

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## CONGRESS RETURNS WITH A FULL AGENDA *HS*

On January 23 the 101st Congress will reconvene for its second session. On January 29 the president will deliver his FY 1991 budget plan to Capitol Hill. On January 30 President Bush will assess the state of the union. So begins the annual ritual of American government, in which legislative and executive branch budget jockeying will dominate the political agenda for the next 10 months. With the budget deficit still shaping a politics of scarce resources, and with party-divided government still a reality, the political battles loom large. Added to this, recent events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union bring talk of a "peace dividend," but what that means and what it permits in terms of defense cuts and domestic spending boosts is sure to be fodder for this year's battles.

The new year will also bring congressional and state elections, as well as the decennial census. Reapportionment and redistricting are certain to haunt the thoughts of politicians, with Republicans, for example, placing a premium on retaining the California governorship; with the Golden State expected to garner five new House seats in the census, GOP leaders want to ensure that districts are not gerrymandered to the Democrats' advantage. Republicans also hope to take some small steps, if not a giant leap, toward recapturing the Senate, where they currently labor under a five-seat minority. Reaching their goal may be difficult, however, given the announced retirements of GOP incumbents William Armstrong of Colorado, James McClure of Idaho, and Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire.

In the House, the 1989 elections have led to some chairmanship changes at an important science subcommittee (see following story). The new year will also give the new Democratic leadership team of Speaker Thomas Foley, Majority Leader Richard

Gephardt, and Whip William Gray, a full year to prove their mettle.

Congress still is still struggling with its ethical miscreants, notably the "Savings and Loan Five": Sens. John Glenn (D-OH), Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), John McCain (R-AZ), Alan Cranston (D-CA), and Donald Riegle (D-MI)). Also entangled in ethical controversy are Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), Rep. Donald Lukens (R-OH), Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), and Sen. David Durenberger (R-MN). One happy consequence of the continuing ethics uproar, however, may be progress toward campaign finance reform. Even Republicans, such as Sen. Warren Rudman (R-NH), are voicing support for some sort of public financing.

With fewer than 800 days until the New Hampshire primary, a number of Capitol Hill denizens are likely to enjoy increased media attention this year. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX) will again be at the center of annual tax battles, and Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) will no doubt garner some visibility during discussions of the eagerly-anticipated "peace dividend." Sen. Bill Bradley's (D-NJ) travel schedule is certain to be

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scrutinized, and Sen. Al Gore (D-TN) will probably try to use scientific and environmental issues to boost the national consciousness. The Washington rumor mill is already predicting that Republicans will dump Dan Quayle from the ticket in 1992 -- Nixon survived similar rumors in 1955, as did Agnew in 1971.

Some unfinished bills are leftover from 1989 -- child care, clean air, rural development, paperwork reduction, housing, job training, campaign reform -- but The Politics Of Taxing and Spending (TPOTS) will continue to dominate. Early attention will center on the appropriations process, as the FY 1991 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit target of \$74 billion (with its \$10 billion leeway) continues to haunt budget makers.

Round two of the capital gains tax bout is set to begin, with Democrats and the Bush Administration likely to square off in the Senate. A related fiscal fracas is brewing over Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's (D-NY) proposal to repeal the 1983 social security fix. Upset that surpluses in the social security trust funds are masking the true size of the budget deficit, Moynihan has suggested a politically shrewd solution. The administration has now positioned itself in favor of a tax cut perceived to help the rich (capital gains), while opposing a rollback of a tax perceived to hurt the middle and working class. To add further fuel to the fire, Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-SC) has proposed a Value-Added-Tax (VAT) or national sales tax.

#### **Bernthal Tapped for NSF Deputy Slot**

In other Washington news, Bush has nominated Frederick M. Bernthal, the assistant secretary of state for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs, as deputy director of the National Science Foundation. Bernthal brings with him experience in a host of federal positions, including

stints as commissioner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and chief legislative assistant for then-Senator Howard Baker. Bernthal received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1969.

Meanwhile, speculation continues to grow about the future of current NSF director Erich Bloch, whose six-year term expires at the end of August. Bush is expected to again call for a doubling of the Foundation's budget, but the out-year has been pushed back a few more years. Congress will probably ask NSF to spend more on science education, and the foundation may find itself with a few more programs to manage in this area. NSF will also increase its role in global environmental change research this year, with the social and behavioral sciences included in a significant way. The new facilities modernization program will remain a thorn in the foundation's side, as competition for scarce dollars will create bunches of unhappy folks. Will NSF's plan to fund more science and technology centers be put on hold (as they were in FY 1990), or will the research budget increase enough to resume selection? Congress will make that decisions later in the year.

At the National Institutes for Health, the search continues for a director. A new committee has been appointed to determine ways to make the position more attractive to distinguished scientists, and the new panel will meet on January 29. The institutes' budget situation, however, has deteriorated as Congress has been very generous to AIDS research, but less munificent with other basic research programs. Efforts to increase the share of NIH basic research devoted to health and behavior issues from its current 3 percent to the 10 percent called for by congressional reports will persist.

At the Aging Institute, the renewal of the retirement history survey will get off the ground, and

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Raymond E. Wolfinger, President

Howard J. Silver, Executive Director

attempts to translate research on long-term care into a program acceptable to Congress recently burned by catastrophic health insurance will continue. And at the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, the pilot for the infamous survey of American sexual behavior may finally get approval from the Department of Health and Human Services, but the results of the pilot will not be known this year, postponing any further congressional confrontations over funding for the full survey.

At the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA), the peer review process is still undergoing scrutiny and revision, while anti-drug money is flowing and biological research into the causes of alcoholism continues.

After a year of hearings, General Accounting Office reports, meetings of coalitions among themselves and with congressional staff, and the drafting of legislation, the reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act will probably occur in 1990 after some more hearings, meetings, and the re-drafting of legislation. A compromise bill has emerged in the House Government Operations Committee that satisfies chairman John Conyers' (D-MI) desire to put some strings on OMB's power of regulatory review and Ranking Republican Frank Horton's (R-NY) need to maintain the act's focus on paperwork reduction. The House bill is expected to move on a fast track. Meanwhile, a Senate bill drafted by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, chairman of the Government Information and Regulation Subcommittee, will be the focus of hearings before the Senate Governmental Affairs committee.

In the wake of the Charlottesville education summit, debate over education reform will continue in Congress. The National Governors' Association - with help from the White House Education Advisory Council -- will present in February education goals for the next decade. The recess brought some more reports deploring the state of American students' knowledge and abilities, as well as a call for greater attention to the skills of minority students. Science education will likely continue to attract particular attention, as members of Congress focus on the tremendous shortcomings and shortages facing the nation in science and technology. In the midst of all this, the Office of Education and

Research Improvement will conduct its competition for research center awards. Cries will rise for greater support of education research, but Congress will probably continue to focus more on assessment, with the National Assessment Governing Board, chaired by Checker Finn, expected to report sometime during 1990. This year will also bring preliminary jockeying over the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and a reexamination of student aid programs.

Rural development issues will continue to be on the congressional agenda, although it is also the year for rewriting major farm legislation that governs national agricultural policy. The National Academy of Sciences has presented a report calling for the establishment of a \$500 million competitive grants program in agricultural research, which would include some social science. A more modest social science rural viability initiative will be pushed at appropriations time.«

## **SWEET NOMINATION AT JUSTICE DRAWS FIRE, WHILE DEPARTMENT SEEKS TO PRIVATIZE RESEARCH SLOTS**

Having survived attacks by both the Reagan and the Bush administrations, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) finds itself facing new difficulties this year. In a double blow, the Bush administration has nominated the controversial Robert Sweet to administer the office and the Justice Department has announced it will consider contracting out 27 of the agency's social scientist positions to the private sector.

Sweet's nomination has already drawn fire from many who remember his days in the early 1980s at the National Institute of Education (NIE) and its advisory body, the National Council on Educational Research (NCER). Currently an education analyst for the Senate Republican Policy Committee, Sweet was deputy director of NIE under Ed Curran. Following Curran's forced resignation, Sweet was acting director for six months and campaigned hard for the permanent job. When Education Secretary Terrell Bell instead chose Manual Justiz to head NIE, Sweet got himself appointed head of NCER. While

at the council, he attempted to seize control of NIE by turning the advisory body into a policy making council with control over research grants decisions and budget matters. Eventually Bell demanded Sweet's removal from the NCER post, and he then moved into the White House's Office of Domestic Affairs.

Nominating a former director of the New Hampshire Moral Majority is bound to raise some congressional hackles, and Sweet's candidacy has already drawn the opposition of House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Augustus Hawkins (D-CA). Moreover, a collection of interest groups have voiced opposition to the nomination, including the American Psychological Association and the National PTA. Sweet's opponents have argued that he does not meet the statutory requirement for the position since the administrator must have "experience in juvenile justice programs." Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which will consider the nomination, has promised to "thoroughly examine Mr. Sweet's qualifications."

On top of its leadership problems, OJJDP finds itself the target of an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) privatization effort. In an attempt to comply with an OMB directive that agencies consider contracting out some of their functions to private firms, the Justice Department has announced that it may look for private contractors to replace 27 social scientists at OJJDP, as well as 21 social scientists at the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The positions in question are those of officials who monitor government grants and contracts and are involved in the selection of each agency's program priorities. Although the Justice Department claims that this is just part of an exercise to satisfy OMB, a notice has appeared in the Commerce Business Daily soliciting a private contractor to provide services to OJJDP.«

## NEW LEADERSHIP OF HOUSE SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE EXPECTED

The election of Rep. James Florio (D-NJ) as governor of New Jersey has led to a game of musical chairs at the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. In particular, the Science, Research

and Technology (SRT) subcommittee is likely to see a new leader, as current chairman Rep. Doug Walgren (D-PA) steps down to replace Florio as the chairman of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Walgren has chaired the SRT subcommittee since 1981.

To replace Walgren, Rep. Tim Valentine (D-NC) will relinquish his leadership of the Transportation, Aviation and Materials Subcommittee. Elected in 1982, Valentine represents a district which includes Duke University, part of the research triangle area, but which also comprises a large rural and tobacco farming component. (The neighboring district, represented by political scientist Rep. David Price (D-NC), includes the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.) Valentine's district also has the largest minority population of any in North Carolina. Valentine, who has served on the Science Committee since his Congressional debut, is a former member of the SRT subcommittee.

Given the nature of his district, Valentine has been responsive to the needs of the research community. He has displayed considerable interest in pre-college science education, and during oversight hearings on the National Science Foundation (NSF) a few years ago, he vigorously questioned NSF Director Erich Bloch about delays in funding a bioengineering center at Duke. Valentine, 63, is a lawyer with an A.B. from The Citadel and a law degree from the University of North Carolina. He is a former chairman of the state Democratic party in North Carolina.

The probable chairmanship switch is not expected to occur until after Congress returns from the President's Day recess in late February.«

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES STALLED

Heeding advice from the scientific community and private industry, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan requested in late December that conflict of interest guidelines proposed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Al-

cohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) be revised.

Sullivan's decision follows complaints from the scientific community that the proposed guidelines (which were issued in September) were very broad in their application yet unclear in their definition of intent. The stated goal was "to ensure that NIH- and ADAMHA-supported research is carried out in a completely objective manner, and that research results are not influenced by the possibility of financial gain." The proposed guidelines covered all work supported by the agencies, including basic research far removed from commercialization.

The proposed policy would have required awardee institutions to establish policies in accordance with the guidelines, to maintain relevant financial disclosure records, and to resolve any conflicts in a timely fashion. Institutional policies would have been required to include three explicit standards:

- no investigator or other key personnel or their spouses or dependents "shall be allowed to have personal equity holdings or options in any company that would be affected by the outcome of the research or that produces a product or equipment being evaluated in the research project";
- "information and/or research products ... shall not be shared with any company with which a conflict exists unless or until the information or research products are made publicly available"; and
- "all research funding for all research projects must be disclosed" to ensure that no "investigator, key employee, consultant, or other involved person" receives any type of support from a company whose product is being evaluated or tested.

COSSA joined the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences and the American Psychological Society in sending a response to NIH regarding the proposed guidelines. The comments emphasized the burdensome nature of the proposed plan and its excessive scope. The response also expressed concern about the potential

for stifling public-private partnerships and effective technology transfer.

To a great extent, the proposed guidelines were a response to congressional scrutiny of scientific misconduct in general and conflict of interest in particular. Last year, Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY), chairman of the House Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee, held heated hearings that revealed isolated incidences of potential conflicts of interest.

While Secretary Sullivan's action will delay implementation of any specific guidelines, it is highly unlikely that the NIH and ADAMHA will dispense with their efforts to develop some type of policy.«

## NICHD COALITION PLANS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

"Friends of NICHD," a loose coalition of scientific and medical associations interested in the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, met this week to initiate action for the FY 1991 appropriations season. As in the past, the legislative goals of the coalition include strong support for social and behavioral science research. COSSA will be working with allied organizations to ensure that these interests continue to be adequately represented.

In evaluating previous efforts and planning for the coming year, coalition members expressed disappointment over the lack of involvement by individual scientists as grassroots "lobbyists." The group emphasized the valuable role academic scientists can play as concerned constituents. Noting that researchers often come to Washington for other business, organizations were urged to facilitate meetings between scientists and congressional staff.

NICHD staff tentatively are scheduled to testify before the appropriations subcommittees on February 20 in the Senate and March 14 in the House.«

## FAMILIES NEED ATTENTION FROM POLICY MAKERS, REPORT SAYS.

America is wasting its single greatest national resource, according to the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). In a January report, the NCFR argues that while families are central to both the cause and solution of numerous societal problems, national policy does little to support this vital cultural component.

The NCFR report brings together 19 family specialists to describe and discuss a variety of family issues, including marriage and family life, families at risk, family health issues, and family diversity. In his introduction to the report, NCFR President David Olson emphasizes that dramatic changes in family size and structure demand an improved understanding and appreciation of family diversity.

A section authored by Hamilton McCubbin, dean of the School of Family Resources & Consumer Science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, calls for new research on a wide variety of ethnic and mixed-race family issues. Among the topics in need of exploration, McCubbin says, are the impact of discrimination on family and child development, socialization and development of mixed-race marriages, and coping in different ethnic groups.

In a section on child care, Bert Adams, a family sociologist of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Diane Adams, director of the Dane County, WI Community Coordinated Child Care, contend that while "child care infrastructure" is growing, there is little coordination or planning for future needs. In addition, they maintain, child care workers need better preparation.

Purdue University's Robert A. Lewis offers a look at "Drug Abuse and the Family," arguing that "all-out war against the abuse of drugs is necessary to curb the current drug and alcohol epidemic." He calls for more treatment centers and more effective treatment programs, noting that existing programs cannot accommodate all persons seriously addicted to drugs. He also contends that intervention programs must be designed for specific at-risk groups.

To improve the policy priority accorded family issues, Olson suggests that family impact statements should be developed for all major local, state, and national legislation. Such statements "would enable us to have policies that are more humane, but also more effective in serving individual and family needs," he argues.

Copies of the report, "2001: Preparing Families for the Future," are available from NCFR at 3989 Central Avenue Northeast, Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN, 55421 Phone: (612) 781-9331; Fax: (612) 781-9348.◀

## COPAFS TO HOST SEMINAR ON QUALITY OF FEDERAL DATA

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) will host a seminar on federal data quality on May 23-24. Developed to make use of work undertaken by the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology during the past 10 years, the seminar will focus on a number of topics explored in the Statistical Policy Working Paper series:

- survey quality profiles
- statistical uses of administrative records
- federal longitudinal surveys
- disclosure-avoidance techniques
- approaches to developing questionnaires
- survey coverage evaluation
- data editing
- telephone data collection
- computer-assisted statistical surveys
- cognitive labs
- quality in business surveys
- the employer reporting unit match study

The seminar will be held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC and will cost \$90.00 per person. Registration is limited to 200. For further information contact Katherine Wallman at (703) 836-0404.◀

**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.

**Instrumentation and Instrument Development Program**

The Instrumentation and Instrument Development Program is offering support for the purchase of major items of multi-user instrumentation costing between \$35,000 and \$500,000. The instrumentation may be used for the conduct of basic research in the life sciences that falls within the purview of the NSF Division of Social and Economic Sciences. Additionally, the program provides support for development of new computer software to enhance current or new instrumentation, and for workshops in emerging areas of instrumentation or instrument development.

**Budget:** The NSF expects to grant approximately 80 to 90 awards totalling around \$16 million.

**Review Process:** Panel and ad hoc peer review

**Deadlines:** Proposals received by May 1, 1990 will be eligible for funding after January 1991. Those received by November 1, 1990 will be eligible in June 1991.

**Contact:** Program Director  
Instrumentation and Instrument Development  
National Science Foundation  
Washington, DC 20550  
(202) 357-7652«

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****Bilingual Education Fellowship Program**

The fellowship program provides financial assistance through approved institutions of higher education to full-time students pursuing a graduate degree in areas related to programs for limited English proficient persons. The Department is particularly interested in applications from students enrolled in doctoral programs.

**Application Procedure:** Applications are available from the address below.

**Budget:** The Department has \$2 million available for this program and expects to fund 200 awards, ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000 each.

**Deadlines:** February 26, 1990

**Contact:** Joyce Brown  
Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Room 5086, Switzer Building  
Washington, DC 20202-6510  
(202) 732-1843

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