
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FY 1990 BUDGET OUTLINE AGREED TO; FY 1989 FUNDING UNRESOLVED

The chief negotiators from the executive and legislative branches emerged on April 14 from weeks of discussions to announce an agreement on how much the federal government should spend (and how much revenue would be needed) in fiscal 1990 in the broad categories of defense and non-defense discretionary programs. All of this to meet the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit target of \$100 billion and thus avoid automatic spending cuts known as sequestration.

Through various gimmicks, rosy scenarios, and vague references to new revenues, the agreement manages to bring the projected FY 1990 deficit down to \$99.4 billion. The agreement was viewed with much skepticism by many, including Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX) who refused to attend the White House press conference where the plan was announced. Many felt it was another example of "muddling through" one more year of budgeting, while allowing President Bush to maintain his no-tax pledge and giving everybody concerned a way to once more postpone the tough budget choices that must eventually be made.

Moving swiftly after the agreement was announced, the Senate Budget Committee passed its version of the FY 1990 budget

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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.

resolution on April 19. The resolution, which sets parameters for the actual spending decisions made by the appropriations committees, meets the confines of the budget agreement. The Committee approved \$305.5 billion for defense spending, \$19 billion for international operations, and \$157.5 billion for domestic discretionary spending. Each large domestic function received its FY 1989 allocation with an adjustment for inflation.

The science function of the budget (which includes spending for the National Science Foundation [NSF]) received a \$400 million increase above inflation. This is still about \$900 million below what President Bush requested, thus endangering NSF's proposed 14% increase. Education and justice (read anti-drug) programs also received increases above inflation.

While all this discussion about FY 1990 spending takes place, Congress and the administration are revisiting the FY 1989 budget. As is the usual practice, sometime in the middle of a fiscal year the government discovers that more funds are needed to keep certain programs going. Thus, a supplemental appropriations bill is required. This year, the "dire emergency" FY 1989 supplemental bill was to include funds for anti-drug programs and veterans' medical care. Bush asked Congress to offset any increases in spending with equivalent reductions to keep the FY 1989 deficit from climbing any higher.

The House Appropriations subcommittees ignored Bush and added funds for many programs without simultaneous reductions in other areas. Richard Darman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, announced that he would urge Bush to veto any such bill. The House then decided it had better respond to Darman's threat or some programs would run out of money without the bill's passage.

When the bill reached the House floor on April 26, Majority Leader Rep. Thomas Foley (D-WA) offered an amendment to reduce spending across the board by 0.57%. (For NSF, this would have meant an estimated \$10 million cut in FY 1989 spending.) In response, members unhappy about further cuts in the defense budget joined members unhappy about further cuts in domestic programs; together, they rose up to defeat the leadership amendment and send the supplemental bill back to the drawing board in the House Appropriations Committee.<<

WHITE HOUSE NAMES SCIENCE ADVISOR

D. Allan Bromley, a nuclear physicist at Yale University, has been chosen as President Bush's science advisor. Bromley, whose appointment is not subject to Senate confirmation, will serve as assistant to the President for science and technology -- a title suggesting an elevation of stature for the science advisor position -- and also as head of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

A distinguished scientist and National Science Board member, Bromley has served in numerous advisory capacities, including the White House Science Council, where he chaired a panel on the health of U.S. colleges and universities. Among the group's recommendations was a doubling of the National Science Foundation budget.

Bromley's views on the social and behavioral sciences are not well known. However, William Carey, former executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), has called Bromley "open-minded" about the social sciences. Carey recalled that, as president-elect of AAAS during the early, budget-crunching Reagan years, Bromley "did his homework" and made a "good statement" before Congress in support of the social and behavioral sciences.<<

NIH DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES HIS RESIGNATION

James Wyngaarden, director of the National Institutes of Health since 1982, announced last week that he will resign his post as of July. According to a Washington Post account, Wyngaarden suggested to his staff that "the timing of the resignation was not voluntary." The report goes on to suggest that Bush appointees within the Department of Health and Human Services wanted to bring in "their own people."

The search for a replacement will be headed by James Mason, who was confirmed by the Senate on April 19 as the new assistant secretary for health. Many anticipate that the post will be offered to Anthony Fauci, current director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Fauci is a leader in the field of AIDS research and one of President Bush's "heroes."<<

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

David Featherman, professor of sociology and director of the Institute on Aging and Adult Life at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, has been chosen to replace Frederic Wakeman as president of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC); his appointment takes effect September 1.

Featherman chaired SSRC's International Committee on Comparative Stratification Research from 1981 to 1987. In accepting his appointment as SSRC president, Featherman said SSRC should seek new alliances with the biological and physical sciences, as well as the humanities.<<

SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERS VOTER REGISTRATION BILL

On April 25, The House Subcommittee on Elections, chaired by Rep. Al Swift (D-WA), marked up and then approved a bill that would make it easier for people to become registered voters. The

Subcommittee approved the bill in a voice vote after adding several amendments, including authorization of up to \$20 million in fiscal 1992 -- the year the legislation would take effect -- to help states implement the plan. The bill is scheduled for consideration by the full Committee on House Administration soon.

The legislation would provide simultaneous voter registration to people who apply for or renew their driver's license. Under the bill's provisions, people across the country would also be able to register by mail (as is now the case in many states). In addition, the bill would certify that certain state, local, and private-sector locations distribute voter-registration applications.

In his opening remarks at the mark-up hearing, Swift called the legislation "a positive, constructive approach which will provide much wider and more convenient opportunities for eligible citizens to register to vote while even further diminishing the possibilities of fraud." Swift noted the sorry record of voter participation in recent decades, and added that a New York Times poll taken after the 1988 election "confirmed" that not being registered is the greatest impediment to voting. The registration process, he concluded, must be simplified.

Other members of the Subcommittee were not so convinced that the bill would lead to increased voter turnout, though there was general agreement that the bill would, indeed, make voter registration more accessible. Subcommittee members also grappled with the issue of how to purge the rolls of people who have died or moved. Swift said he plans to have a purge proposal ready before the full Committee reviews the bill.

Removing barriers to voter registration is not a new idea. It's been touted on Capitol Hill and elsewhere for several years. In 1984, COSSA held a congressional seminar to explore the topic of "Why Americans Don't Vote" (see Update, September 28, 1984). At that seminar, Raymond Wolfinger, professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley, and current COSSA president, suggested tying voter registration to postal change-of-address forms. Under such a plan, automatic registration would occur when eligible people fill out postal change-of-address forms. The 100th Congress considered this plan, but the idea died, ironically, with the rush of members returning home to their districts to campaign for the 1988 elections.<<

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES VISA REFORM BILL

A bill intended to repeal the ideological exclusion provisions of a 37-year-old immigration law is again wending its way through Congress. This year's version of the bill, H.R. 1280, was introduced April 18 by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) in the House Immigration, Refugees and International Law Subcommittee,

chaired by Rep. Bruce Morrison (D-CT). After adding several relatively minor amendments, the Subcommittee approved the bill in a 7-3 vote. The legislation is expected to go before the House Judiciary Committee sometime in the coming weeks.

H.R. 1280 is similar to its predecessor in the 100th Congress, which was reported out of the full Judiciary Committee but never made it onto the floor (see Update, September 23, 1988). If passed, H.R. 1280 would repeal the more restrictive provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act, which provides for the exclusion of foreigners based on ideological grounds. The alien exclusion provisions of the Act have, to some extent, been temporarily repealed through amendment of the State Department Authorization Act (see Update, November 4, 1988). H.R. 1280 would strengthen the repeal and make it permanent.<<

COSSA WITNESS URGES MORE SUPPORT FOR RURAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

As it has done for the past three years COSSA presented testimony to the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Quentin Burdick (D-ND). Louis Swanson, associate professor of sociology at the University of Kentucky and a member of the Rural Sociological Society, represented the Consortium at the April 13 hearing and urged that \$4 million be allocated to the Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) for studies "to help get a head start on the emergent rural development agenda."

Swanson noted that the research agenda to help revitalize rural America is described in the report, Agriculture and Rural Viability, produced by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy's Task Force on Agriculture and Community Viability. This agenda addresses the diversity and complex interdependence of rural economies, communities, and families as they confront shifting world markets and domestic change.

Swanson pointed out, however, that the resource base needed to help social scientists supply "critical" information and analysis about rural America's changing social and economic conditions has been "in chronic decline for a number of years." This decline, he said, needs to be reversed. Swanson also noted the effort by the Senate Agriculture Committee, chaired by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), to include rural development initiatives, including research, in new legislation.

Swanson's testimony was also submitted to the House Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-MS).<<

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON WORKERS AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

In an attempt to bring together multidisciplinary research on the impact of technological change on the worker and the

work place, COSSA joined Texas Instruments and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in sponsoring a conference on "The Worker in Transition: Technological Change." The conference, held April 4-7 in Washington, DC, was organized by Professors David Jansson and Tom Kozick of the Institute for Innovation and Design in Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Speakers included: John Stepp, deputy-under secretary for the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor-Management Relations; Michael Piore, professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Shoshanna Zuboff, a professor at Harvard Business School; Melvin Kranzberg, of Georgia Tech University's School of Social Sciences; and Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy. In addition, Owen Bieber, president of the United Auto Workers (UAW), regaled the dinner crowd with stories of the UAW and auto industry responses to technological changes in car production.

Most of the speakers made the point that technological change has affected the way workers think of themselves and the way management needs to relate to workers. For example, Zuboff claimed that the information revolution has created the need for new managerial styles and skills to cope with workers who now possess as much information as their bosses.

Those in attendance also heard presentations of scholarly papers, some of which will be printed, along with the plenary speeches, in a conference proceedings document. For further information, contact: Dr. David Jansson, Institute for Innovation and Design in Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843; 409/845-5024.<<

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR AAAS AWARD

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is soliciting nominees for its 1990 Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility. AAAS has offered this annual \$1,000 prize since 1980 to recognize scientists and engineers who have:

- "● acted to protect the public's health, safety or welfare;
- focused public attention on important potential impacts of science and technology on society by their responsible participation in public policy debates; or
- established important new precedents in carrying out the social responsibilities or in defending the professional freedom of scientists and engineers."

To ensure consideration, nominations and supporting information must be sent to AAAS by July 31, 1989. For further information about the nominations process, contact: Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Room 1101, Washington, DC 20005; 202/326-6792.<<

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 Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

As of November 18, 1989, all alcoholic beverages available in the United States will be required to carry warning labels. To date, there have been no studies indicating the impact of labeling. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) now seeks applications for research measuring the impact of alcohol warning labels on drinking behavior, cultural attitudes toward alcohol, and alcohol-related morbidity and mortality. Funds will not be available in time to support the collection of baseline data prior to the November implementation of the warning label law. Applicants are therefore encouraged to seek seed money from other sources to gather such information.

Theory and research methods in such disciplines as psychology, sociology, and anthropology are germane to this research solicitation. Investigators are encouraged to examine both the independent effects of labels and the interactions with concurrent prevention efforts. Longitudinal designs employing time-series analyses are relevant. NIAAA is also interested in the effect of labels on different subgroups of the population and on the relative impact of different types of warning labels.

Application Procedure: Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with NIAAA staff in advance of formal submission. Additional information may be obtained from the contact listed below. Applications may be requested from the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, 301/468-2600.

Budget: An estimated \$600,000 will be available for awards during the first year. More funding may be available if a large number of high-quality applications are received.

Review Process: Peer review.

Deadline: July 17, 1989.

Contact: Mary Ganikos
Prevention Research Branch, NIAAA
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Room 16C-03
Rockville, MD 20857
301/443-1677 <<

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Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
The Institute of Management Sciences

CONTRIBUTORS

American Council of Learned Societies
Arizona State University
Boston University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
Carnegie-Mellon University
Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences
University of Chicago
University of Colorado
Columbia University
Cornell Institute for Social and
Economic Research
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