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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## 101ST CONGRESS OPENS: WAITING FOR BUSH

On January 3, the legislative branch of the U.S. government began its ~~second~~ century of operation. Through two days of ceremony, the new Congress welcomed back its returning members, initiated its new members, validated the committee assignments made by the respective party caucuses, and allowed George Bush to declare himself the next president through the official counting of the electoral college votes. Having done all that, some members scattered to the far corners of the Earth (some are in the rain forests of Brazil, some are back in their districts), while others remained in Washington to pronounce judgments on the final Reagan administration budget (see below). They will all return for the official change of administrations on January 20. President Bush will present the State of the Union address probably sometime the following week, and then the members of Congress will get down to business (at least for a few weeks before the President's Day district work period allows them to escape Washington's dreary February for 10 days). They may also receive Bush's revisions to the Reagan budget by that time, as well as an invitation from the new administration to participate in a budget summit.

Where the social and behavioral sciences are concerned, the 101st Congress's key players (committee and subcommittee chairs and ranking members) -- as far as we know them -- include the

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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.

Raymond E. Wolfinger, *President*

Howard J. Silver, *Executive Director*

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following. Overall Budget: Sens. James Sasser (D-TN) and Pete Domenici (R-NM); and Reps. Leon Panetta (D-CA) and William Frenzel (R-MN). National Science Foundation (NSF) appropriations: Sens. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Jake Garn (R-UT); Reps. Robert Traxler (D-MI) and William Green (R-NY). NSF authorization (although a 5-year authorization passed in 1988, there may be some oversight hearings): Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Albert Gore (D-TN), and Orrin Hatch (R-UT); Reps. Doug Walgren (D-PA), Robert Roe (D-NJ), Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) and Robert Walker (R-PA). Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations: Sens. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA); and Reps. William Natcher (D-KY) and Silvio Conte (R-MA). Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations: Sens. Ernest Hollings (D-SC) and Warren Rudman (R-NH); and Reps. Neal Smith (D-IA) and Harold Rogers (R-KY).

The congressional agenda includes many issues left over from the 100th Congress on which social and behavioral scientists have provided input: child care, parental leave, rural development, campaign finance reform, efforts to induce increased voter turnout, education for three- and four-year-olds ('smart start'). In addition, the science priorities debate will continue with further funding decisions on the large science projects such as the space station, the superconducting super collider and the mapping of the human genome. This year will also see the reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act and the beginning of work on the reauthorizations of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Higher Education Act. There will be hearings, and possibly legislation, on the issue of global change.

Overriding all these substantive issues will be the spectre of the budget deficit. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings (GRH) will remain part of the Washington lexicon in 1989. The law requires a deficit of not more than \$110 billion (a \$10 billion leeway from the proscribed \$100 billion is allowed). The projected deficit from the Congressional Budget Office's January, 1989, estimate for FY 1990 is \$141 billion, if current services spending were continued. The problem will be how to meet the GRH numbers without Bush rearranging his lips and accepting a tax increase. The Reagan budget proclaims it has met the target, but it does so, according to some, by reviving the 'rosy scenario' (those unrealistic economic assumptions). Will the budget agreement come early enough for Congress to work efficiently in producing appropriations bills before the beginning of FY 1990 on October 1, 1989, or do we face (as we did in 1987) another November summit and a congressional session which lasts until Christmas? Stay tuned!<<

#### REAGAN ADMINISTRATION PRESENTS BUDGET SWAN SONG

The FY 1990 budget released on January 9 represents another attempt by the Reagan administration to leave a smaller and leaner domestic government (by proposing elimination of 82 programs), while slightly increasing defense (5%) and research

spending (7%). Why pay attention to this budget? Despite promised revisions from the Bush administration and despite the rhetoric 'dead on arrival' or 'amiable fiction,' for the most part the agency figures in the Reagan budget will represent benchmarks for Congress to determine funding for FY 1990. It is unlikely that Bush will present a full budget; probably, the changes will be in the large categories. Thus, an examination of the Reagan blueprint is necessary.

Preliminary analysis shows that research budgets in general are increased. Total R&D is up 7% to \$67.3 billion. Defense R&D is up to \$44.0 (including \$2.5 for energy department defense programs). Civilian R&D increases to \$23.3 billion, further widening the gap between the defense and civilian research budgets that are a legacy of the Reagan years. Basic research is up 7% to \$11.2 billion. The budget for NSF reflects a 14% increase; the National Institutes of Health are up slightly (about 4% excluding AIDS funding, about 7% with the AIDS support included); education research and statistics receives a significant raise. Funding for research at the departments of Housing, Labor, and Justice, are also slated for increases in Reagan's proposed budget. The increases for research will face intense scrutiny as Congress will, it has during the past eight years, refuse to follow Reagan's advice and abolish programs. (The full analysis of research budgets for agencies supporting social and behavioral science will be presented in the next, special "Budget Issue" of Update.<<

#### COSSA CONVENES ANNUAL MEETING

The Consortium held its seventh annual meeting in Washington on December 13, with representatives of its Member associations and many of its Affiliates. The meeting serves as a forum for discussion of COSSA's priorities, problems, and future direction. This year, it also provided the opportunity to hear several distinguished speakers address a number of issues of concern and interest to social and behavioral scientists.

#### Rep. Price Looks at 20 Years of Change in Congress

As luncheon speaker, Rep. David E. Price (D-NC), a political scientist elected to the House from North Carolina in 1986, noted that he has observed striking changes within Congress over the last 20 years. He said his comparative insights have developed from his days as a legislative aide in the late 1960's when his dissertation research provided him the opportunity to interview a third of the Senate on the topic of policy-making.

Since those days, Price said Congress has changed in many respects, the greatest of which has been its use of the budget process itself. Most notable has been the "excessive concentration on budget politics" to the exclusion of policy matters. Price used 1987 as an illustration. That year, the

spending blueprint Reagan sent to the Hill "wasn't a serious budget," and Congress had to start over, putting a revised Gramm-Rudman spending-cap mechanism in place. The entire budgetary process was stalled, Price said, and it took the Stock Market Crash in October, 1987, to bring the administration to the negotiating table.

Price predicted that President Reagan's FY 1990 budget would be "dead on arrival" in Congress. The important question, he said, is what President-elect George Bush will do. It is now believed that he will be sending his own budget outline to Congress, which will then work on its own budget resolution. Hopefully, Price said, an agreement with Bush will follow. While he said it remains unclear what Bush's role will be, it is Price's impression that the President-elect's best interest is to take a very active role in the process.

Regarding NSF, Price noted that while the five-year doubling of the agency's budget, authorized by the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee (on which he serves), will not occur, he does foresee relatively healthy increases for the agency, nonetheless. He added that the passage in 1988 of NSF's five-year authorization will allow the Science Committee to switch to an oversight mode. In this capacity, it plans to hold oversight hearings early in 1989 on the social and behavioral sciences.

#### Malone Discusses Social Science's Role in Global Change Debate

During the morning session, COSSA Board Member and Sigma Xi President Thomas Malone offered his views on the opportunities presenting themselves to social and behavioral scientists in relation to global climate-change issues.

After some 30 years of first-hand observation of emerging national and international programs, Malone said he is convinced there is a renaissance of the natural sciences, the consequence of which is a "grand convergence" of natural scientists, social scientists, engineers, and policy-makers. In a dynamic presentation, Malone argued that such a convergence provides COSSA, with its strong links to the grassroots scientific community and to policy-makers, a unique opportunity to ensure an active role for social scientists in addressing issues of global change.

To tackle the greenhouse warming effect and other global-change problems, Malone presented a framework for an interdisciplinary approach: identifying and anticipating the anthropogenic contribution to global change, assessing the impact of global change, analyzing policy options, and, finally, making policy decisions. To integrate the social sciences into the framework, Malone said it is imperative that the social science community take a proactive approach, identifying its own role in global-change research.

Clutter Supports More Interaction Among Disciplines at NSF

During the afternoon session, remarks were made by Mary E. Clutter, Acting Assistant Director for NSF's Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences. Noting that she is "still learning" in her new position following the departure of David Kingsbury, Clutter said she is aware of the valuable work going on within the Directorate's Social and Economic Division. Clutter, former Director of the Cellular Biosciences Division and Senior Science Advisor to NSF Director Erich Bloch, said she will work to ensure that there is a greater level of interaction between NSF researchers in different disciplines.

Rosenzweig Offers Views on Science Priorities Debate

In his address at the afternoon session, Association of American Universities President Robert Rosenzweig discussed the science priorities debate and its possible implications for the social and behavioral sciences.

Rosenzweig made clear his view that the scientific community must develop the intellectual and political tools required to be active players in setting priorities for research funding. He said he believes that in the political environment of a limited budget, someone will have to decide what the priorities are. No longer can the scientific community make the assumption that there are few problems that couldn't be solved with increased appropriations.

In his call for priority-setting, Rosenzweig emphasized that the solution will require efforts at three levels: the administration, Congress, and the scientific/academic community. At the first level, he proposed strengthening the post of presidential science advisor. At the second level, Rosenzweig suggested that Congress consider the science budget as a whole before making allocations by budget function. Otherwise, Congress is left in the difficult position of trying to sort out issues on which even science committees cannot find a consensus. At the third level, he supported a more disciplined scientific/academic system, believing it would assist the social sciences in fending off "big research." To compete with the other sciences, Rosenzweig argued, the social and behavioral sciences must participate in a process that uses merits of research as a factor in funding decisions.

Wolfinger Elected COSSA President; Blumstein, Osborn Join Board

Following the annual meeting, the COSSA Board of Directors elected Raymond Wolfinger, professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley, to serve a two-year term as COSSA president, commencing January 1, 1989. The Board also elected June Osborn, dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and Alfred Blumstein, dean of the School of Urban and Public Affairs at Carnegie-Mellon University, to serve two-year terms as at-large COSSA directors.<<

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**COSSA COMMENTS ON SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT REGULATIONS**

Heightened congressional and public attention to incidents of scientific misconduct have led the Public Health Service (PHS) to re-examine its policies and procedures for handling cases of alleged or actual scientific misconduct.

In September, PHS requested comments on a broad set of issues, from the definition of misconduct to institutional responsibilities to departmental responsibilities. PHS issued a proposed rule on institutional responsibilities for dealing with and reporting misconduct and an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking that addressed broad policy issues.

In COSSA's response to the advanced notice, it was emphasized that any regulatory framework developed to address misconduct should: include a limited definition of scientific misconduct; maintain institutional responsibility for detecting, investigating, and reporting misconduct; provide strict confidentiality for both the accused and the accuser during all stages of inquiry and investigation; mandate data collection on the actual incidence of misconduct; place PHS primarily in an advisory, as opposed to a "watchdog," role; and ensure strict enforcement of existing rules and procedures.

These issues will be further pursued with the House Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations, which remains interested in scientific misconduct.<<

**FEDERAL POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS PROPOSED**

The Office of Science and Technology Policy released a proposed common federal policy for the protection of human subjects. The proposed rule, in the works since 1986, implements recommendations outlined by the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research in its 1981 biennial report. The policy establishes, to the maximum extent possible, uniformity in procedures across all agencies. The policy is fashioned after current policies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

In conjunction with the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences, the American Psychological Association, and the American Educational Research Association, COSSA strongly endorsed the uniform policy, while at the same time commenting on some minor concerns.

Those comments included a recommendation that a requirement for reporting scientific misconduct be deleted until other issues related to misconduct were resolved (see preceding article). Further, for institutions with an assurance already on file, COSSA recommended a uniform "grace period" -- the time between submission of an application and certification of Institutional Review Board approval. The proposed rule gave departments and agencies discretion to set their own timeframes.<<

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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.

Division of Social and Economic Science

To encourage studies on how human activity affects and is affected by global environmental change, the Division of Social and Economic Science at the National Science Foundation welcomes proposals for research in these areas. These dimensions include but are not limited to such broad topics as the social, economic, demographic, governmental, and institutional components of global change. Studies of human influences on the environment and institutional responses to global changes are appropriate for this initiative, but proposals must emphasize fundamental research into processes of change over time or space.

Application Procedure: Proposals should be submitted to the appropriate program in the Division in accordance with the guidelines in Grants for Research and Education in Science and Engineering (NSF 83-57, rev. 11/87; "Cover Sheet for Proposals," rev. 10/88). See program contacts below.

Review Process: Peer review. (A multi-disciplinary advisory panel will be convened to participate in the review of proposals.)

Deadline: March 15, 1989.

Contacts: All program contacts listed below are located at the National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, NW, Room 336, Washington, DC 20550.

Dr. Robin Gregory  
Decision, Risk,  
and Management Science  
202/357-7417

Dr. Felice Levine  
Law and Social Science  
202/357-9567

Dr. Lynn Pollnow  
Economics  
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Dr. Thomas Baerwald  
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202/357-7326

Dr. Phyllis Moen  
Sociology  
202/357-7802 <<

\* \* \* \* NOTE TO READERS \* \* \* \*

The next issue of Update will be the annual "Budget Issue," to be published early next month.

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