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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## THE 1988 ELECTIONS: CONTINUITY, SMALL CHANGES

The election of George Bush as President of the United States on November 8 will bring continuity in Republican control of the executive branch, but the need to establish a separate Bush identity from the Reagan administration will create small changes with some new faces that may reflect different policy emphases, with perhaps a return to control of the pragmatic, non-ideological wing of the Republican party. The country faces an important and different transition period, one where there is no change in party control of the White House (something that has not happened since 1928).

The reelection of 98% of House incumbents running and the gain of one seat in the partisan makeup of the Senate keeps the Democrats in firm control of the legislative branch. Retirements, a leadership contest in the Senate, and committee switches indicate that there will be some alterations in how Congress operates as well. Still looming for both the new executive and the new Congress is the federal budget deficit, which will continue to constrain new initiatives and substantial increases in research programs.

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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*

Howard J. Silver, *Executive Director*

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Executive Branch

Early staff appointments suggest that the Bush administration may attempt to balance establishment, pragmatic types like Jim Baker at State, Nicholas Brady at Treasury, and others who suggest an experienced, practical view of the world in which they operate, with stalwarts of the conservative base that helped to elect him. The appointment of former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu as White House chief of staff reflects that objective. Richard Darman, expected to be named head of the Office of Management and Budget, brings his experience with Baker at Treasury, and also does not seem to demonstrate the ideological zeal of a David Stockman or a James Miller. Darman even serves on the Board of Trustees of the Brookings Institution. It is unclear at this writing whether Lauro Cavazos, former president of Texas Tech University, will remain as education secretary, where he is viewed as a consensus builder and a welcome change from the confrontational William Bennett. Erich Bloch is expected to remain at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Lynn Cheney at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), since their appointments are for terms non-congruent with the presidential term. It will be quite awhile before the important sub-cabinet posts where the policy choices are implemented are filled. Bush faces a dilemma on whether to retain current appointees of the Reagan administration or bring in fresh personnel.

Congress

Congressional changes start with the contest for majority leader in the Senate to be decided when the Senate Democrats caucus on November 29. Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) has stepped down to take over as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The contest for the leadership post has three candidates: Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA), Sen. George Mitchell (D-ME), and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI). Whichever man wins, the spillover impact on committee and subcommittee chairmen will be significant.

The retirement of Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI) will result in a new chairman of the HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, which handles the appropriations for NSF. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) is said to be interested. It appears Sen. Jim Sasser (D-TN) will replace the retired Sen. Lawton Chiles (D-FL) as chair of the Budget Committee. Chiles' retirement and the defeat of Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-CT) will lead to a new leadership team at the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Weicker's defeat also results in a new ranking Republican on the Handicapped Subcommittee of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, which will handle the reauthorization of NEH. The retirement of Sen. Robert Stafford (R-VT) opens a vacancy in the ranking Republican position for the Education, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, with reauthorization of the Higher Education Act looming on the horizon. The defeat of

Sen. John Melcher (D-MT) will produce a new chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, expected to be Sen. David Pryor (D-AR). Sen. Don Riegle (D-MI) is expected to take over the Senate Banking Committee chairmanship, leaving the Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee chairmanship open, perhaps for Sen. John Kerry (D-MA).

With 98% of incumbents reelected, changes in the House of Representatives come mostly from retirements. Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA) will be replaced as chairman of the HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee by Rep. Bob Traxler (D-MI). By House rules, Rep. William Gray (D-PA) must step down as chair of the Budget Committee. He will be replaced by Rep. Leon Panetta (D-CA). Also by House rules, there will be considerable turnover on that important committee. The Science, Space, and Technology Committee will have a new ranking Republican with the retirement of Rep. Manual Lujan (R-NM). Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA) is expected to replace him. Rep. William Goodling (R-PA) will replace newly elected Sen. James Jeffords as the ranking Republican on the Education and Labor Committee. There will be a new Chairman of the Government Operations Committee as Rep. Jack Brooks (D-TX) takes over the Judiciary Committee from the retired Rep. Peter Rodino (D-NJ). Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-IN) becomes the new Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee. Among the new House members are Rep. Tom Campbell (R-CA), a law professor at Stanford and a Ph.D. in economics, and Reps. Glenn Poshard (D-IL) and Peter Smith (R-VT), who hold Ph.D.'s in education.

There will be some new leaders in the House. Rep. Richard Cheney (R-WY) is expected to be elected Republican whip, the number two position for his party in the House, replacing newly-elected Senator Trent Lott (R-MI). Rep. William Gray is expected to become chairman of the Democratic Caucus, a position from which Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO) launched his presidential campaign.

All these changes will be followed by Senators and Representatives receiving committee assignments with switches and newcomers creating a shakeup that could have an important impact on policy. For that we will have to wait until January. <<

#### FUTURE OF NLS PONDERED AT MEETING

The future of the National Longitudinal Studies of Labor Market Experiences (NLS), "one of the most important national resources we have," according to Janet Norwood, commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), was discussed at a meeting of social scientists and government officials funded by the National Science Foundation on October 21. NLS, saved from extinction in 1983 by the work of COSSA and other groups when it was housed in the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor (DOL), was moved to BLS in 1987. Since then, funding restraints (\$300,000 out of an approximate \$5 million

budget were lost in FY 1988) have led to concern about and plans for the long-range future of the NLS.

The NLS grew from a suggestion of then-Assistant Secretary of Labor Daniel Patrick Moynihan to DOL official Howard Rosen, that it was important to conduct longitudinal research related to important policy issues. Herb Parnes, longtime principal NLS investigator, noted that at his last count, there were 1,528 studies, 685 papers and books, and 843 dissertations utilizing data collected by NLS during the past 22 years.

NLS began by following four cohorts -- older men (45-59 years old in 1966), mature women (30-44 years old in 1967), young men (14-24 years old in 1966), and young women (14-24 years old in 1966). A youth cohort 14-21 years old in 1979 (NLSY) was added, followed by a children-of-the-youth cohort added in 1986. Severe budget reductions in the DOL research budget led to the elimination of the two male cohorts in the early 1980s. Interviews with the original four cohorts examined labor market experiences, education and other socioeconomic variables, and job attitudes and retirement plans, as well as environmental variables such as region of residence and local labor market characteristics.

The newer youth cohort and children-of-the-youth cohort surveys have received support from agencies such as the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institutes on Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, so questions concerning maternal-child health and child care have supplemented the earlier material. In addition, support from the Department of Education and the Department of Defense has led to the creation of data files based on school characteristics, high school transcripts, and the results of the armed services vocational aptitude battery. Physical and cognitive tests have been administered to the children of the NLSY.

Randall Olsen, director of the Ohio State University's Center for Human Resource Research, and current principal NLS investigator, suggested that it is necessary to make the case "that efforts to collect longitudinal data are worthy of at least a stable and predictable level of support in order to ensure the long-term availability of the data." Many of the participants at the meeting argued that it was imperative to make NLS and its results available more quickly and to make them more visible to members of Congress who determine NLS' funding levels.

In the next few weeks a technical review committee will develop a list of recommendations for the future of NLS. The questions of commencing new cohorts, resuming the older male cohort, and maintaining funding in a tight budgetary climate, are just a few of the issues that need to be addressed as we move toward a new administration and another budget cycle.<<

**CDC DIRECTOR URGES MORE CONCERTED DISEASE-PREVENTION EFFORTS**

While strides have been made in the area of disease prevention in recent years, serious gaps remain in this country's attempts to apply successful community intervention programs everywhere they are needed, according to James Mason, director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Speaking before the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Mason noted that "we haven't begun to scratch the surface" of what this nation can do to prevent chronic diseases, despite improvements in the gathering and assessment of data, the development of successful intervention strategies, and advances in methods for targeting segments of the general population that are susceptible to disease. As is the case in various other government agencies that support social and behavioral science research, CDC is focusing on ways to apply the knowledge that basic research in these fields provides. The establishment of a Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion may provide some answers, Mason said. The newly created Center houses prevention- and promotion-related divisions formerly belonging to other CDC centers, particularly the Center for Health Promotion and Education.

Mason also stressed that the CDC is well aware that affecting behavior change is the key to prevention of diseases and injury. He also made reference to mounting evidence that the links between chronic diseases and behavior patterns are more numerous and more important than once believed.

More than any other factor, the spread of the HIV infection has driven home the need for more concerted, comprehensive disease prevention efforts at the local level, Mason said. He added that AIDS has provided "a nice framework" for cementing ties between the CDC and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA). He added that he sees ADAMHA's role in basic research as increasing in importance, while the CDC's role is increasingly one of finding ways to apply the findings of ADAMHA's intramural and extramural researchers.

At the same meeting, members of the Secretary's Council touched up a draft document urging that HHS stay the course in its formulation of the "year 2000 national health objectives report," currently being developed within the Public Health Service and scheduled to be published in 1990. Among other recommendations listed in the draft document, the Council urges that "the Secretary use his or her influence to increase allocations for prevention as our national investment in prevention currently constitutes only 3 percent of our national health expenditures." However, the Council does not specify how funds for "prevention" should be spent. The draft document directs its attention to health-promotion campaigns and clinical preventive services rather than to prevention research itself.

The Council does offer strong support for tracking the progress of health objectives for the next decade. In the draft document, the Council notes: "An analysis of all national health data sets and surveillance systems would expose gaps in collection and expand opportunities for improving data availability and quality." It concludes that as the health objectives "are implemented, tracked, and evaluated, we will be building a rigorous set of health indices, equivalent to the best economic indicators, from which to plan and improve the health of Americans."<<

#### **FBI CLARIFIES LIBRARY AWARENESS PROGRAM**

In the face of widespread criticism among library advocates and others, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has clarified its intentions with regard to its Library Awareness Program (LAP) in the hope of dispelling some of the controversy surrounding the Program. Extant for at least 20 years, LAP has sought to recruit librarians to track the use of documents such as scientific journals by library patrons with foreign-sounding names or accents (see Update, August 5, 1988). The FBI claims that LAP's duties are in line with the interests of national security.

Under LAP, FBI agents target libraries with extensive holdings in engineering and the sciences and request information about individual users from circulation clerks. Such tactics have come under strong criticism of groups like the American Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries, which have instructed librarians to deny the FBI access to information about patrons or circulation records on the grounds that cooperation would violate ethical and legal standards.

The FBI's recent clarification of LAP comes in the form of a letter from FBI Director William Sessions to Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA), chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees FBI activities. In the letter, Sessions spells out, among other things, that the cooperation of librarians would be voluntary and that the LAP activities would be somewhat confined.

However, library advocates are not appeased. While many consider it a positive sign that the FBI has spelled out clearer guidelines for LAP activities, LAP will still remain very much in existence. The issue continues to bear watching.<<

\* \* \* Note to Readers \* \* \*

The next issue of COSSA Washington Update will be published on Friday, December 9th.

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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 for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

**National Institute on Drug Abuse**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse supports extramural research projects that improve and refine methods for assessing, treating, and preventing drug abuse. Further information and applications for research grant support are available from the address and phone number given below. Areas of study include, but are not limited to, the following. Application receipt deadlines are in parentheses.

**Epidemiology:** Research on the incidence/prevalence of non-medical use and abuse of drugs, including exploration of the patterns, trends, and extent of drug use and methodology and statistical techniques to determine drug use; also included are studies of psychological, personality and behavioral factors which predispose to drug abuse. (Feb. 1, June 1, Oct. 1)

**Treatment:** Studies which reduce drug-related morbidity and mortality, particularly the intravenous spread of AIDS, including trials to determine the efficacy and safety of psychotherapeutic and behavioral interventions. (Feb. 1, June 1, Oct. 1)

**Prevention:** Research designed to better understand the etiology of drug use and development and testing of strategies to prevent it, including programs which identify risk factors, develop and evaluate intervention strategies, and focus on the role of drug use in high-risk behaviors. (Feb. 1, June 1, Oct. 1)

**Behavioral and Clinical Pharmacology:** Studies of the effects of drug abuse on behavior, learning, conditioning, cognitive function, and performance; also, vulnerability studies of behavioral and environmental factors. (Feb. 1, June 1, Oct. 1)

**AIDS and Drug Abuse:** Studies of AIDS incidence and prevalence and that of other infectious diseases associated with drug abuse, studies of factors contributing to IV drug use as a mode of transmission for AIDS, research and evaluation of programs for education, intervention, prevention, and treatment programs to halt the spread of AIDS through impacting on drug abusers and their sexual partners. (Jan. 2, May 1, Sept. 1)

**Contact:** Grants Management Branch  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
Parklawn Building, Room 10-25  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
301/443-6710 <<

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1625 I STREET, N.W., SUITE 911, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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