
CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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This Week . . .

- ✓ ● Bloch Defends NSF Increase; Senate Budget Committee Agrees
- ✓ ● COSSA Submits Testimony on NSF to House and Senate
- ✓ ● Cheney to Head NEH...Agresto to be Archivist?
- ✓ ● Proxmire Sponsors Bills for Social Science Research
 - Computer and Information Sciences Combined at NSF
 - Nina W. Cornell Appointed to COSSA Executive Committee
 - Searches Ended -- New Presidents Appointed for ACLS and SSRC
- Sources of Research Support: National Endowment for the Humanities

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BLOCH DEFENDS NSF INCREASE; SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE AGREES

Erich Bloch, Director of the National Science Foundation, made his annual appearance before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Chairman, on March 26. Under an agreement reached last year, this Committee now shares NSF authorization jurisdiction in the Senate with the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space of the Senate Commerce Committee. After Senate Labor and Human Resources finishes with the NSF authorization the Commerce Committee has thirty days to act.

As he did in earlier testimony, Bloch defended the increase in the NSF FY 1987 budget as important for increasing the nation's economic competitiveness. He also announced that five new engineering centers would be designated the next day. Sen. Hatch expressed concern over the growth of centers as the focus of NSF support vis-a-vis individual investigator-initiated research. Bloch responded that he views the centers as multidisciplinary research sites that would involve scientists from all disciplines, including the social and behavioral sciences.

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Risa I. Palm, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

Sen. Hatch indicated that the Labor Committee could support the requested NSF increase, but they might be constrained by the budget resolution that emerges from Congress.

On that front there was some encouragement as the Senate Budget Committee put together a bipartisan coalition that moved a budget resolution out of the Committee. The resolution includes increases in revenues, as well as larger reductions in the defense budget and smaller reductions in the non-defense areas than the administration says it is willing to accept. The resolution also includes an increase in the Science Function to replace the Challenger space shuttle and a \$100 million increase for NSF. Officials at NSF are interpreting this increase in outlays (how much is actually spent in a fiscal year) as the equivalent of a \$200 million increase in budget authority (how much is authorized to be spent now and in the future). The \$200 million increase comes close to matching the increase requested by the administration.

Although the administration opposes this budget resolution, the bipartisan coalition that passed it in Committee is expected to hold on the Senate floor. The House Budget Committee continues to delay action on its resolution, although reports indicate that it will not be as generous with the Science Function as the Senate Committee.

COSSA SUBMITS TESTIMONY ON NSF TO HOUSE AND SENATE

COSSA submitted statements to the House Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee and the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee asking that the social and behavioral sciences receive at least 5% of the Research and Related Activities part of the National Science Foundation budget.

The testimony also noted that in 1982 constant dollars the social and behavioral sciences had lost \$16.4 million since 1980. It further expressed disappointment with the small \$2 million increase for the Science and Engineering Education Directorate. In keeping with NSF Director Bloch's theme of economic competitiveness as the major justification for support of basic scientific research, COSSA's testimony contains many examples of the impact of social and behavioral science research on keeping America competitive. This argument was well received by the Chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

It appears that the NSF authorization process will slow down for a while, as both the House and Senate committees wait for a budget resolution to clear the Congress. The Senate Labor

and Human Resources Committee is now hoping to markup in mid-May. The full House Science and Technology Committee has not scheduled a markup date yet.

Note: In the last issue of the Update (March 21, 1986) it was stated that in the administration's FY 1987 budget request the social and behavioral science programs are 4.7% of the total NSF budget. This is true only if all the programs in the Division of Behavioral and Neural Sciences are included. If only the "behavioral" programs of that division are included, the behavioral and social sciences are at 4.0% of the NSF Research and Related Activities budget (see Update budget analysis issue, February 19, 1986, p. 26).

CHENEY TO HEAD NEH...AGRESTO TO BE ARCHIVIST?

Confirming rumors that had been floating around Washington for months, the administration has formally nominated Lynne Cheney to chair the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). At the same time, John Agresto, Acting Chair of NEH since William Bennett moved to the Department of Education over a year ago, has become the leading candidate to fill the vacancy as the Archivist of the United States. The Archives has had an acting director since the retirement of Robert Warner in April 1985.

Cheney, who has a Ph.D. in British literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is currently a senior editor of Washingtonian magazine. She has written several books and has taught at a number of colleges and universities in the Washington area and in Wyoming. Her husband is Rep. Richard Cheney (R-WY), former Chief-of-Staff to President Ford.

Last November the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee rejected the administration's first nominee for the NEH post, Edward Curran. COSSA joined other organizations in raising concerns about Curran's qualifications and ability to lead an organization that distributes grants and fellowships to humanities and social science scholars. Cheney is expected to win easy confirmation.

Agresto has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Cornell. After teaching at Kenyon College, he became a project director at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, which Bennett led before chairing NEH. Agresto has given strong support to the agenda set by Bennett at NEH, that being a return to traditional studies and values. He has strongly supported work on the celebration of the bicentennial of the Constitution in 1987.

PROXMIRE SPONSORS BILLS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Senator William Proxmire (D-WI) has introduced two bills that would provide for the gathering of statistics on health care expenditures and for research into disparities in health care procedures. Both projects would be conducted by the National Center for Health Services Research and Health Care Technology Assessment.

The first bill, S.2167, calls for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct the National Medical Expenditure Survey at least once every ten years beginning in 1987. The last medical expenditure survey was conducted in 1977. The idea of the survey has been approved by OMB and is included in the President's budget request. Sen. Proxmire believes, however, that the administration did not provide enough funds to begin the fieldwork in 1987. He proposes to authorize \$34 million over the next three years to be taken from an existing HHS one percent set-aside for evaluation projects.

If work begins next year, the results will probably not be available until 1989. The survey will gather data about health care utilization, spending and sources of payment. It will provide information that will affect policy concerning medicare payments, the cost and financing of care for the mentally retarded, health care coverage for the uninsured, and proposals for catastrophic care insurance.

Concerned with the variance in health and surgical procedures in different areas of the country, Sen. Proxmire has also introduced S.2114 which would authorize \$4 million for three years from the Medicare trust fund to conduct health outcomes research. The goal would be to gather data on the different rates of the performance of certain medical and surgical procedures and to explain the geographic and population based disparities.

Both of these bills reflect the Senator's interest in health economics, particularly health care costs containment.

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES COMBINED AT NSF

National Science Foundation Director Erich Bloch has announced the establishment of a new organizational unit, consolidating several computer-related activities into a Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). It will include the Division of Information Science and Technology (IST), now located in the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS); the Division of Computer Research; the Office of Advanced Scientific Computing; and some programs from the Directorate for Engineering.

The new directorate is being established to create closer ties among such activities as computer science, information science, computer engineering, supercomputers, and networking. C. Gordon Bell, a widely known computer architect, is expected to be named director of CISE.

Current plans call for the IST Division, which spends approximately 40% of its budget for social and behavioral science research, to be transferred to the new directorate intact. IST Director Charles N. Brownstein sees the move as a positive step for the division, anticipating no change in program emphasis and no decrease in the proportion spent on the social and behavioral sciences. Although the administration requested a sizeable increase for IST in FY 1987 -- most of which is targeted for social and behavioral research -- the division has not fared as well in previous years. Because CISE is likely to receive strong support from NSF brass and the administration, IST will be in a position to share in that support.

NINA W. CORNELL APPOINTED TO COSSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nina W. Cornell has joined the COSSA Executive Committee as the representative of the American Economic Association (AEA). She replaces Henry J. Aaron of the Brookings Institution, who served on the Committee since 1981. AEA, with offices in Nashville, is the only one of the 10 COSSA Members not headquartered in Washington.

Currently president of Cornell, Pelcovits & Brenner Economists Inc., a Washington consulting firm, Cornell served as Chief of the Office of Plans and Policy at the Federal Communications Commission (1978-81), and Senior Staff Economist for the Council of Economic Advisors. Her Ph.D. in economics was awarded by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1972.

SEARCHES ENDED -- NEW PRESIDENTS APPOINTED FOR ACLS AND SSRC

The two leading private councils of scholarly societies for American social scientists and humanists, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), will have new presidents as of July 1, 1986. Stanley Katz, a legal historian who is currently Professor of Public and International Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton, will take over ACLS. Frederic E. Wakeman, Jr., Professor of History and former Chairman of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, will assume the SSRC post. Katz's selection has been known for several weeks; Wakeman's has just been announced.

The ACLS, a federation of 45 national scholarly organizations has an aggregate membership of 250,000 scholars and is the principal representative body for the humanities in the United States. The purpose of the ACLS, which was established in 1919, is "the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among the national societies devoted to such studies." Most of the major social science disciplinary associations and a number of social science scholarly societies are constituents of the ACLS.

The SSRC was founded in 1923 "for the purpose of advancing research in the social sciences." Its founding members were representatives of seven major social science professional associations: anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics. The SSRC board of directors includes individuals from those disciplines as well as individuals from other social science and related fields. It operates primarily to generate new ideas, plan research, stimulate and further fields (including inter and sub-disciplines), and train scholars.

Neither the ACLS nor the SSRC undertakes research directly. Both of these non-profit organizations have distinguished professional staffs and are headquartered in New York. The two councils jointly sponsor a number of committees, particularly in areas of international research, scholarship, and training, and cooperate in other ways.

Mr. Wakeman has served as chairman of the Joint (ACLS-SSRC) Committee on Chinese Studies and a predecessor Committee on Studies of Chinese Civilization. He is a prominent historian of modern China, has served on the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China, and has been a visiting professor at Peking University. He received his education at Harvard College, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Paris), and the University of California-Berkeley, where he has taught for the past 21 years.

Mr. Katz is not only a legal historian but also a specialist on the history of foundations, grant-making, and research. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania (concurrently with his appointment at Princeton), and at Harvard, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Chicago, where he was an associate dean of the law school. A former Fulbright Fellow in the U.K., he has recently served as Chairman of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars which administers the Fulbright Scholars Program for the U.S. Information Agency.

At ACLS, Katz succeeds John William Ward, who died in 1985. At SSRC, Wakeman succeeds Kenneth Prewitt, who left SSRC to join The Rockefeller Foundation in the same year.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

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

NEH Fellowships

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) supports scholarship, research, education, and public programs in the humanities. Within the terms of the NEH mandate, social science projects tend to be historical or philosophical in approach, or attempt to cast light on questions of interpretation or criticism traditionally identified with the humanities. NEH Fellowships are awarded for independent study and research. They free fellows from the day-to-day responsibilities of teaching and other work for extended periods of uninterrupted investigation, reflection, and, writing.

Fellowships for College Teachers and Independent Scholars support both beginning and experienced college teachers and independent interpreters of the humanities in study and research directed toward scholarly publication or for work directed toward teaching. These fellowships are intended for teachers at 2-year, 4-year, and 5-year institutions that do not have Ph.D. programs.

Fellowships for University Teachers support teachers and scholars based at graduate universities and postgraduate professional schools to pursue independent study and research that will enable them to make significant contributions to thought and knowledge in the humanities. Fellowships are offered to both established scholars and individuals at the beginning of their careers.

Restrictions on Awards: For 1986, fellowship stipends range from \$18,000 to \$27,500.

Review Process: Peer panels

Deadline: June 1, 1986 for projects that begin after January 1, 1987.

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