
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume II, Number 16
August 12, 1983

This Week . . .

Congress Returns Home for the Summer Recess
Bill to Protect Advisory Committees from Politics
French Science Attaché for the Social Sciences
Rabin Appointed Acting Head of BBS
NEH Appropriation Wends Its Way Through Congress
Science Education for Citizens
COSSA Congressional Seminar on Unemployment and Stress
Social Scientists Excluded from New Fellowship Program
French Research Budget Holding Steady
Israeli Research Budget Declining
Next Issue of COSSA Washington Update
Sources of Research Support: Department of Health and
Human Services

* * *

CONGRESS RETURNS HOME FOR THE SUMMER RECESS

Congress adjourned for its summer recess on August 4 and is not scheduled to return to Washington until September 12. In an unusual move that was prompted by recent developments in Latin America, the Congress included in its adjournment resolution a clause authorizing House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill and Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker to reassemble Congress during the August recess "whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it." Without that phrase, only the President could reconvene Congress during the recess.

The Congress will return in September to a full legislative agenda. It has so far completed work on only four of the 13 appropriations bills. The House, however, has already passed eight of 13 and the Senate, seven. (See Attachment 1 for status of appropriations legislation.)

August 12, 1983

CONGRESS RETURNS HOME FOR THE SUMMER RECESS (cont.)

Just before it adjourned, the House began consideration of H.R. 2350, the Health Research Extension Act, which reauthorizes several of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Research Service Awards Act (NRSA). NRSA provides congressional authority for the funding of federal research training programs. The House version of this legislation contains provisions that would require representation of the social and behavioral sciences on NIH Advisory Boards. The several Senate versions of this legislation, however, do not contain these provisions nor have any yet been considered by the full Senate.

BILL TO PROTECT ADVISORY COMMITTEES FROM POLITICS

Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AR) has introduced a bill which would require that the political affiliation of scientists be ignored when making appointments to national scientific advisory committees. The bill, S. 1641, which was introduced by Bumpers in July, is co-sponsored by Senators Jackson (D-WA), Hart (D-CO), and Eagleton (D-MO). Bumpers introduced the legislation after learning that the names of several scientists under consideration for appointment to a federal advisory committee on offshore drilling had first been sent to the Republican National Committee for approval. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Update readers in Missouri are encouraged to urge Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, who is ranking minority member of the Governmental Affairs Committee and a co-sponsor of S. 1641, to hold hearings on this issue. Other social scientists whose Senators serve on the Committee should also write urging hearings. Committee members are listed below:

Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs

Republicans

William V. Roth, Jr. (DE), Chair
Charles H. Percy (IL)
Ted Stevens (AK)
Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. (MD)
William S. Cohen, (ME)
David Durenberger (MN)
Warren B. Rudman (NH)
John C. Danforth (MO)
Thad Cochran (MS)
William L. Armstrong (CO)

Democrats

Thomas F. Eagleton (MO)
Henry M. Jackson (WA)
Lawton Chiles (FL)
Sam Nunn (GA)
John H. Glenn, Jr. (OH)
James R. Sasser (TN)
Carl M. Levin (MI)
Jeff Bingaman (NM)

August 12, 1983

FRENCH SCIENCE ATTACHÉ FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Although a number of nations have had scientific attachés on their embassy staff in Washington, the French government is the first to appoint a scientific attaché for the social sciences. Laurence Ratier-Coutrot, a sociologist, was appointed to this position by the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and assumed her duties in Washington this summer. Her responsibilities are to promote professional contacts between social scientists in the United States and France and to identify main currents in contemporary American social science research. Another aspect of Ms. Ratier-Coutrot's work is to bring together researchers who are engaged in similar research in the United States and France for comparative cross national research. She may be contacted by writing the French Embassy, Suite 300, 4400 Jenifer Street NW, Washington, DC 20015.

RABIN APPOINTED ACTING HEAD OF BBS

Dr. Robert Rabin has been appointed Acting Assistant Director for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Rabin, who has a Ph.D. in microbiology and biochemistry, replaces Dr. Eloise Clark, who left NSF to become Vice President of Bowling Green University. Prior to coming to NSF in 1970, Dr. Rabin was at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

NEH APPROPRIATION WENDS ITS WAY THROUGH CONGRESS

The House of Representatives has already approved the FY 1984 Interior appropriation, which funds the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The House bill appropriates \$150 million for NEH, up \$20 million over FY 1983, and includes \$5 million for a new program of graduate fellowships in the humanities. The Senate bill, which was being considered when Congress recessed last week, would maintain NEH funding at its FY 1983 level, \$130 million. The Report that accompanies the Senate bill, however, specifically rejects new initiatives to establish a program of graduate fellowships in the humanities. It is anticipated that the Senate will complete its consideration of the Interior appropriation soon after Congress reconvenes in September.

August 12, 1983

SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR CITIZENS

Conspicuous by its absence from recent debate and discussion about science and mathematics education is the precollege curriculum in the social and behavioral sciences -- social studies. This was not always the case. As recently as 1980, the National Science Foundation (NSF) was actively investigating the unmet needs in social science education along with those in mathematics and the natural sciences. (See What are the Needs in Precollege Science, Mathematics, and Social Science Education?, National Science Foundation, 1980). More recently, however, NSF issued a program announcement on materials development for precollege science and mathematics that excludes the social and behavioral science disciplines as appropriate areas of fundable research (see COSSA Washington Update, July 15, 1983).

An argument against this narrow definition of science education can be made in terms of the need for informed citizens. The degree to which the public understands the possibilities and limitations of election polling and media surveys, or even understands the relative risk involved in having children immunized against disease, is to a large extent determined by what has been learned in high school as part of the social studies curriculum or in college through social and behavioral science courses.

President Reagan's recent remarks about women's "place" before the International Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs prompted a Washington Post reporter to do a story about research on the issue of sex differences (see Attachment 2). Yet the sophistication of his story raises the question of whether Post readers understand his discussion of overlapping bell curves or the difficulty in finding statistical differences between men and women without studying very large numbers of people. These concepts involve elementary principles of statistics and probability that are intrinsic to the social and behavioral sciences.

The recent report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education takes a broad view of the need for education reform:

Our concern...goes beyond matters such as industry and commerce....For our country to function, citizens must be able to reach some common understandings often on short notice and on the basis of conflicting or incomplete evidence. Education helps form these common understandings....

August 12, 1983

SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR CITIZENS (cont.)

Knowledge of the social sciences and their methods equips students with the tools to understand, for example, international affairs, changes in the economy, and relations among various ethnic groups in our population. The social sciences guide us in interpreting data reported by our news media on preliminary election results, declining college entrance examination scores, unemployment statistics, and changes in demographic patterns. Integral to NSF, the flagship federal science agency, are its programs in the social and behavioral sciences. To exclude these disciplines from the Foundation's own definition of "science" for purposes of improving the secondary school science curriculum is both indefensible and unwarranted.

COSSA CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND STRESS

COSSA held the second in a series of congressional seminars on Unemployment and its Consequences on August 3. Representative Augustus Hawkins (D-CA), a co-sponsor of the seminar series, welcomed the audience of congressional staff and federal agency personnel. Paula Rayman, a sociologist from Brandeis University, discussed her study of unemployed aircraft workers in Hartford, Connecticut, and the effects of loss of work on their health, families, and community. Her presentation generated a lively discussion with the audience.

The seminar series is also co-sponsored by the American Sociological Association and Representatives James Jeffords (R-VT) and Paul Simon (D-IL). A transcript of Dr. Rayman's address is available from the COSSA office (1755 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036).

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS EXCLUDED FROM NEW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced a new program of Presidential Young Investigator Awards to "improve the capability of universities to respond to the demand for highly qualified scientific and engineering personnel for academic and industrial research." The announcement excludes researchers in the social and behavioral sciences from participating in the annual competition for 200 awards that will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000. (See Attachment 3.)

August 12, 1983

FRENCH RESEARCH BUDGET HOLDING STEADY

Current estimates are that next year's budget for the French Ministry of Research and Industry will be about 7 percent over last year, slightly below the official rate of inflation. The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), which is funded through the ministry's budget, is expected to get an increase of 4.5 percent in the number of new researchers and a budget that is at least constant or even slightly above the official inflation rate. Without an increase above the inflation rate, the Director-General of CNRS, Pierre Papon, said that some research programs would receive budget cuts. Current priorities at CNRS, which would probably not be cut, include the life sciences, social sciences, humanities, and engineering. Although high energy physics is not, according to Papon, a "high priority," he hopes not to be forced to cut its budget.

ISRAELI RESEARCH BUDGET DECLINING

Budget problems in research and higher education are not confined to the United States. In Israel, where over 70 percent of university budgets are provided by the government, universities are facing 5-7 percent budget reductions this year. The budget cuts, which are a result of increased defense expenditures, will affect both research budgets and teaching positions in the nation's six universities and in the Weizmann Institute of Science. The Council for Higher Education, a government agency, reported recently that university budgets have been steadily declining while the number of university students has grown 30 percent in the course of the past decade. Researchers have told the government that the cuts will restrict both basic research and Israel's ability to exploit the scientific discoveries of other nations.

NEXT ISSUE OF COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Because of the congressional recess and the annual August exodus from Washington, there will be no COSSA Washington Update issued on August 26 or September 9. The Congress returns to Washington on September 12 and publication of the Update will resume on September 23.

August 12, 1983

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Division of Clinical Research

The Division of Clinical Research is comprised of three branches: (1) Treatment Research; (2) Prevention; and (3) Behavioral Pharmacology.

FY 1983 Budget: \$16 million.

Purpose of Program: The Prevention Branch supports studies on the etiology of drug abuse and research on preventive interventions to limit or contain substance abuse. The Treatment Research Branch supports studies on the efficacy of traditional and innovative forms of treatment and service delivery. The Clinical Pharmacology Branch supports studies on the impact of different substances on behavior, cognition, and psychological and social functioning.

Funding Mechanisms: Primarily investigator-initiated grants.

Disciplines Supported: Psychology, sociology, anthropology (heavy emphasis on ethnography). Historians have been supported in the past.

Review Process: Peer panel review.

Restrictions on Awards: Awards limited to 5 years, although three-year awards are the norm. The average grant is \$125,000.

Success Ratio: Treatment Research Branch, 40% approved; Prevention Branch, 20%; Behavioral Pharmacology Branch, 70-75%.

Contact: NIDA review groups meet three times a year. Deadlines for applications are November 1, March 1, and July 1.

George Beschner	Treatment Research Branch, Room 10A30 301/443-4060
Robert Battjes	Prevention Research Branch, Room 10A20 301/443-1514
Michael Walsh	Behavioral Pharmacology, Room 10A16 301/443-1263
Address:	National Institute on Drug Abuse 5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, MD 20857

Fiscal 1984 Status of Appropriations 98th Congress, First Session

As of Aug. 4

Appropriation Bills	House	Senate	Final
Agriculture and related agencies (HR 3223)	Passed 6/8	Passed 6/29	
Defense			
District of Columbia (HR 3415)	Passed 6/29	Passed 7/27	
Energy and Water Development (HR 3132)	Passed 6/7	Passed 6/22	President signed 7/14 (PL 98-50)
Foreign Aid			
Housing and Urban Development, Veterans, NASA (HR 3133)	Passed 6/2	Passed 6/21	President signed 7/12 (PL 98-45)
Interior and related agencies (HR 3363)	Passed 6/28	Committee reported 7/19	
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education			
Legislative Branch (HR 3135)	Passed 6/3	Passed 6/23	President signed 7/14 (PL 98-51)
Military Construction (HR 3263)	Passed 6/21	Passed 7/27	
State, Justice, Commerce, Judiciary (HR 3222, S 1721)	Committee reported 6/3	Committee reported 7/28	
Transportation and related agencies (HR 3329)	Passed 6/22	Passed 7/15	Congress cleared 8/3
Treasury, Postal Service, General Government (HR 3191, S 1646)	Rejected 6/8	Committee reported 7/20	

Washington Post

August 5, 1983

Issue of Male-Female Aggressiveness Is a Scientific Buzz Saw

By Philip J. Hilts

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Reagan may not only have offended professional women Wednesday with a remark alluding to "club-carrying" cave men and the females who have tamed them, but he also walked into a scientific buzz saw of an issue over sex roles, aggression and history.

Reagan told a group of 1,200 professional women Wednesday that "... We have been doing a number of things here with regard to the thing of great interest to you, and that is the recognition of women's place. I want you to know I've always recognized it, because I happen to be one who believes that if it wasn't for women, us men would still be walking around in skin suits carrying clubs."

Bemused scientists said yesterday that the president was reflecting a "common-sense belief" that men are more aggressive than women.

Scientifically, however, the issues are far from settled, and the president's assumptions may not be justified.

As for the role of aggression in history, and how much of it men or women have displayed, anthropologist David Pilbeam of Harvard University said there is no good evidence to show that human aggression is innate or learned, male or female.

"From the fossils, you can have it any way you want it," he said. "Scientists have no way of determining the sex of the hand that used a fossil hand ax," he said, partly in jest. Also, the number of hand axes found in the world is not large, so perhaps man was not so aggressive as he is imagined. "Either there was only one hand ax per several million people, or people just didn't use them frequently."

A scientist's personality can determine his beliefs on the subject, Pilbeam suggested: "Really, literally, it is like looking in a mirror. What you get is what you see there." He said it is all too common for people to interpret the past based on their political beliefs.

Whether living males and females differ in their aggressiveness, scientists say, depends a good deal on the definition of aggression.

If outbursts of physical violence are taken as the measure, then men are unarguably more aggressive, according to a half-dozen scientists interviewed yesterday.

In animal studies, male hormones given to a young female animal will make the animal more aggressive. In studies of human violence and suicide, said Dr. Fredrick Goodwin, director of research at the National Institute of Mental Health, the rate of violent suicide is double among men, even though twice as many women are afflicted with severe depression.

In addition, a brain chemical whose absence is associated with violent outbreaks appears to be far lower in the men studied than in the women.

But Goodwin and George Brown, a staff scientist at the NIMH, said that statistical distinctions between men and women teach us little about the real world.

If men and women are rated by the frequency of their physically violent acts, Brown said, two bell-shaped curves emerge, but they overlap a great deal.

"First, you would even have a hard time finding a statistical difference between men and women unless you had thousands of people to

study. But even if you found one it wouldn't have very much meaning for individual people."

He said that the differences from man to man, or woman to woman, could be far greater than any difference between the sexes. There are also many situations in which normally less violent female animals can become quite violent, for example, if an animal's young are attacked, so that situation may be one of the most important determinants of violent behavior.

Differences among men and women in crime and violent acts still do not settle the question, scientists say, because violent acts are relatively rare in the population. The term "aggression" is far broader and could mean anything from social pushiness to intellectual sharpness. On these more common questions, scientists know little about sex differences.

Estelle Ramey, professor of physiology and biophysics at Georgetown University Medical School, said though it is clear that male hormones cause aggressiveness, hormones could not be the overwhelming determiners of behavior, otherwise Americans might logically prevent males from running for the presidency and being in a position to cause war.

She said there are several examples of female heads of government, such as Britain's Margaret Thatcher and India's Indira Gandhi, who demonstrate that it is not only men who can be bellicose.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

August 10, 1983

Social-Science Scholars Barred from Awards Aimed at Retaining Scientists at Colleges

By KIM McDONALD

WASHINGTON

Scholars in the social and behavioral sciences will be excluded from a new Presidential program designed to encourage promising young scientists and engineers to remain on university faculties.

Under the program, each of 200 researchers will receive as much as \$100,000 early next year.

Reagan Administration officials said the exclusion of social and behavioral scientists was necessary because the Presidential Young Investigator Awards, administered by the National Science Foundation, were designed specifically to help institutions fill vacancies and retain faculty members in fields where they face stiff competition from industry.

Some social and behavioral scientists, noting that the Administration had proposed sharp budget cuts in federal research support for their fields, said they felt their exclusion from the program was yet another instance of neglect by the Administration.

Pattern of Exclusion

"There certainly seems to be a pattern," said Roberta Balstad Miller, executive director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations. She noted that two other programs recently announced by the National Science Foundation—one to develop instructional materials for precollege science and mathematics teachers

and the other to develop workshops for them—also excluded proposals in the social and behavioral sciences.

Foundation officials defended the earlier decisions by saying that the agency had to apply limited science-education funds "to deal with what we perceived to be the more serious areas of need," specifically instruction in mathematics, the physical sciences, and biology.

Limiting the Presidential awards to mathematics, the physical and biological sciences, and engineering was necessary because the Administration "believes that special efforts are necessary to fill vacancies in these areas so that universities have the capability of producing adequate personnel to meet the needs of industry," said Edward A. Knapp, director of the foundation.

'Not a Serious Problem'

"Our best estimate is that the social and behavioral sciences are much less affected by drains on academic personnel and [that] faculty vacancies are not a serious problem," he said in a letter to Rep. Doug Walgren, Democrat of Pennsylvania and chairman of the House science subcommittee that has jurisdiction over N.S.F.

Mr. Walgren wrote to Mr. Knapp expressing his concern over the omission of the social and behavioral sciences from an announcement of the Presidential awards.

"While I recognize the importance

of encouraging researchers in the mathematical, physical, and biological sciences and engineering," the Congressman said, "I think there is a demonstrated need to encourage young investigators to do research in the behavioral and social sciences as well."

Earmarked Funds

Mr. Knapp assured Mr. Walgren that the science foundation would monitor the ability of universities to fill faculty positions in the social and behavioral sciences, "and if they experience the same downward trend that has occurred in the engineering and physical sciences, this will be taken into account in future planning for Presidential Young Investigator Awards."

Richard S. Nicholson, executive assistant to Mr. Knapp, said the foundation planned to use money from the research directorates that support engineering, mathematics, and the physical and biological sciences to finance the Presidential awards to faculty members in those areas, so that research money earmarked for the social and behavioral sciences would not be siphoned off.

The agency said that by next February it hoped to make up to 100 of the awards to faculty members in engineering; up to 60 in mathematics and physical sciences; up to 25 in biological sciences; and up to 15 in astronomical, atmospheric, earth, and ocean sciences.