

**APPROPRIATIONS TRAIN STARTS MOVING;
CAPS STILL IN PLACE** *HS*

After a meeting of House Republicans where Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) implored his colleagues to stick together so that the House could pass legislation and also maintain their slim majority in the 2000 election, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 appropriations process began to pick up a little speed this past week. Hastert also conceded that his earlier strategy of trying to move the "easy" appropriations bills by providing them extra allocations was not working. He agreed to shift funds from the allocation for the defense bill to domestic spending bills, including the two most troublesome, Labor, HHS and Education, and VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, (including NSF). The caps, or spending limitations, that have made this year's process so difficult, remain in place, however.

Whether these shifts will be enough to make up for the still significant shortfalls for these latter two bills is unclear. One indication that they will not is the continuing complaint of Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee Chairman Representative John Porter (R-IL), who maintains his Subcommittee still lacks the funds to provide for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), other health related agencies, and the education programs that he wants to accommodate.

In the meantime, the House has passed the FY 2000 Agriculture and Rural Development (see below), and the Legislative Branch appropriations bills. The Transportation bill has moved out of full committee and is ready for floor action. The Treasury, Post Office, and General Government funding has still not reached full committee markup yet. Thus, the Walsh-Price amendment to overturn the provision regarding scientific data release through the Freedom of Information Act remains unoffered.

On the Senate side, the FY 2000 Defense Appropriation bill has passed. The Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary (See below), the Energy and Water Development, the Legislative Branch, Military Construction, and Transportation bills have

emerged from the full committee markup. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) has noted that the Committee would work within the budget caps, and pledged that the Committee would approve all 13 appropriations bills by the July 4th holiday recess.

**CENSUS FUNDING BILL APPROVED;
COMMITTEE IGNORES PRESIDENT'S
REQUEST FOR INCREASE** *DH*

The CJS appropriations bill, which funds the Census Bureau and its operations, does not contain the additional \$1.7 billion that President Clinton requested for the 2000 Census. The administration recently requested the additional funds because of the Supreme Court's decision that barred the use of scientific statistical sampling for the purpose of congressional apportionment. The additional funds will be used for a number of operations, including hiring additional enumerators and increasing advertising and promotion efforts.

A notably disturbed Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) criticized the CJS bill for its "glaring omissions." He specifically criticized the bill for not providing adequate funds to conduct the upcoming census. He said the lack of funds virtually guarantees that "we will have another undercount." Durbin stated that he

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hoped one of the sides in the census dispute — the administration or the Republican leadership — would “blink” and lift the spending caps to provide enough funds to conduct a successful census.

Despite its glaring omissions, the Senate CJS bill, however, does not contain a provision prohibiting the use of scientific statistical sampling in the upcoming 2000 Census.

Other Census News in Brief

The presidential members of the Census Monitoring Board (CMB) recently issued an interim report to the Congress. The report will be posted along with other reports on the presidential members' webpage at: <http://www.cmbp.gov>. In their report, the three presidential members note a widespread, bipartisan support for the use of scientific statistical sampling to address the expected undercount in the upcoming census. Currently, only three of the four slots on the presidential side of the CMB are filled since former Co-Chair Tony Coehlo resigned to work full-time on Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign.

Blackwell to Stay on Board

Despite calls for his resignation from both Democrats and Republicans, Kenneth Blackwell recently announced that he would not step down as

the CMB Co-Chair for the congressional appointees. The calls for his resignation came after Blackwell was named national chairman of the Steve Forbes' campaign for the presidency. Both Dan Miller (R-FL), Chairman of the House Census Subcommittee, and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Ranking Member of the Census Subcommittee, have asked Blackwell to resign. The webpage of the congressional members of the CMB is: <http://www.cmbc.gov>.

HOUSE PASSES AGRICULTURE SPENDING BILL

On June 10, the House, after reducing the appropriation by \$1.7 billion to satisfy Representative Tom Coburn (R-OK) and his band of spending foes, passed the FY 2000 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill. Coburn had succeeded in stalling the bill by threatening to offer over 110 amendments.

The House proved once again it was not ready to provide significant increases for the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program. Instead of the \$200 million requested by the administration, the bill provided \$105.4 million, a reduction of \$13.9 million from the FY 1999 level.

The Hatch Act Formula Grants program, on the other hand, the House likes. It allocated \$180.6 million, same as last year, and once again rejected the administration's attempt to reduce the funding to \$153.7 million. Special grants received \$62.9 million, a slight decrease from last year's \$63.1 million, but way above the requested \$23.5 million.

The House allocated \$70.3 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS). This includes \$17.5 million for studies and evaluations ERS conducts for the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The administration request of \$55.6 million for ERS did not include funding for these studies, but included them in the FNS funding request. Last year ERS received \$65.8 million, which also included the FNS studies and evaluation funds. The National Agriculture Statistics Service was appropriated \$100.6 million same as the request and \$3.4 million below FY 1999. Included in the FY 2000 appropriation is \$16.5 million for the Census of Agriculture.

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The House once again prohibited spending on the Fund for Rural America, which had provided extra money for research, and for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, a provision of last year's authorization bill that agriculture and rural development researchers had hoped would be another vehicle to enhance funding.

JUVENILE CRIME BILL PASSES SENATE; DEBATE SHIFTS TO HOUSE *DH*

On May 20 the Senate passed by a 73-25 vote S.254, the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999. The bill, sponsored by Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) is a comprehensive juvenile crime bill. Upon final passage, S.254 was loaded down with a number of gun control amendments. The House is expected to take up its version of the juvenile crime bill, H.R. 1501, in the next week. Like the Senate, that bill will likely be the vehicle for several gun control amendments.

The Senate crime bill contains many provisions of interest to social and behavioral scientists. First, the bill would amend the 1974 Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act and give the National Institute of Justice more responsibility for juvenile crime and delinquency research. The bill establishes, within the NIJ, an institute devoted to the study of juvenile crime — the National Institute of Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention.

The Hatch crime bill also calls for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Attorney General to conduct two separate studies and issue reports: 1) on the marketing practices of the firearms industry, with respect to children, and 2) on the marketing practices of the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer games industries, with respect to children. The Clinton Administration has called for a similar study.

In addition, the act requires the NIH to undertake two studies. First, the NIH, acting through the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), is required to conduct multi-year behavioral and social science research on the causes and prevention of youth violence, including research on the etiology of youth violence, the risk factors for

youth violence, childhood precursors to antisocial violent behavior, science-based strategies for preventing youth violence, and other subjects deemed appropriate by the Director of the OBSSR. The bill authorizes \$5 million for Fiscal Years 2000 through 2004 to carry out the research. If amounts are not appropriated, the act requires NIH to provide funds from its annual appropriations. Second, the act requires the NIH to conduct a study of the effects of violent video games and music on child development and youth violence.

Finally, the juvenile crime act requires the Comptroller General of the U.S. to conduct a study regarding school safety issues, including the examination of incidents of school-based violence in the U.S., impediments to combating school violence, promising initiatives to address school violence, and evaluating current school violence prevention programs. It also establishes a 36-member National Commission on Character Development to, among other things, "study and make recommendations with respect to the impact of current cultural influences on the process of developing and instilling the key aspects of character . . ."

The House juvenile crime bill (H.R. 1501) to accompany the Senate version, is scheduled to bypass the highly partisan House Judiciary Committee and move straight to debate before the full House. This move by Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and Republican leaders has both Republicans and Democrats upset. Specifically, the Democratic leadership wanted the House juvenile crime bill to go through the normal Committee process before it reached the floor for debate and a vote. By moving the bill straight to the floor, the number of amendments offered to the bill will be tightly controlled by the House Rules Committee. Therefore, the debate on the bill will be limited. This is important since the bill is highly contentious and passed the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime by a voice vote along party lines on April 22. Therefore, many Democrats see this is an attempt to give the juvenile crime bill short shrift and to limit their opportunity to offer amendments and help craft the bill.

CONGRESS HEARS ABOUT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS *HS*

"GIS is a sexy issue," noted Representative Paul Kanjorski (D-PA). For that reason, the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology decided to examine Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and their impact on governments at all levels, and the private sector. Chairman Representative Stephen Horn (R-CA) noted the Subcommittee's possible interest in future legislation to bring coordination to the federal role in supporting GIS.

The panel heard Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, Wyoming Governor Jim Gehringer, and a number of county officials from around the country all praise GIS as a tool for economic growth and for helping develop policy solutions to problems in housing, urban growth, water management, flood control, environmental protection, agricultural policy, crime, transportation, and others. Another set of witnesses representing private sector entities such as Oracle and Sears related how GIS has allowed real time decision making, better customer service, and the empowerment of citizens.

COSSA Board Member Jack Dangermond, President of Environmental Systems Research Incorporated, a leading GIS company, spoke of the data sharing and manipulating possible with GIS, as "social capital, like highway infrastructure." This social capital, he noted, is shareable through all levels of government, the private sector, and the university research community. Dangermond specifically called for a federal investment of \$100 million "in fundamental research on geographic information and GIS solutions."

The issues raised by Chairman Horn and Kanjorski related to creation of a coordinated National Data Infrastructure System (NSDI). An inter-agency committee of federal officials has been trying, under the aegis of the executive branch created Federal Geographic Data Committee chaired by Babbitt, to develop the NSDI. A January 1998, National Academy of Public Administration report *Geographic Information for 21st Century Building — A Strategy for the Nation*, recommended "a new statute be drafted in cooperation with state and local governments and other organizations to create a National Spatial Data Infrastructure, establish a

National Spatial Data Council, and better define federal agency roles and responsibilities for NSDI, so as to meet the participating organizations' programmatic needs."

Horn expressed concern about privacy and intellectual property issues engendered by the data sharing in GIS. Witnesses suggested these created some problems, especially as local entities seek cost recovery for providing their data. In addition, the digital layering of databases on top of each other in GIS, sometimes make it difficult to mask individual attributes. One county official suggested privacy concerns could be outweighed by explaining the benefits of GIS to the average citizen.

All the witnesses suggested GIS' future seems unbounded. Dangermond concluded that "the importance of GIS to society will grow and a societal GIS, a completely integrated database of geographic information about all aspects of society, available to all members of society, will be created." Public and private collaboration will bring this about, he said. Yet, the role of the federal government, which collects much of the data, and the issue of privacy protections, still need further consideration.

NCES HEAD TO RESIGN POST *DA*

Pascal Forgione, the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), recently announced that he will leave the post when his four-year term expires on June 21. There has been no mention of a possible replacement for Forgione.

NCES is the primary Federal agency responsible for the collection, analysis, and the reporting of data related to education in the United State.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL NAMES NEW PRESIDENT *DA*

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) announced June 4 that Craig Calhoun, Professor of Sociology and History and Chair of the Sociology Department at New York University (NYU), will be its next president. Calhoun succeeds Kenneth

Prewitt, who left the post last year to take the reins of the United States Bureau of the Census, and Interim President Orville Gilbert Brim, previous head of the Russell Sage Foundation.

Calhoun, author of a prize-winning book about Chinese students and the struggle for democracy, *Neither Gods Nor Emperors*, is a leading expert on nationalism and conflicts of culture and identity. He is the author of several books and numerous scholarly articles and essays on such topics as the 19th century industrial revolution, the impact of computer technology, and the impact of tort law on business corporations. Calhoun is also the editor-in-chief of the forthcoming *Oxford Dictionary of the Social Sciences* and is completing a five-year term as editor of the journal *Sociological Theory*.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENTISTS/RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE ^{AS}

Since the launching of its initiative to support basic biobehavioral studies on cancer-related behaviors, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has become a place of opportunity for social and behavioral scientists. The Institute's creation/reorganization of its Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) in 1997 has steadily provided these increased opportunities.

In October 1998, the DCCPS created the Behavioral Research Program (BRP) led by Robert T. Croyle, Ph.D. BRP is the result of the implementation of the 1997 Cancer Control Review Group report which urged the expansion of the behavioral science mission at NCI. Similarly, an NCI Program Review Group recommended that "NCI pursue a vigorous effort to seize existing and emerging opportunities in behavioral and prevention control . . . [and] facilitate research in basic behavioral science, primary prevention, and cancer screening."

Research within the DCCPS, headed by Barbara Rimer, is the focus for NCI-sponsored research programs aimed at studies in populations, behavior, surveillance, special populations, outcomes, and other aspects of cancer control. Cancer control, as supported by NCI, addresses the barriers to the use

of medical knowledge by the public through research on behavioral, psychosocial, health services, community and cancer surveillance "aspects of translating proven techniques and tested methodologies into routine practice in the community."

Help Wanted

In a recent meeting with COSSA staff, Croyle noted that he currently has 17 open positions, at all levels. According to Croyle, BRP is interested in basic behavioral and social science research relevant to cancer issues and public health — behavior change, cognition, persuasion, health communication, decision making, new media, Internet.

The opportunities for funding are there, notes Croyle, emphasizing that NCI is in the position to "rescue" researchers who are submitting quality and meritorious applications to other NIH Institutes, but are not being funded due to budget constraints. Additionally, Croyle stressed that the BRP is seeking to become a friendly place for social science disciplines (e.g., political science, sociology, and anthropology, among others) to submit their grant applications. In FY 1998, there was a success rate of 32 percent for NCI research projects.

Small Grant Program

Evidence of the NCI's sincerity in attracting other disciplines is evidenced by NCI's Small Grants Program for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control (PAR-99-006, <http://www.nih.gov/grants/pa-files/PAR-99-006.html>). The Small Grants Program, says Croyle, "is a great way for new investigators, or behavioral scientists new to the cancer domain, to get started with NCI funding. NCI has a special review committee for these grants, which are reviewed 3 times a year [December 20, April 20 and August 20]." The Program is designed to aid and facilitate the growth of a nationwide cohort of scientists with a high level of expertise in behavioral cancer control research.

The grants are short-term awards to provide support for pilot projects, or innovative projects that provide a basis for more extended research. According to the position announcement (PA), new investigators in relevant fields and disciplines (e.g., medicine, public health, health promotion, health

communications and informatics, epidemiology, anthropology, social work, nursing research, nutrition, health policy, health services research, and behavioral sciences, such as psychology, health education, and sociology) may apply for small grants to test ideas or do pilot studies.

NCI's Behavioral Research Program

There are six branches within the BRP. Croyle is currently recruiting branch chiefs for 4 of the 6 branches.

The Basic Biobehavioral Research Branch (BBRP), Michael Stefanek, Ph.D., Chief — BBRB's priorities include research that explores the links between biology, behavior, and the environment as they pertain to cancer and cancer risk-related behaviors. The Branch is currently expanding and is seeking an individual with an interest in behavioral and biobehavioral research.

The Applied Cancer Screening Research Branch (ACSRB) [Chief position vacant] — ACSR's mission includes: 1) planning, developing, coordinating and maintaining a comprehensive research program to promote proven cancer screening methods to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality; (2) planning and conducting a grant-supported program aimed at developing methods to increase the numbers of Americans from diverse socio-economic, cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds who seek appropriate cancer screening and receive appropriate follow-up after screening; (3) planning and conducting studies to identify barriers to screening and how to overcome these barriers; (4) synthesizing and disseminating findings, recommendations and priorities to target organizations and individuals; and (5) planning, directing, and conducting ongoing evaluations of the success of the strategies developed to overcome barriers.

The Health Promotions Research Branch (HPRB), Linda Nebeling, Ph.D., MPH, R.D., Acting Chief — HPRB coordinates research on non-tobacco behavioral prevention of cancer in diet, physical activity, energy balance, virus exposure, and sun exposure; leads efforts to develop measurement techniques in these research areas and evaluate effective strategies in clinical, community, and policy settings; and plan, administer, and evaluate demonstration project research, including diffusion

and dissemination of effective behavior change strategies. The branch is currently seeking a Chief, for more information contact: 301/402-2789.

The Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB), Cathy Backinger, Ph.D., M.P.H., Acting Chief — TCRB is the focal point for tobacco control research within DCCPS. The branch "plans, develops, implements and maintains a broad spectrum of basic and applied research in the behavioral, social and population sciences on the prevention and cessation of tobacco use among both youth and adults." According to Croyle, tobacco use, along with health communications, will be one of three priority areas for NCI in FY 2001.

NCI and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) are currently evaluating grant applications (P50) for a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in tobacco use research. SPORE's focus is on "research that is designed to convert novel ideas with the potential to reduce cancer incidence and mortality, improve survival, and improve quality of life into interventions that can help people with cancer or people at risk." The initiative is designed to provide support for the creation of transdisciplinary tobacco use research centers (TTURCs). To stimulate research advances, scientists from diverse disciplines are expected to work collaboratively to solve problems. The Branch is also searching for a Health Scientist Administrator or Medical Officer.

The Health Communications and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB) [Chief position vacant] — The area of health communications, according to Croyle, will probably experience the "biggest growth" in the next few years. This research area is scheduled to be one of NCI's top research priorities in FY 2001.

Accordingly, NCI is currently seeking grant applications for the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA, R15) for Multimedia Technology/Health Communications Grant for Small Businesses/Non-Profit Organizations. The objective of the award is to assist investigator-initiated research in cancer prevention/control in medical and community settings that focus on biomedical and behavioral factors that modify cancer risk.

Grant applicants are required to “develop, implement, and test the effectiveness of new or existing models of behavior modifications or informational/educational applications using a variety of media technology including computer applications, videotext, television, radio, or the Internet in various research categories.” These research categories may include: innovative alternative teaching methods, lifestyle models, nutrition interventions, communication techniques and systems for the public. AREA, R15 is designed to provide support “to domestic health professional schools and other institutions offering baccalaureate or advanced degrees for future research scientists, except those that have received NIH research grants and/or cooperative agreements.”

The Applied Sociocultural Research Branch (ASRB), Sherry Mills, M.D., Ph.D., Chief — ASRB’s mission is to address the “profound and disproportionate impact of cancer within underserved communities” — the subject of a recent Institute of Medicine Committee and subsequent Senate hearing (see *UPDATE*, May 17, 1999). The Branch promotes and facilitates grant-supported prevention and control research in populations that experience a greater burden of cancer.

Career Development Awards For Social and Behavioral Scientists

In 1998, several major reviews were conducted of NCI’s programs in cancer prevention and control sciences. One consensus of the various reviews is that NCI’s previous support for “training in cancer prevention and cancer control and the single discipline emphasis of these programs was completely inadequate to take advantages of the new opportunities for reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality.” In an effort to generate new opportunities for multidisciplinary training in collaborative environments, DCCPS created several career development awards (See below).

The Cancer Prevention, Control and Population Sciences Career Development Award (K07) is designed to support the “career development of investigators who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on cancer prevention, control, and the population sciences.” The K07 mechanism provides 3-5 years of support for “specialized didactic study and mentored research for

individuals with a health professional or science doctoral degree who are not fully established investigators and who want to pursue research careers in the cancer prevention, control, population, and/or behavioral sciences.” For more information see: <http://www.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-99-108.html>.

The Cancer Education and Career Development Award, (R25) [PAR-99-095] is designed to support the “development and implementation of curriculum-dependent programs to train predoctoral and postdoctoral candidates in cancer research settings that are highly interdisciplinary and collaborative.” The award is particularly applicable to cancer prevention and control, epidemiology, nutrition, and the behavioral and population sciences. According to NCI, the R25 grant mechanism affords institutions the flexibility needed in both program design and cost structure to allow for the development of complex, multidisciplinary education and career development programs. For more information see: <http://www.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-99-095.html>.

Finally, there is the *NCI Transition Career Development Award (K 22)* [PAR-99-094], with receipt dates on June 1, 1999, October 1, 1999, and February 1, 2000. The K22 is designed to provide “protected time” for newly independent investigators to develop and receive support for their initial cancer research programs. The award is designed to facilitate the transition of investigators from the mentored to the independent stage of their careers in cancer research. NCI again recognizes many individuals in fields considered “critically important to the future of cancer research need protected time to develop successful independent research programs.” The Institute further recognizes that this is particularly true for medically-trained individuals and for individuals pursuing cancer research careers in the prevention, control, and population sciences. For more information see: <http://www.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-99-094.html>.

Check out the COSSA webpage at:

<http://members.aol.com/socscience/COSSAindex.htm>

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