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CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Volume III, Number 9  
May 4, 1984

This Week . . .

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COSSA Board of Directors  
Sources of Research Support: Department of Health and  
Human Services

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## HOUSE NARROWLY PASSES NSF AUTHORIZATION

The FY 1985 authorization for the National Science Foundation (NSF), which contains a \$5 million increase in the Foundation's social, behavioral, and information science programs, was narrowly passed by the House of Representatives on April 25.

The bill that was approved by the House provides a total NSF authorization of \$1.56 billion in FY 1985. This is \$58.3 million over the administration's request and provides support for super computers and math and science education as well as social and behavioral science research. The increase survived two attempts to reduce the authorization in the floor debate. Representative Judd Gregg (R-NH) proposed an amendment to reduce the authorization to the level requested by the administration. This was defeated by the narrow margin of 180-175. A second amendment offered by Representative Robert Walker (R-PA) for an across-the-board 3.9% reduction for all of NSF also failed by the somewhat wider margin of 183-170.

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**COSSA Washington Update** is a biweekly publication of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), 1200 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202/887-6166). Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$25.00; institutional subscriptions, \$90.00; overseas airmail, \$40.00. COSSA Members, Affiliates, and Contributors are listed on the back.

Dell H. Hymes, *President*

Roberta Balstad Miller, *Executive Director*

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For the first time in several years the House Science and Technology Committee had to defend the NSF against attacks which ridiculed research projects that had been funded in previous years. Committee Chairman Don Fuqua (D-FL) and Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Doug Walgren (D-PA) responded to what one member called "appalling attacks" by citing the benefits that have come from the research supported by NSF even though the research projects had titles that sounded funny to non-scientists.

Of the \$5 million increase for the Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences Directorate, \$3.6 million will go to the social and behavioral sciences and \$1.4 million to the information sciences. This brings NSF funding for these sciences nearly back to their FY 1980 levels in current dollars.

Statements in support of the increase for social and behavioral science research were given by Representatives Pat Williams (D-MT), Jim Moody (D-WI), and Sam Gejdenson (D-CT).

COSSA thanks those who responded to the NSF Alert with letters and telephone calls to their Representatives. The narrowness of the vote on this issue shows the importance of contacting congressional offices about support for research budgets in the social and behavioral sciences. If three Representatives had changed their vote on the Gregg amendment, the social, behavioral, and information sciences would have lost the proposed \$5 million increase in the House authorization. Members of Congress do respond to their constituents and the letters sent by social and behavioral scientists may well have been responsible for preserving the \$5 million increase in the FY 1985 authorization.

#### UNESCO: SOCIAL SCIENTIST TESTIFIES ON DANGERS OF WITHDRAWAL

Testifying at a congressional hearing last week, Dr. Harold Jacobson of the University of Michigan said that from the perspective of the social sciences, the danger of U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO lies not so much in the direct loss of benefits as in U.S. exclusion from a critical series of debates at UNESCO on the indigenization of social science research.

Sponsored jointly by the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations and the Subcommittee on International Operations of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the hearings brought together representatives of the scientific and education communities to testify on the implications of U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO. Walter Rosenblith, Foreign Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences, was invited to testify on the benefits of UNESCO to natural scientists and Dr. Jacobson, a political scientist and recent president of the International Studies Association, was asked to testify on its implications for the social sciences.



In his testimony, Dr. Jacobson told members of the Subcommittees that the social science benefits of U.S. membership in UNESCO have been mixed but are certainly less substantial at the present time than they once were and less than most American social scientists would like. However, he warned that U.S. withdrawal would preclude U.S. participation in UNESCO discussions on the indigenization of social science research. These debates, which began in the mid-1970's, have resulted in some decisions affirming that UNESCO programs should contribute to the indigenization of research. Yet despite these decisions, he testified, the concept remains largely undefined and the U.S. can -- and should -- play a major role in its definition. He told the subcommittees that U.S. participation in these discussions is vital both for interests of the United States and for the interests of the social sciences as scientific disciplines. An excerpt from Dr. Jacobson's testimony providing some background on the idea of the indigenization of social science research is given below:

Representatives of developing countries have taken the position in UNESCO debates that social science as it has developed in the West has served the interests of Western countries. Their perception has a factual basis. Cultural anthropology was used by the administrations of the European countries in their efforts to gain and maintain colonial empires. Successive acts of the U.S. Congress have provided funds for the development of area studies with the rationale that developing knowledge and scholars in the United States in these fields would serve U.S. security interests. All recent U.S. administrations have included in major positions prominent social scientists who were presumably chosen in part because of their substantive training and expertise. Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Kenneth Adelman, Chester Croker, and Jeanne Kirkpatrick are examples. That developing countries as they contemplate their own futures should want to emulate Western examples and make social science serve their own national purposes should hardly occasion surprise.

It would be futile for the United States to ask that the developing countries not insist that their own social science establishments address the questions that are their primary national concerns and [do so] from the point of their national interests. Most social science activity in the United States is directed toward the analysis of U.S. problems and is conducted from the point of view of U.S. interests.

For its own sake and for the good of social science, however, the United States must insist that social science should develop according to sound canons of scientific practice. This means that knowledge must be empirically based and that in developing theories about causation sound rules of evidence and logic must be followed. It also means that data and ideas must receive a wide international circulation.



Indigenization legitimately can mean devoting attention to national problems and basing analyses on national interests and values. Undoubtedly and welcomely it will mean that more theories will be introduced and developed by local scholars. It must not mean the rejection of Western ideas simply because they are of Western origin nor an abandonment of insistence on rigorous standards of logic and proof. It must not mean isolation of national social science communities, either that of the United States or any other country.

If the United States were absent from the debate on indigenization, it would seriously weaken the quality of this debate and place the outcome at risk.

Because they have received no letters on the subject, the chairmen of the two House subcommittees that sponsored the hearings have questioned whether social scientists are at all interested in the issue of U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO. Social scientists who are concerned about this issue should write Rep. Gus Yatron (D-PA) and Rep. Dan Mica (D-FL), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515.

#### COSSA TESTIFIES

COSSA presented testimony to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and to the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee following the return of the Congress after the Easter Recess.

Dr. Steven Deutsch, Director of the Center for the Study of Work, Economy and Community at the university of Oregon, testified on behalf of COSSA before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. In his testimony, Dr. Deutsch stressed the urgent need for increasing the funds available for research in the Department of Labor (DOL), reporting that the \$10 million budget cut in DOL research funds last year may lead the Department to disband the research program at DOL altogether. He also testified on research budgets in the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education. Dr. Deutsch's testimony on the Department of Labor was also submitted to Senator Lowell Weicker (R-CT), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

At the request of Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), COSSA submitted testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources on the authorization for the National Science Foundation for FY 1985. COSSA testimony urged the Senate Committee to follow the lead of the House by increasing the authorization for the social, behavioral, and information science programs in the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS). Several days later the Committee voted to do so. A report on the mark-up follows.



SENATE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS INCREASE FOR NSF SOCIAL SCIENCE

On May 2 the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee approved a FY 1985 authorization for the National Science Foundation (NSF) that included a \$3 million increase for the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences (BBS). The increase is to be used for the social, behavioral and information science programs in BBS. Of the \$3 million, \$2 million will go for social and behavioral science research and \$1 million will go for Information Science research. Senator Donald Riegle (D-MI) proposed the increase. It was passed by a vote of 11-7 with the support of both Democrats and Republicans. In addition to this action, the Committee approved an increase of \$1.5 million for the Women and Minorities in Science program. It also approved changes in the NSF organic act similar to action taken by the House to emphasize engineering. (See COSSA Washington Update, March 23, 1984, p. 3.)

The Senate has not passed an NSF authorization bill in four years. The Labor and Human Resources Committee and the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee are locked in a jurisdictional dispute, each claiming authority over NSF. Labor and Human Resources Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) announced at the markup that he intends to get this dispute settled and an NSF authorization bill out of the Senate this year.

BRITISH BEGIN SURVEY MODELED ON U.S. GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

With funding from the government and private foundations, a British research group is planning to conduct an annual national survey of social attitudes. The British survey is modeled on the General Social Survey, a U.S. data collection effort funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC). Unlike the General Social Survey, however, the British attitude survey is designed with a longitudinal panel as well as annual cross sectional surveys.

The principal investigator of the British project, Dr. Roger Jowell of Social and Community Planning Research in London, expressed the belief that the survey would become increasingly useful to social scientists over time. He pointed out the advantages afforded to U.S. scholars by the availability of continuing social data bases and noted, "while in the U.S. it can be shown that attitudes to racial prejudice have changed in the past 20 years, here we cannot even tell if the Brixton riots have intensified or softened British attitudes to racism."

Dr. Jowell has a grant from the Nuffield Foundation to bring social scientists from the U.S., Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Australia together to discuss ways to make their national attitude surveys more comparable in terms of sampling and in terms of specific survey items. The group will meet in Europe in this month and in Chicago in September.

5/4/84



COSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce that Arnold R. Weber, president of the University of Colorado, and Roger W. Shuy, professor of linguistics at Georgetown University, have just joined the COSSA Board of Directors.

The Board, which meets once a year to set COSSA policy and priorities and to approve the annual budget, consists of 25 members. Each of the ten founding Member associations appoints two Board members, one of them the executive officer and one an elected officer in the association. In addition, there are four at-large members of the Board. The COSSA Executive Director is an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board. Current members of the Board of Directors are listed below:

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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.

Office of Family Planning  
Family Planning Services Delivery Improvement Research

The Office of Family Planning (OFP), located in the Office of Population Affairs, has a legislative mandate to provide family planning services, with low-income women the primary target group. The research program of OFP focuses on improving these services.

Purpose of Program: OFP is currently soliciting grant applications for Family Planning Services Delivery Improvement Research. Eight areas of interest have been identified: needs of underserved subgroups of low-income populations; family planning service delivery in rural areas; managerial and organizations factors relevant to effective service delivery; staff configuration for optimal service delivery in clinical settings; effectiveness of different types of counseling available; implication of combining family planning services with other health services; factors associated with infertility problems; and effective ways of involving males in family planning provision.

FY 1984 Funds Available: \$600,000 is available for this program

Funding Mechanisms: Grants

Review Process: Peer review

Disciplines Funded: Any social science discipline; particularly relevant would be sociology, anthropology, and psychology

Restrictions on Awards: Up to \$100,000 per year for projects up to three years in duration; projects under \$20,000 are particularly encouraged

Success Ratio: In FY 1983, 11 of 33 applications were approved

Deadline: Applications submitted on Form PHS-398 must be postmarked by June 1

Contact: Questions may be directed to:

Dr. Patricia Thompson  
Office of Family Planning  
Room 1351, DHHS North Bldg.  
330 Independent Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201  
202/245-0151



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Southwestern Social Science Association

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