the Veterans Administration; the Departments of Defense, Energy and Agriculture, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation. All of these fund research on human subjects.

For more information contact: National Bioethics Advisory Commission, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Suite 3C01, Rockville, MD 20892-7508; Tel: 301/402-4242; Fax: 301/480-6900.

HHS TO HOLD HEAD START CONFERENCE

The Department of Health and Human Service's Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, in collaboration with the Columbia University School of Public Health, announces a call for presentations for a July 1998 conference, *Children and Families in an*

Era of Rapid Change, to be held in Washington, D.C.

The meeting will seek to create a shared agenda for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. For more information, contact Faith Lamb Parker of Columbia at FLP1@columbia.edu or (212) 304-5251. Abstracts must be postmarked by September 2, 1997.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AT CHILD HEALTH INSTITUTE

To address what was termed a "perplexing decline" in the number of investigator-initiated grants in developmental psychology, University of California, Berkeley Psychology Professor Joseph Campos presented an overview of *Progress and Promises in the Behavioral Sciences* at the recent National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) advisory council meeting.

The report discussed the results of a workshop convened by NICHD to deal with the paradox in the behavioral sciences as they related to the Institute. In the 1970s, Campos said NICHD funded a "revolution in behavioral science, particularly in the area of early development." There was a "gold rush" in funding for research on the origins of the human infant, and the "research was replicable and fascinating," he declared. The "fruits of that research" advanced "our understanding of the competencies infants and young children brought into the world with them" and left behind "a powerful legacy of behavioral research."

The paradox, according to Campos, can be seen when one looks at the publications coming out in major research journals. Behavioral research citations have gone down from a high of 80 percent in the 1970s to approximately 45 percent today. Investigator-initiated grants in developmental psychology have declined from 210 to 55 in the same time period, he added. Campos noted that many researchers have expressed dissatisfaction and are discouraged from submitting proposals because they believe NICHD is not funding them. "These two declines have been perplexing, and have raised issues about how NICHD can best identify and encourage new and important research ventures in developmental psychology, how to prevent withering

of support for important lines of work, and how to address growing disillusionment about support of behavioral sciences research within NICHD," he said.

While representatives from sociology, education and medicine attended this workshop, it was decided to focus on issues in developmental psychology, "with related issues principally affecting other behavioral sciences to be dealt with in future meetings," said Campos.

Recommendations for Improvement

The workshop's recommendations encompassed training issues, conceptual and methodological advances, coordinated science, and communication. These included: increasing the level of pre-and post-doctoral research training; supporting cross-disciplinary training mechanisms; offering workshops more specifically targeted at mentoring of new/young investigators; fostering important and exciting conceptual and methodological advances, such as obtaining data and producing atlases on early neuroanatomy and functional imaging of the brain; developing better and more precise methods of conducting naturalistic and ethnographic research on animals or humans; encouraging training in methods of secondary data analyses of existing data sets; and supporting investigations into ecological problems facing children in contemporary society to understand the upsurge of poverty among children in the U.S., the consequences of family forms other than the typical nuclear family, and the impact of technology, especially the consequences for children without full access to it because of adverse family economic circumstances.

The group also recommended semi-annual meetings with the Director and other NICHD professionals to exchange information and provide opportunities for input from behavioral scientists.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention invites eligible applicants to submit proposals for four program areas:

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Juvenile Justice Programs will examine how the use of cost-benefit analysis can inform and focus policy with regard to the disposition of juveniles adjudicated for a delinquent offense (such as probation versus residential custody). It will seek to provide a basis for formulating a consensus concerning how to measure costs and benefits of juvenile probation, detention, and corrections.

One award up to \$100,000 will be made for the initial 12-month budget period. Contact: Joe Moone, (202) 616-3643.

Evaluation of Teen Courts will evaluate the effectiveness of the teen court model as an alternative to the judicial mechanisms through which juvenile offenders are typically processed. It will assess the effectiveness of teen court programs for individual participants and the benefits that local communities derive from the programs.

One award up to \$100,000 will be made for the initial 12-month budget period. Contact: Eric Peterson, (202) 616-3644.

Sex Offender Typology will identify a typology of juvenile sex offenders and examine the different treatment needs of the heterogeneous juvenile sex offender population. The typology will clarify differences between subgroups of offenders and serve as a guide for comprehensive decision making in individual cases, thus facilitating identification of the appropriate treatment or detention strategy.

One award up to \$100,000 will be made for the initial 6-month budget period. Contact: Betty Chemers, (202) 307-3677.

Survey of School-Based Gang Prevention and Intervention Programs will assesses existing programs and identify promising or effective models for national demonstration, evaluation, replication, and/or dissemination. It seeks to develop and implement a survey instrument to solicit, from a representative cross section of the nation's schools, a description of school-based gang prevention and intervention programs.

One award up to \$100,000 will be made for the initial 18-month budget period. Contact: D. Elen Grigg, (202) 616-3651.

To obtain application materials: Contact the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at (800) 638-8736 and ask for the FY 1997 OJJDP Discretionary Competitive Program Announcement and Application Kit. E-mail is askncjrs@ncjrs.org or www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.htm

Deadline: August 11, 1997

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