
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REDUCES NSF REQUEST

While the President continues to call for a revised budget process and a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, the inexorable appropriations process marches on. The House HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA), marked up its bill on June 11 and reduced the requested increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for FY 1988 from 16.5% to 7%.

Acknowledging a shortfall of \$600 million in the Subcommittee's allocation from the House budget resolution, Chairman Boland announced that pain-taking cuts would have to be made in popular programs. The National Science Foundation joined Urban Development Action Grants, Environmental Protection Agency construction grants, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the Subcommittee's chopping block.

The Subcommittee appropriated \$1.743 billion for NSF, \$150 million less than the FY 1988 administration request. The allocation for Research and Related Activities was \$1.475 billion, down \$160 million from the request and a 5% increase over FY 1987 funding. Within the research directorates the Subcommittee protected the Ocean Sciences program's 11.8% increase and the programs designed to provide greater opportunities in science and engineering for women and minorities.

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The Consortium represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community.

Victor G. Rosenblum, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

Funding for the Science and Engineering Education (SEE) Directorate was increased by \$30 million over the request to \$145 million. This represents a 47% increase over FY 1987 funding. Within this Directorate, the Subcommittee transferred \$3 million from the research in teaching and learning program to the college science instrumentation program. The Antarctica program received \$123 million, a 5% increase over FY 1987.

If these funding decisions were the final word, research budgets for non-protected areas at the Foundation would be increased less than 4%, assuming all programs were treated equally. However, NSF Director Erich Bloch has already stated at congressional hearings that, should the full requested budget increase not be granted, the priorities set forth by the Foundation in the budget request would be used to allocate any decreases. Thus, education and human resource programs would be protected first, followed by science and technology centers, and then the disciplinary programs (see Update, March 27, 1987). The 7% increase would also make the goal of doubling the NSF budget in five years tremendously difficult, if not impossible.

However, this is not the final funding decision. The Senate HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee has yet to be heard from. Strong encouragement should be given to its members (listed below) to fund NSF at the administration's request. In addition, there is a chance a budget resolution might finally emerge which would provide more funding for the science function and thus allow greater leeway for the House to increase the NSF budget more than its appropriations subcommittee did.

SENATE HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

William Proxmire (D-WI)
John Stennis (D-MS)
Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA)
Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)

Jake Garn (R-UT)
Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY)
Pete Domenici (R-NM)
Charles Grassley (R-IA)
Don Nickles (R-OK)

NEH, SMITHSONIAN, WILSON CENTER MARKUPS: DOWN, UP, UP?

On June 4, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies marked up the FY 1988 appropriations bill for the agencies under its jurisdiction, which include the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Smithsonian Institution, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. This Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Sidney Yates (D-IL), also decides energy appropriations, and the billion-dollar plus figure for those programs makes the others seem small potatoes by comparison. Yates is, however, a vigorous advocate for the arts and humanities and that is reflected in generally healthy funding levels for NEH, the Smithsonian, and the Wilson Center.

Although the NEH appropriation as reported out by the Subcommittee dropped 2% compared with FY 1987 (from \$142.5 million to \$139.6 million), the latter figure represents a 9% increase over the administration's budget request for FY 1988. The Smithsonian had a happier experience: the Subcommittee approved an 11% increase over the FY 1987 appropriation (from \$205.5 million to \$231.8 million), which is 1.5% above the administration's request. The Wilson Center had initially requested almost \$4 million, which would have equalled a 17% increase over FY 1987, but the final figure was \$3.827 million, 13% above FY 1987.

The Wilson Center shortfall can be attributed to a feeling among members of the Subcommittee that too much was requested for computerization and other overhead expenses and to the Center's attempt to seek funds for programs that have not received federal support in the past. The Committee felt that the NEH, by contrast, was already underfunded and made a modest effort to keep the Endowment's federal appropriations near the FY 1987 level. However, this should be small comfort for the Endowment. Since FY 1981 the NEH appropriation has shown a tendency to flutter up and down, sometimes dramatically (for example, down 14% in FY 1982 and up 7% in FY 1984). The FY 1988 figure, as reported out by the Subcommittee, is 8% below the FY 1981 appropriation, not taking into account inflation.

COSSA SEMINAR FOCUSES ON POPULATION TRENDS, JOB OPPORTUNITIES

As part of a continuing effort to bring current social science research to the attention of federal policymakers, COSSA sponsored a Congressional breakfast seminar on June 12 on Capitol Hill entitled "Population Trends and Job Opportunities: Is There a Mismatch?" The seminar served as a forum for discussing current demographic and economic trends, their implications for future employment opportunities, and an actual 'case study' of an attempt, on a state level, to implement a research-based policy to fit people to jobs, and vice versa.

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Population Resource Center in association with the Population Association of America. Congressional auspices were provided by the House Subcommittee on Employment and Housing of the House Government Operations Committee, and the Congressional Coalition on Population and Development.

John D. Kasarda, chairman of the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spoke on the topic of "People and Jobs on the Move: America's New Spatial Dynamics." Kasarda provided extensive data, largely based on machine-readable files from the Current Population Survey, demonstrating the migration of the U.S. population from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and West, reflecting the traditional movement of 'people to jobs.' He also demonstrated

the continued growth of suburban rings, refuting the popular notion of a 'back to the city' movement. These demographic changes have been accompanied by a change in the economic base of many metropolitan areas. Cities are now becoming centers of information processing rather than centers of goods processing. This change is a cause for concern, stated Kasarda:

"The selective redistribution of city jobs and city people is placing the demographics and economies of our major cities on a collision course. Expanding numbers of poorly educated urban minorities lack the education and skills to be employed by most white-collar service sector firms that have replaced manufacturing and other entry level establishments in transforming cities. As their rates of unemployment climb, it is little comfort to the masses of high school dropouts in our larger cities that there are abundant job opportunities for accountants, lawyers, and investment bankers in the central business districts. Nor is it of much comfort to growing numbers of suburban business establishments facing serious entry-level labor shortages that there are huge surpluses of entry-level labor in the urban cores."

Economist Frank Levy, professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland and currently a Guggenheim fellow at the Brookings Institution, discussed the general pattern of post-World War II economic growth and the development of distinct job markets yielding different patterns of real income. Levy first responded to recent attention in the media to the 'disappearance' of the middle class. Using Census Bureau data, Levy demonstrated that the distribution of income in the U.S., although unequal, has not changed significantly since 1949. What has changed is that those families with incomes in the 'middle range' of the income distribution can no longer afford a 'middle class' lifestyle. Levy explained this trend as being the result of two factors: (1) the absence of real income growth for more than a decade; and (2) demographic changes in the bottom of the income distribution.

In the first case, Levy demonstrated negative income growth with Census Bureau data on incomes of 40-year-old men. "By the time the average man reaches age 40," according to Levy, "most of his big promotions are behind him. If you follow what happens to 40-year-olds as they age to 50, their earnings can still increase if earnings are increasing throughout the whole society...You can think of a career as elbowing your way up a flight of stairs and pushing your way past other people. However, what is really going on in a healthy economy is that you are elbowing your way up on an escalator, so even when you stop [at age 50], you're still making progress because the escalator is still moving up." Because the 'escalator effect' has not been evident in the past 10-12 years, most people feel they are losing ground.

Levy also noted that economic and demographic changes have transformed the composition of the lowest income bracket: the

elderly have modestly increased their economic status (owing to social security benefits being indexed to inflation); the number of female-headed households is increasing (exacerbated by the loss of blue-collar jobs for males); and the middle-class has stopped reproducing itself (relative to birth rates for poor women).

Levy's latest book, Dollars and Dreams: The Changing American Income Distribution, will be published by the Russell Sage Foundation this month.

Susan Bucknell, director of Human Services, Policy Planning, and Coordination for the state of Connecticut spoke next. She described "Jobs for Connecticut's Future," an attempt to analyze economic and demographic trends and use them to help shape policies that would secure the state's economic future. At its core, the program is a research and planning project designed to identify what the job market would be and what the labor force would be. The project involves both the public and private sectors, including employers, labor unions, community-based organizations, and the education community. As part of the research, the state commissioned employment projections through 1995, and did competency profiles of 42 occupations. What they found was that current education and training programs did not provide workers with the kinds of competencies they needed, i.e., communications and interpersonal skills, and critical thinking abilities.

A unique aspect of the jobs project has been to consider the whole realm of housing, transportation, and human services in formulating sound economic development policies. While Bucknell believes that the project will have an important, positive impact on Connecticut's future, she challenged the audience of policy-makers by stating, "The way we used the data was very crude. We really need that level of policy research and analysis to help us refine and make our policies much more targeted, much more critical. I think whatever you can do to support the kind of policy research that feeds into these various sectors is absolutely critical."

The seminar was well-attended by Congressional staff, agency officials, and press who raised important questions about the policy implications of the research presented. The seminar was reported by the Associated Press the following day, and it was the focus of an editorial in the Wall Street Journal on June 17.

GOSLIN TO LEAVE NRC AFTER 13 YEARS

UPDATE learned this week that David A. Goslin will leave his position as executive director of the Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Research Council (NRC) this fall. The Commission, whose acronym is CBASSE,

organizes the social and behavioral science and technical communities, through voluntary committees, in undertaking projects to study national problems and policy issues from a scientific point of view, and to contribute to the general advancement of the social and behavioral sciences. CBASSE is one of the major divisions of the NRC, the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, and works also with the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Most projects that CBASSE undertakes are stimulated by requests from government, but a number reflect the priorities of the two Academies and the IOM. The published reports of CBASSE studies, reviewed before publication by the Academies or the IOM, have considerable influence in the formation of policy in the public and the private sector.

Goslin will become president of the American Institutes for Research (AIR), a nonprofit research organization largely in the social and behavioral sciences and related fields. AIR has offices in Washington, DC, California, and Massachusetts, and a professional staff of about 240 people. It was founded in 1946 by John Flanagan as an outgrowth of the aviation psychology program of the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

Goslin, a sociologist, came to the NRC in 1974 as executive director of a forerunner body, the Assembly of Behavioral and Social Sciences. The post of executive director of CBASSE is one of the key positions in what Kenneth Prewitt has called the 'national staff of the social sciences.' While a formal mechanism for searching for his replacement is not yet announced, nominations and recommendations may be directed now to Robert McC. Adams, incoming chair of the Commission (and Secretary of The Smithsonian Institution), in care of the CBASSE office (2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418).

TECHNOLOGY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT RELEASED

On June 17th, the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy -- a joint unit of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine -- issued the report of one of its study panels, the Panel on Technology and Employment. The panel has worked for two years reviewing evidence on the impact of new technology on levels of employment, the distribution and characteristics of jobs in the economy, the level and distribution of earnings, and the quality of and skills for jobs of the future. The panel was chaired by economist Richard M. Cyert, president of Carnegie-Mellon University, and included a number of academics from such fields as economics, sociology, and history, as well as experts drawn from industry, labor, education, technology development, and the public policy sector. The report, Technology and Employment: Innovation and Growth in the U.S. Economy, is now available from the National Academy Press.

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. A comprehensive list of federal funding sources is included in COSSA's Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists.

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

In addition to the principal function of policy development, the office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) supports research on policy issues of interest to both the executive and legislative branches, and performs evaluations of HHS programs and policies. The ASPE policy research program has moved from long-term, high-cost projects to smaller and more targeted studies.

Currently, ASPE is soliciting applications for research in three areas:

(1) long-term care (characteristics of older persons with long-term care needs; patterns of long-term care; nursing home use; use of home and community-based services; informal care-giving; long-term care costs; and catastrophic long-term care expenditures) (deadline: July 31, 1987)

(2) income security policy (the relationship of the availability of medical services to welfare dependency; effects and efficiency of transfers on growth and income distribution; measurement of poverty; the economic attainment of Blacks and Puerto Ricans; the incidence and implications of the growth of sub-families; unemployment spell dynamics and displacement; and the transfer society -- growth, composition, and political-economic explanations and implications) (deadline: August 3, 1987)

(3) the effect of competition on hospital performance (the level or rate of growth of hospital utilization, costs, and revenues; the substitution of outpatient for inpatient services; specialization in delivery of services or type of patient served as distinguished by source of reimbursement; and the quality of care or outcomes) (deadline: August 4, 1987)

Application/Review Process: Applications should be requested no later than July 7, 1987. Review of applications will be performed by panels of federal employees and outside experts.

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