

NSF APPROPRIATION BILLS MOVE TO CONFERENCE: ATTEMPT TO CUT RESEARCH DEFEATED IN HOUSE *HS*

The House and Senate are now on their annual August recess. The Senate will return on August 31 and the House on September 8. Looming in September are potential confrontations between Congress and the White House on many of the appropriations bills. At the moment, none of the 13 bills to fund government agencies and programs in FY 1999 (which begins October 1, 1998) have been signed into law. The President has issued veto threats on 7 of them, including the VA, HUD and Commerce, Justice, State bills described below. On top of all this, the Starr investigation may provide further fireworks in the coming months.

After a nearly two week off-and-on debate, the House of Representatives passed its version of the VA, HUD Independent Agencies appropriations bill on July 29. Earlier, on July 17, the Senate agreed to its version. Both bills include FY 1999 funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), \$3.697 billion from the House and \$3.644 billion from the Senate. The House number is 8 percent above last year, while the Senate number represents a 6.3 percent increase.

For the Research and Related Activities Account, the House provided \$2.815 billion, an 11 percent increase over last year. The Senate increase is 7 percent to \$2.725 billion. The House increase includes the \$70 million provided by the appropriations committee in the amendment sponsored by Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) (See *UPDATE*, June 29). On the House floor, NSF supporters defeated an amendment offered by Representatives Mark Sanford (R-SC) and Ed Royce (R-CA) to reduce research funding by \$270 million, which would have negated any increase from FY 1998 to 1999.

Sanford expressed his unhappiness with the Foundation for supporting frivolous research during the debate on the NSF authorization bill. As others had done in the past, Sanford and Royce latched on

to grant titles funding research they thought wasted taxpayers' money. Their effort gained support from Citizens Against Government Waste, an anti-federal spending group, that thought they had discovered NSF grants for studies of ATMS, cheap talk, truck routing, billiards, jokes, and other "silly" things.

Yet, as Representatives Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), Vern Ehlers (R-MI) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), pointed out, the amendment sponsors and their supporters, had not done a very good job of understanding what these grants were about. The ATM research did not study bank machines, but Asynchronous Transfer Modes, a computer technology to promote very high speed computer networks. Billiard research was not about the game of pool, but how atomic particles carom off each other, useful for understanding airflow around airplanes. Cheap talk refers to the cost of information in an economic model and has implications for electronic commerce. The study of how best to route trucks extended the "traveling salesman" problem of finding the shortest possible route between two cities without visiting the same city twice and helps develop powerful new mathematical optimization algorithms.

"A Little Learning is a Dangerous Thing"

As Boehlert noted: "This amendment is a product of faulty research . . . a little learning is a dangerous thing. . . let us not make the mistake of judging a grant by its title." Representative George

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Brown (D-CA) cited earlier studies that were scoffed at, including one on the "sex life of the screw worm," whose results had great impact on the Texas cattle industry. He declared that these examples indicate "why one needs to look beyond the titles themselves to the content of the research in order to have some understanding of what its importance is." Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) also spoke on NSF's behalf.

Representative Mark Foley (R-FL) complained about a study of "dirty jokes" and how the Assistant Director of the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences at NSF had sent him a letter justifying the study. This research, funded by the Social Psychology program, investigates the uses of humor, often ethnic and gender related, in a social context to study stereotyping, prejudice, and perpetuation of negative images.

Representative Jerry Lewis, Chairman of the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, made it very clear to his colleagues in the House that this amendment should be defeated. He called the NSF "among the committee's and the Congress' very high priorities" He noted that "items funded by NSF come under very serious review" by independent reviewers "each of whom has expertise in his or her field."

The amendment was defeated by voice vote. The bill passed. The debate in the Senate went much

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smoother with regard to NSF. With the August recess upon us, the House-Senate conference to reconcile differences between the two bills (see chart on p. 7) will take place in September. One possible danger for sustaining the NSF increase is the need to find dollars to fund the AmeriCorps program. There are no funds in the House bill for it. Without continuation of AmeriCorps, the whole VA, HUD bill will be on the President's veto list.

SENATE CONFIRMS LANE FOR OSTP DIRECTOR

After months of delay, on July 31 right before the Senate left town for the August recess, it confirmed Neal Lane as the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). This ends an awkward situation, where Lane's successor as head of the National Science Foundation, Rita Colwell, had been confirmed by the Senate weeks earlier but could not take office because Lane had not yet received Senate approval for his new position.

Lane replaces John Gibbons, who left earlier in the year after 5 years as head of OSTP. A day earlier, the Senate confirmed Rosina Bierbaum as the Associate Director for Environment. Bierbaum was one of the former Office of Technology Assessment staffers Gibbons brought with him when he moved to OSTP in 1993. She became Assistant Director for the Environment in 1996 and had been Acting Associate Director since Bob Watson left to join the World Bank.

After threatening the administration with non-cooperation on nominees, Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) decided to break a logjam and allow the Senate to confirm over 50 Clinton nominees.

HOUSE PASSES CJS FUNDING BILL; PROVIDES ONLY SIX MONTHS OF FUNDS FOR CENSUS BUREAU

In the early morning hours of August 6, the House passed the \$34 billion Commerce, Justice, State, and The Judiciary appropriations bill by a vote of 225-203. The bill provides \$952 million for the Bureau of the Census's preparations for the 2000

Census, but places a six-month cap on the funds (See *UPDATE*, July 27). Earlier, on the afternoon of August 5, the House voted down an amendment that would have reversed the contentious funding-cap language and provided the Census Bureau with its entire funding.

As the bill stands, Congress will only provide the Census Bureau with funds until March 1999 (\$456 million), at which time a decision must be made on whether statistical sampling will be used in the 2000 Census. An amendment offered by West Virginia Democrat Alan Mollohan attempted to delete the bill's funding-cap language, but it was voted down on mostly a party line vote of 201-227. The amendment also would have required the Census Bureau to continue planning for census without sampling until the Supreme Court rules on two pending challenges to the use of sampling in the upcoming census. In addition, it would have directed the National Academy of Sciences to determine whether the Census Bureau's plan for 2000 is the most feasible way to produce an accurate census. The vote on the Mollohan amendment sets the stage for a showdown between Republicans and President Clinton, who supports the use of statistical sampling in the next census.

Can You Trust the White House?

Republicans turned the debate over the Mollohan amendment into one of trust. Republican opponents continually asked how they could trust President Clinton with the sampling issue, especially given "FBIgate" and "Travelgate." Republicans also argued that the use of statistical sampling is unconstitutional since the Constitution calls for an "actual enumeration." In addition, Republicans argued that sampling is a form of polling, which is often wrong.

Arguing against the Mollohan amendment and the use of sampling, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (GA), said: "Don't ask the people of the United States to rely on politicians to control pollsters to count virtual citizens." Representative Dan Miller (R-FL), chairman of the House Oversight Subcommittee on the Census and a vociferous opponent of the use of statistical sampling in the upcoming census, decried the use of statistical sampling in the upcoming census. He likened statistical sampling to polling and also raised the issue of trust. He said: "The American people are

not going to trust polling." He noted that sampling would create virtual populations through "cloning techniques." Miller did, however, praise the Census Bureau for its paid advertising program. Majority Whip Tom Delay (R-TX) said Congress "needs to stop this polling madness."

Several Democrats spoke in support of the Mollohan amendment and the use of statistical sampling. Democratic supporters noted that traditional head counting alone will not do an adequate job. They continually noted that the 1990 Census was the first census in history to be less accurate than the previous census.

Representative Tom Sawyer (D-OH) noted that the National Academy of Sciences and many other "highly esteemed organizations," including COSSA, support the use of sampling in the 2000 census. Representative Carrie P. Meek (D-FL) argued in support of sampling and said that it would help address the undercount, particularly the undercount among the minority populations. Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) noted that the "traditional methods do not work" and that Republicans are not concerned about the population undercount and have done nothing to address the problem.

The bill is now headed to a conference committee with the Senate, which has remained silent on the sampling issue. The White House vows to veto the bill if the prohibition against sampling remains.

ADOLESCENT HEALTH DISCUSSED AT COSSA CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR *DH*

COSSA's 1998 congressional breakfast seminar series came to an end on July 17th with nearly 80 people gathered to hear four social scientists discuss findings and results from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (ADDHEALTH). Among the audience members were Representatives Ben Gilman (R-NY) and David Price (D-NC). The seminar speakers included Peter Bearman, Professor of Sociology at Columbia University; Kathleen Mullan Harris, Professor and Associate Chair of the Sociology Department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; James Jaccard, Professor of Psychology at the University of Albany, State University of New York; and J. Richard Udry, Kenan

Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

After a brief welcome by COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver, Udry, the study's principal investigator, discussed some background of the study and described the research design. Udry noted that the ADDHEALTH study was mandated to the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) by Congress in the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993. ADDHEALTH, according to Udry, "is a study of a nationally representative sample of adolescents from grades 7 through 12 in the United States," designed to "explain the causes of adolescent health and health behavior." He further noted that ADDHEALTH covers "all the main health conditions and health behaviors of current concern," including: depression, eating disorders, violent behavior, and drug, tobacco, and alcohol use. Udry explained, though, that much of the research effort is focused on risk behaviors, because "the main determinant of poor health among adolescents is their behaviors."

Udry proceeded to discuss the study's research design. He noted that ADDHEALTH survey has been conducted in three phases. The first phase included selecting a random sample of 80 high schools throughout the study, from which 90,000 students from grades 7 through 12 were given in-school questionnaires to provide information about themselves and their "friendship networks and to measure a variety of health conditions." In addition, Udry noted that roughly 140 school administrators were given questionnaires. During the second phase, researchers conducted in-home interviews with approximately 16,000 students and their parents. Finally, the researchers repeated the in-home interviews a year after the first in-home interview. He noted that from the in-school interviews, researchers "built a large number of special samples," including samples for black, Puerto Rican, Chinese, and Cuban adolescent respondents.

Avoiding Teen Pregnancy

James Jaccard followed Udry and focused his discussion on unintended teen pregnancy, which he said has "tremendous social, emotional, and economic costs." Jaccard noted that for the last ten years he has been developing family-based approaches that promote communications between parents and their children to address the problem of

unintended teen pregnancies. He mentioned several advantages to the family-based approach, saying that "messages given to adolescents can be done in the context of the moral values and the moral codes of the family's values." Also, unlike school-based programs, parents can tailor their communications to the maturity level of their children.

Jaccard said that even if parents cannot provide technical information to their children, they can serve as a motivational force for their children. In fact, he said that the notion that parents have little, if any, impact on the actions of their teenage children is wrong. ADDHEALTH data show that parents do indeed have an effect on their children's behaviors, he said.

Despite ADDHEALTH evidence that parents "do make a difference," Jaccard said that "all is not rosy." The ADDHEALTH data, for example, show a "tendency for parents to underestimate the sexual activity of their children." Thus, Jaccard noted that "we need to strengthen communications between parents and adolescents." He said that "we need to develop ways of teaching parents how to effectively communicate with their children on these [sexual] matters." And, "we need to understand better why parents do not always talk to their kids."

School Attachment/Sexual Networks

Peter Bearman focused his discussion on two projects that he has been working on: 1) school attachment (how kids feel about their school on multiple dimensions); and 2) the structure of sexual networks among adolescents.

Bearman first discussed school attachment. He noted at the outset that school attachment "is important for school success." The ADDHEALTH data that he has analyzed shows that "as racial heterogeneity increases, school attachment decreases." He cautioned, though, that his research results should not be interpreted as an argument for racially segregated schools. He said that schools can take steps to increase school attachment, such "integration of extracurricular activities to organize social relations of black students and white students."

Bearman next discussed the research he has conducted on adolescent sexual networks. One analysis that he discussed centered on "Jefferson

High School," an all white, rural school of 850 students. Using the extensive interview data, Bearman constructed a complete structure of all romantic and sexual relations at the high school. He found that 531 of the 850 students "are in some form of relationship with another student in the school." He added that "286 students are tied together in a long string by sexual or romantic relationships." Bearman noted that the structure of the relationship of the students at Jefferson High School is "really designed for extremely efficient and extremely widespread transmission of sexually transmitted diseases." The structure, however, according to Bearman, is very fragile — use of contraceptives or abstinence by just a few students can "break apart" the whole structure.

Bearman cautioned that the sexual network study was based on only one school. Thus, he said it was "hard to know how generalizable it is." He said, however, that "if it is generalizable, we'll have radical implications for how we think about intervention."

Father Involvement/Immigrant Adolescents

Kathleen Mullan Harris was the seminar's last speaker. Like Bearman, she focused her discussion on two projects. The first project she discussed examined the impact of "family structure and father involvement on risk behavior among adolescents." The study, Harris noted, examined the patterns of fathering involvement of resident biological fathers and non-resident biological fathers in 20,745 families. The study considered adolescent risk behavior with respect to several different types of family structures, including: two biological parents, biological mother/step father, biological father/step mother, two step parents, single mom, single dad, and other.

The ADDHEALTH data, according to Harris, indicate a general pattern that "adolescents in two biological parent families are least likely to engage in risk behavior, while adolescents in single father families are most likely." This pattern is particularly noticeable, according to Harris, with regard to: adolescents having sex, and adolescents using 3 or more substances (cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, chewing tobacco, and hard drugs). She noted that high father involvement can protect youth from engaging in risk behavior. This is true, Harris said, for both resident and non-resident fathers'

involvement, even though the effects "are not as strong" for non-resident, highly involved fathers.

Harris proceeded to discuss a study she is conducting that examines the health status and risk behaviors of adolescents in immigrant families. The ADDHEALTH data, according to Harris, indicate that "the longer the time spent in the U.S. or the younger the age that immigrant children arrive in the U.S. the greater the number of health problems they experience." She said that this is also true for risk behaviors (sexual behavior, juvenile delinquency, violent behavior, substance abuse). The longer the time spent in the U.S., the "greater the socialization in American schools and neighborhoods, the greater the likelihood that immigrant children will engage in risk behavior."

Copies of the full transcripts of the Adolescent Health seminar will be available in the Fall. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, contact COSSA.

ANNUAL NIJ CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON COLLABORATION

DH

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) recently held its annual research conference from July 26 through July 29. The title of the four day conference was "Viewing Crime and Justice from a Collaborative Perspective." As noted by National Institute of Justice Director Jeremy Travis, Bureau of Justice Assistance Director Nancy Gist, and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Administrator Shay Bilchik, "By 'viewing crime and justice from a collaborative perspective,' resources can be targeted more efficiently and effectively to fight crime, drugs, and violence."

Travis welcomed the audience of nearly 850. He noted that he was extremely pleased that registration for the conference had increased from the previous year and that the registrants included a good mix of researchers and practitioners.

Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), opened her remarks by stating that the conference was designed to close the gap between researchers and practitioners. She stressed the importance of collaboration, which paves the way for "large scale studies." She said, though,

that the DOJ must do a better job promoting collaboration between researchers and "often overlooked officials, including elected prosecutors and judges." There are "a host of areas," Robinson explained, that need to be further researched, including probation, the link between alcohol and crime, alcohol abuse and battering, understanding sex offenders, and the juvenile justice adjudicatory system.

Among the many highlights from the conference:

- Joan McCord, Professor in the Department of Criminology, Temple University, Co-Chair of the National Research Council's Panel on Juvenile Crime: Prevention Treatment, and Control (See *UPDATE*, June 29), spoke about research she is currently conducting and analyzing on co-offending, or the presence of accomplices when one commits a crime. During her presentation, entitled "Coming Together for Crime," McCord noted that co-offending among violent youth tends to lead to an increase in subsequent violence. In addition, she found that crimes committed with others tends to be more violent. Her study is centered on youth in Philadelphia.
- Edmund McGarrell, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Justice at Indiana University, spoke on "Effects of Directed Patrol on Crime and the Community." His discussion focused on research he conducted in which the Indianapolis Police Department attempted to build on the Kansas City Gun Experiment (Sherman, et al.) that focused on removing illegally possessed firearms from the community. The Indianapolis Police Department focused its efforts in two of Indianapolis' high-crime areas. The results of the experiment were mixed: gun seizures reduced the crime rate in one area while it did not have a significant impact on the other area. McGarrell, the Director of the Crime Control Policy Center at the Hudson Institute in Indianapolis, explained that the failure to see reductions in crime in the one area is most likely due to prior efforts in the area to seize guns. Thus, the impact of the increased effort in that particular area was mitigated.
- Jeffrey Roth, a director of crime control policy studies at the Urban Institute, discussed the Detroit Handgun Intervention Program (HIP). Roth noted that the HIP, directed toward African American youth, is a pretrial release program primarily focused on changing the attitudes and behaviors of individuals who carry hand guns. He explained that HIP

addresses the risks of carrying a handgun, discusses ethical considerations of gun carrying, teaches situational avoidance, and attempts to promote non-violence. Roth also noted that HIP has only had a small effect on changing attitudes and behaviors. Overall, Roth said that HIP participants indicated that they would likely think twice about carrying a gun but would still carry a gun. Roth said that most HIP participants stated that "personal safety concerns promote carrying."

Maryland Study Focus of Press Conference

During the research conference, Jeremy Travis and Lawrence Sherman, Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland College Park, held a press conference to unveil an 18-page condensed version of the University of Maryland crime prevention study, "Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising." Sherman, the lead author of the Congressionally-mandated and NIJ-funded evaluation of state and local crime prevention programs, noted that the Maryland team had boiled down the nearly 800 page study into an 18-page summary. He said that the newly released summary is "more user-friendly."

The full Congressional report and the condensed copy are both on the Internet at NIJ's homepage: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij> or on the University of Maryland's website: <http://www.preventingcrime.org>

UMASS: COSSA'S NEWEST CONTRIBUTOR DH

COSSA is pleased to welcome the University of Massachusetts as our newest contributor. We look forward to working with the university on projects of mutual concern.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the last issue for the month of August. The next issue of *UPDATE* will be published on September 14th.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

(all figures in millions, and accurate through August 7, 1998; * indicates amount approved by committee)

AGENCY	FY 1998 Funding	FY 1999 Proposed	FY 1999 House	FY 1999 Senate	FY 1999 FINAL
National Science Foundation					
Total	3,429.0	3,773.0	3,679.0	3,644.0	
Research and Related Activities	2,546.0	2,846.0	2,815.0	2,725.0	
Education and Human Resources	633.0	683.0	643.0	683.0	
Dept. of Health and Human Services					
Centers for Disease Control	2,332.6	2,454.5	2,540.4*		
Agency for Health Care Policy and Research	146.4	171.4	171.0*		
Asst. Sec. for Planning and Evaluation	14.0	14.0	14.0*		
Nat. Inst. for Child Health & Human Development	673.5	725.0	728.8*		
Nat. Inst. on Aging	518.3	556.4	565.6*		
Nat. Inst. of Nursing Research	63.5	68.2	68.2*		
Nat. Inst. for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	226.8	245.0	248.8*		
Nat. Inst. on Drug Abuse	526.2	575.1	575.4*		
Nat. Inst. of Mental Health	748.8	807.6	815.7*		
Department of Agriculture					
National Research Initiative	97.2	130.0	97.2	99.6	
Economic Research Service	72.0	56.0	67.3	53.1	
Dept. of Commerce/Census Bureau					
Periodic Censuses and Programs	555.8	1,027.8	1,111.9	1,002.5	
Census Salaries and Expenses	137.3	160.1	140.1	141.8	
Bureau of Economic Analysis	47.5	53.7	48.0	49.2	
Department of Education					
Education Research & Laboratories	128.6	128.6	128.6*		
Education Statistics (NCES)	59.0	68.0	68.0*		
Assessment (incl. NAGBE)	35.47	40.0	40.0*		
Javits Fellowships	6.5	0.0	0.0*		
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	24.1	30.0	0.0*		
International Programs	60.4	61.1	67.5*		
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development					
Office of Policy Development and Research	36.5	50.0	47.5	36.5	
Department of Justice					
National Institute of Justice	42.5	57.1	52.6	46.1	
Bureau of Justice Statistics	21.5	27.0	25.0	25.2	
Juvenile Justice	238.7	278.0	283.0	284.6	
Department of Labor					
Bureau of Labor Statistics	380.5	398.9	398.8*		
Natl. Endowment for the Humanities					
	110.7	131.0	110.7	110.7*	
Smithsonian Institution					
Woodrow Wilson Center	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.8	
U.S. Information Agency					
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs	197.7	199.0	200.0	205.0	

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