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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## NSF SCIENCE-FACILITIES AMENDMENT EXAMINED

Academic administrators expressed general satisfaction with the proposed National Science Foundation (NSF) research-facilities funding program. Witnesses before an April 14 hearing of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-SC), discussed not only the impact such a program would have on the nation's basic research, but also how it should apply to 'have' versus 'have-not' institutions. At issue is an amendment introduced by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and accepted by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on June 2, 1987, charging NSF with revitalizing university research facilities (see Update, July 17, 1987). Under the amendment, grants would be made after "a comprehensive review using established Foundation procedures" and the guarantee of a 50-50 match by recipient institutions using non-federal funds. Similar legislation has been introduced by Rep. Robert Roe (D-NJ), Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

In past hearings on the Roe legislation, NSF director Erich Bloch voiced his support for the overall goal of the proposed program while noting administration opposition to the amendment on budgetary grounds. At the Dodd-amendment hearings he testified that although scientific progress is tied directly to

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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, *Acting Executive Director*

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the condition of research facilities, the Foundation's priorities are people (human resources) first, equipment second, and facilities third. "I will not deny the fact that there is a problem" Bloch said, referring to the aging of science and engineering facilities at research institutions nationwide. Bloch noted NSF has gauged the problem, referring to a report based on two surveys conducted in the spring of 1986 (see Update, July 17, 1987), adding that a similar report will be completed this fall. Although the report indicated a need for new programs of facilities' support (social science facilities were graded "relatively poor"), Bloch said the situation is "not as bad" as some have depicted. He added that NSF currently funds facilities to some degree, but in most cases this money is directed toward specialized items, such as oceanographic vessels, telescopes, and supercomputers.

Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., president of Yale University, who testified on behalf of several higher education associations, echoed other witnesses from the academic community when he offered strong support for Dodd's proposal and told the committee that university facilities across the country "are in a sad state of dilapidation." Regarding the have/have-not issue, he praised the two-tier funding feature for the proposed program, which "recognizes the needs of the institutions most heavily engaged in federally supported research while also providing a special opportunity for smaller or emerging research institutions to compete for funds." Under this funding mechanism, there is a 15% set-aside for universities and colleges that "received less than \$10 million in federal funds for research and development...in each of the two preceding fiscal years," as well as a 10% set-aside for institutions "serving a substantial number of minority and disadvantaged undergraduate and graduate students." The legislation authorizes \$47 million in FY 1989 and \$95 million in FY 1990, and such sums as may be necessary in FY 1991 and FY 1992.<<

#### VISA-REVISION LEGISLATION CONTINUES PROGRESS IN HOUSE

Despite threats of opposition at a later date, the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law successfully marked up H.R.1119. This legislation, the Immigration Exclusion and Deportation Amendment of 1988, amends the Immigration and Nationality Act. Presiding at the April 12 markup was subcommittee chairman Rep. Romano L. Mazzoli (D-KY); the bill has been shepherded through the subcommittee by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). After consultations with the State Department, it moves to the House Judiciary Committee, where opposition to several provisions is anticipated.

The provisions of H.R.1119 regarding the exclusion and deportation of foreigners on the basis of beliefs or ideologies supersede the McCarran-Walter Act, passed in 1952. The visa-denial provisions of McCarran-Walter were temporarily repealed earlier this year by an amendment to the State Department Authorization Act, which will be in effect until February, 1989 (see Update, January 22, 1988). If passed into law, H.R.1119 would make that repeal permanent. No similar legislation has been introduced into the Senate, although there is speculation

that Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) will do so soon, now that his presidential campaign has been put on hold.

While no opposition to the measure was voiced at the markup, some Republican members promised to question provisions in the bill concerning the definition of terrorism and the implications of allowing individuals into the U.S. whose entry could have repercussions for Americans abroad (this clause is known as the "Shah of Iran provision"). Advocates have pointed out that removal of the ideological exclusion provisions should not be construed as indicating that the issuance of an entry visa signals State Department approval of the views of individuals receiving visas. Rather, by allowing foreigners holding political views that some might consider "un-American," but who have not participated in terrorist or other activities prejudicial to the security of the U.S., the government is simply doing its democratic duty. The administration is attempting to insert a "subversive activities" clause, without defining subversion. Negotiations between the State Department and key legislators interested in this issue will continue, after which the full Judiciary Committee will consider the bill.<<

#### **OMB CRITICIZED FOR TAMPERING WITH CENSUS**

With the 1990 decennial census just two years away, the Census Bureau is working feverishly to prepare final drafts of the questionnaires to be used. However, according to testimony presented at a Congressional oversight hearing on April 14, political and logistical pressures on the bureau are causing concern among census-data users. Congressmen and members of the data-user community defended the utility of housing and energy data and questioned the role of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in tampering with the Census questionnaire.

The hearing, held by the House Census and Population Subcommittee of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and chaired by Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-CA), was a final opportunity for consultation with the Census Bureau over the shape and content of the Census questionnaires. Two questionnaires are used, a short form for every household in the U.S. and a long form mailed at a ratio of one-in-six households, varying according to population density. OMB had requested eliminating three energy-related questions altogether and transferring seven of the nine housing questions to the long form (see Update, September 25, 1987). After consultations between Congress, data users, the Census Bureau, and OMB, two of the three energy questions were restored to the long form while five out of the nine housing questions remain on the short form.

Despite these compromises, several witnesses criticized the positioning of the energy questions. Andrew Cherlin, a professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University testifying on behalf of the Population Association of America, expressed concern that dropping questions meant reduced utility of data for longitudinal analyses. The decennial census is, according to Cherlin, not only the largest single demographic survey conducted in the

United States but also "the best--and often the only--source of information about our smallest areas." The census is "critical for demographic research" in the areas of migration and immigration, labor force change, and housing. Several witnesses argued that by moving a question about plumbing to the long form and eliminating another on heating equipment, a vital source of information regarding the quality of housing in rural areas has been lost.

Dymally called on three of his House colleagues from other committees with jurisdiction over the Census Bureau for their views of preparations for the 1990 census. Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-TX) condemned what he called OMB's "gross attempts to erode the validity of Census taking" and the way "OMB has usurped its proper function" by acting on behalf of the agency. Reps. Robert Matsui (D-CA) and Norman Mineta (D-CA) echoed Gonzalez and raised the concerns of the Asian/Pacific Islander population over changes in the format of the question on race. Rep. Matsui called on Congress to "overcome the political bias of the administration" by demanding computer-readable options under the Asian/Pacific Islander response. Rep. Constance Morella (R-MD), Ranking Republican on the subcommittee, called on OMB to "listen to the professional views" of Census Bureau personnel in making changes to the Census questionnaires.

Testifying for the Census Bureau was its director, John Keane. Asserting that the bureau is a "research and testing" organization, Keane reported that many different questionnaires have been used in sample censuses over the past two years and that the bureau plans to use the forms which generated the highest response rates. Technical difficulties preclude reading census forms from left to right, an assertion challenged by the resourceful Rep. Matsui, who contacted the bureau office which develops scanning technology and learned that the machines can read across the page. Keane retorted it is almost too late to make any changes, let alone major alterations, because of the printing schedule. Reference to the timetable caused Dymally to complain that despite Congressional oversight, advisory groups, and seemingly endless negotiations, "nothing happens."<<

#### PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION FOR OIRA PROPOSED

On April 14, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee was scheduled to mark up the authorization bill for the OMB Office of Federal Procurement and Policy (OFPP). Sen. Lawton Chiles (D-FL) was reportedly planning to introduce an amendment to permanently authorize OFPP and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). Chiles withheld the amendment in the face of opposition from other Members of Congress and concerned outside observers. According to congressional staffers, there is a strong likelihood that the amendment will be reintroduced; as one person put it, Chiles is "protecting his legacy." OIRA, for which Chiles helped develop the original legislation, is responsible for overseeing the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. The administration of the Act by OIRA has been questioned and the General Accounting Office (GAO) is currently conducting a study of the impact of PRA on information collection by the federal government. (see Update, October 31, 1986).<<

**BARBARA BAILAR TO HEAD AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION**

The American Statistical Association (ASTATA) has announced the appointment of Dr. Barbara Bailar, formerly associate director for statistical standards and methodology at the U.S. Census Bureau, to the position of Executive Director. She succeeds Fred Leone, who retired after 15 years at the Association. Dr. Bailar resigned from the Census Bureau earlier this year to protest the politicization of the agency in the wake of decisions by the administration to ignore a statistical measure for correcting census undercounts. A member of the COSSA Board of Directors for the past two years, Dr. Bailar has served on many ASTATA committees and was co-director of the Association's project on developing a methodology to assess and evaluate survey practice.<<

**REPRESENTATIVE BOLAND TO LEAVE CONGRESS**

Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA), chairman of the HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, has announced he will retire from Congress at the end of this session. The 76-year old legislator, who will have served 36 years in the House, has led the subcommittee since 1971. He has scrutinized budgets of the National Science Foundation (NSF) for many years and has seen NSF directors come and go. While generally supportive of the Foundation, Boland often proved skeptical in his reviews of the work of the Foundation. Boland's retirement and the announced retirement of Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI) means NSF will have new appropriations taskmasters in both the House and Senate when the 101st Congress convenes in January 1989.<<

**GARDNER LINDZEY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Gardner Lindzey, director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford, California), has announced that he will retire from the post effective September 1, 1989. Lindzey was appointed in 1973, the fourth director since the Center was founded in 1954. A search committee has been named to solicit nominations and select the next director; it is chaired by William Bowen, president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and a trustee of the Center. Nominations should be sent to: Robert A. Scott, Secretary to the Search Committee, Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, 202 Junipero Serra Boulevard, Stanford, California 94305.<<

**WILSON CENTER NAMES NEW DIRECTOR**

Charles Blitzer, former president and director of the National Humanities Center, has been appointed director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Blitzer replaces James Billington, who became Librarian of Congress last September. By accepting his new position, Blitzer is returning to Washington, where he was assistant secretary for history and art at the Smithsonian from 1968 to 1983. The Center, an independently governed entity housed by the Smithsonian Institution, is devoted to the study of international issues.<<

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**NSF REALIGNMENT COMBINES ETHICS STUDIES, HISTORY OF SCIENCE**

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A new program has been created by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund philosophical, historical, ethical, normative, and social scientific studies of science, engineering, or technology. Officially launched in February, the Studies in Science, Technology, and Society Program (STS) incorporates Ethics and Values Studies (EVS) and the History and Philosophy of Science Program (HPS). The latter was previously in the Social and Economic Science Division of NSF's Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS), while the former was located in an office attached to the assistant director, BBS. EVS was previously an independent program, Ethics and Values in Science and Technology (EVIST); when EVIST was threatened three years ago with extinction, only timely intervention on the part of interested Congressmen and concerned social and behavioral scientists saved it.

STS is part of the new Division of Instrumentation and Resources within BBS. Currently, the research grants programs of EVS and HPS are administratively unchanged (including separate peer-review panels), although one NSF program officer foresees "radical" changes on the horizon. For the moment, EVS is revising its guidelines and HPS is tending toward larger grants, which means numerically fewer grants overall.

One change that has been made is the merger of the HPS fellowship program and the EVS cross-disciplinary study awards into a single program, the Postdoctoral Fellowship and Professional Development Awards in Studies in Science, Technology, and Society. This program element is organized in two parts, fellowships for scientists and historians who received the Ph.D. within the last five years, and professional development awards for scientists and engineers interested in learning about other disciplines.

The changes in EVS and HPS are not (yet) so much programmatic or fiscal as philosophical. NSF program officers contacted by COSSA referred to opportunities for "cross-fertilization" between the unified (but separate) programs and other programs at the Foundation. EVS will continue to administer ethics research funding set aside by the other directorates while expanding the interdisciplinary aspects of its program. One method of cross-fertilization still in the planning stages is a program of grants for studies in the "social science of science," which will supplement current efforts in social science programs at NSF.

The FY 1989 budget picture for the new STS program shows a slight improvement over FY 1988. The administration's budget request calls for total STS funding of \$2.3 million, an increase of 9% over the FY 1988 figure of \$2.1 million. Broken down between the EVS and HPS, the EVS figure (excluding \$850,000 in non-BBS funding) would be \$400,000 in FY 1989, an increase of 33% over FY 1988; HPS would receive \$1.9 million in FY 1989, an increase of 5% over the FY 1988 budget of \$1.8 million (and not the \$1.7 million figure reported for FY 1989 in the recent budget issue of Update [March 4, 1988, p.29]).<<

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**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

COSSA provides this information as a service, and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for further information or application materials.

**Science and Engineering Education: History of Science Education**

The Instructional Materials Development Program of the National Science Foundation, located in the Directorate for Science and Engineering Education, supports the development of exemplary instructional aids in science and engineering education. The program is currently soliciting proposals to integrate a historical perspective (especially in the history of science and technology) into science and history education. Grants will be awarded to support the development of new history of science curricula and materials and to integrate the history and impact of science and technology into the science curriculum. Proposals should address these problems as they relate to K-12 education.

The rationale behind this solicitation is the paucity of learning opportunities in the history of science in both science and history courses. Proposals should address the omission of the history of science from most history courses or seek ways to integrate the history of science and an understanding of the impact of science and technology on society into science courses. Particularly welcome are proposals combining the knowledge and perspective of experts in the history of science, mathematics, and technology with the skills and implementation experience of educational designers and practitioners; the availability to a project of experience in both areas is crucial. Preliminary proposals are required.

**Funding Mechanism:** Grants to nonprofit and for-profit organizations; non-federal matching fund support is encouraged.

**Review Process:** Peer review.

**Budget:** The total budget for this solicitation is expected to be up to \$1 million.

**Deadline:** June 1, 1988.

**Contact:** Ms. Mary Kohlerman, Program Director  
Instructional Materials Development Program  
National Science Foundation  
1800 G Street, NW, Room 635  
Washington, DC 20550  
202/357-7066 <<

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**Note:** This issue of Update was printed and mailed on Monday, April 18th.

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