

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume IX, Number 9

May 18, 1990

## INTO THE BREACH REDUX or BUDGET GAMES PART 2 *HS/JT*

The budget games were bound to get complicated this year. Just as Congressional leaders began to sketch out their game plans, White House budget chief Richard Darman changed the rules. OMB's economic predictions were somewhat wide of the mark, Darman admitted, and the deficit is likely to be considerably larger than originally predicted. With deficit projections soaring into the stratosphere, opposing budget captains called for a time out from political posturing. Sort of ...

Since House and Senate budget plans are built upon OMB's less-than-perfect economic projections, no fiscal blueprint now on the table stands a chance of meeting the \$64 billion deficit target mandated by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget law. Failing a budget compromise, GRH promises to slash almost 20 percent from some government programs. That prospect has frightened the administration and Congress into their long-awaited "budget summit."

But even as negotiators get down to real bargaining, the games continue. The White House is still seeking to simultaneously avoid both GRH cuts and responsibility for a tax hike. Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, are split among those who believe they must responsibly "govern" the country in tandem with the president, and those who favor the role of an opposition party. Republicans on Capitol Hill want to support Bush, but they fear the loss of Bush's now-defunct "no new taxes" pledge.

How these games will affect science funding remains to be seen. The original Bush budget made scientific research a high priority for increased support. While agreeing with the rhetoric, Congress has been less generous with the dollars.

It is not yet clear whether science research will be sacrificed upon the altar of overall belt tightening. What is clear, however, is that GRH cuts, should they occur, would reduce the National

Science Foundation's FY 1990 budget by more than \$400 million from its appropriated level. The National Institutes of Health would lose more than \$1 billion.

## PERSUADING CONGRESS AGAIN . . . *HS*

Sounding a familiar note, COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver called on Congress last week to increase funding for social and behavioral science research at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Appearing May 16 before a Senate appropriations panel, Silver issued a strong call for boosted research support and improved program integration.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), limited association witnesses to a brief (2 1/2 minute) "window of opportunity" for their statements.

Speaking to the question of social and behavioral science research, Silver noted the serious decline in NSF funding support for these disciplines. He also pointed out the omission of social and behavioral science from some NSF education programs. Congress, Silver suggested, should encourage NSF to integrate these disciplines into future education initiatives.

Echoing White House Science Advisor Allan Bromley, Silver went on to describe the vital role

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social and behavioral scientists should play in global change research. Investigators are exploring changes in not only the world's physical environment, he said, but in its political, economic, and social conditions as well.

### Education Testimony

Education research and statistics were the subject of written testimony COSSA submitted to Congress in early May. Offered to the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. William Natcher (D-KY), the statement called for increased funding of education research and statistics, international education programs, and graduate student support programs.

COSSA's testimony endorsed the administration's full \$174.7 million budget request for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). Noting the education goals adopted by President Bush and the nation's governors (as well as the major school reform package approved by Natcher's home state of Kentucky), COSSA urged the panel to allocate sufficient funds for the monitoring, assessment, and evaluation of these reform efforts. COSSA also advocated a boost in support for OERI's Field Initiated Studies program. An increase, according to the statement, would help raise the proposal success rate above its current 5 percent.

Turning to the National Center for Educational Statistics, COSSA called for sufficient funding to continue the major longitudinal studies necessary for

#### CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Howard J. Silver ..... Executive Director  
 Stacey E. Beckhardt ..... Government Liaison  
 Joe Thorndike ..... Staff Associate  
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Raymond E. Wolfinger ..... President

The Consortium of Social Science Associations 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. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$50; institutional subscriptions, \$90; overseas mail, \$90. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, DC 20005.

measuring long-term educational effectiveness. The Consortium's statement also urged support for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, particularly in its efforts to develop measures of higher-order critical thinking skills.

COSSA recommended real increases (as opposed to the administration's level funding) for international education programs. COSSA cited the report of the National Governors' Association, *America in Transition: The International Frontier*, which advocates expanded efforts to improve American students' international competence. Pointing out the stagnant funding of the Fulbright-Hays exchange program during the 1980s, COSSA asked the subcommittee to appropriate more funds for this important example of people-to-people diplomacy.

COSSA's testimony expressed concern about the planned phase-out of the Javits Fellows program, which provides support for graduate students in the social sciences, humanities, and arts. Increased Javits funding is necessary, the statement explained, if the Education Department is to select a new class of fellows. COSSA also asked for continued funding of the Law School Clinical Experience Program. The Reagan and Bush administrations have been trying to eliminate this program for several years.

### SOCIAL SCIENCE GROUPS APPLAUD AGING RESEARCH BILL; SUPPORT TEMPERED BY FUNDING CONCERNS

Aging research received a big boost May 18 when Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Rep. Edward Roybal (D-CA) introduced the Independence for Older Americans Act. The bill would authorize \$1 billion for basic, clinical, social, and behavioral research in human aging. COSSA joined the Alliance for Aging Research in supporting the legislation, which includes a section specifically directed at research on health, retirement, and independence.

The bill would mandate the longitudinal health and retirement history survey. It also establishes "an advisory panel on data collection to review existing government surveys and census data to coordinate information on the health and retirement status of older Americans." The National Center for Health Statistics would be required to enhance

several of its surveys to obtain more information relevant to aging.

COSSA's support for the legislation was tempered, however, by concerns over some details. In conjunction with the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences and the American Psychological Association, COSSA expressed these concerns in letters sent to Harkin and Roybal coincident with the bill's introduction.

COSSA's primary concern is the low level of authorization provided for research on health, retirement, and independence. The language in the bill is written quite broadly and could be interpreted to include all social and behavioral research funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA). Yet, only \$5 million is authorized. An assessment of needs for NIA's program suggests an additional \$78 million in authorization.

The letters also suggested that a bill subsection on health promotion and disease prevention was too limited in scope. COSSA recommended that issues related to health and behavior and long-term care be explicitly included. The letters also advocated research on special sub-populations, such as the rural elderly, the oldest old, and ethnic minority groups.

## AIR FORCE OFFERS SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Department of Defense (DOD) offers a veritable host of opportunities for social and behavioral scientists. Although the basic research budget has not grown significantly in recent years (and expected reductions in the DOD budget will not help), the Pentagon's vast bureaucracy still includes numerous programs that support social and behavioral research.

In this, the first of four articles on DOD opportunities, COSSA examines research programs supported by the Air Force.

Most DOD research is mission-related, but many offices (including those described below) ac-

cept unsolicited proposals. Informal contact with the relevant program officer is critical to a proposal's success.

AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, LIFE SCIENCES DIRECTORATE  
 William O. Berry, Acting Director, AFOSR/NL,  
 Washington, DC 20332 Tel: (202) 767-5021

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research, through its Life Sciences Directorate, supports basic experimental psychology research. The directorate seeks to improve the understanding of basic human skills in order to better design equipment for human use. The four programs described below seeks long- and short-term proposals, and they encourage ap-

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### *Defense Department Research Support*

The first of four articles

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applications from young researchers. Program managers solicit some proposals

through the *Commerce Business Daily* but unsolicited applications are welcome. Proposals are evaluated internally by program managers with the cooperation of external *ad hoc* peer review panels. Funding is usually provided through grants, the average length of which is three years.

### Visual Perception

John F. Tangney, Program Manager, AFOSR/NL,  
 Washington, DC 20332 Tel: (202) 767-5021

This program primarily supports psychophysical research to discover and quantitatively model the featural processing mechanisms underlying visual recognition. Approximately \$2.1 million is available. Research can include the mechanisms of contrast detection and discrimination, motion, eye movements, color and stereopsis. The program will consider research on other recognition mechanisms.

### Auditory Pattern Recognition

John F. Tagney, Program Manager (see address in Visual Perception section)

This program primarily supports psychophysical research on the human perception of complex sounds. Other approaches, including electrophysio-

logical studies and mathematical modeling of sensory processing, are also encouraged.

The program's objective is the discovery and modeling of the featural processing mechanisms that underlie auditory processing. A current budget of approximately \$1.1 million funds topics related to recognition, pitch, localization, and speech.

#### Spatial Orientation

John F. Tagney, Program Manager (see address in Visual Perception section)

This new program supports human behavioral research on perceived location and movement through space. The program particularly encourages both theoretical and experimental research that identifies and models the sensory and sensorimotor mechanisms that process cues of the environment from single and multiple sensory sources.

Theoretical approaches may include analytical and computational models that attempt to explain performance, preferably in terms of underlying neural processes. Experimental approaches may include human or animal studies, but those studies leading more directly to models of human performance will be given priority. Research topics may include visual navigation and posture, auditory localization, vestibular and proprioceptive perception of movement, multisensory integrative mechanisms, simple sensorimotor behaviors, and adaptation. About \$1.3 million is allocated for this research.

#### Cognition

Alfred R. Fregly, Program Manager, AFROSR/NL, Washington, DC 20332 Tel: (202) 767-2051

This program supports basic research on cognitive aspects of perception, attention, working memory, spatial information processing, long-term memory representations, natural reasoning, problem solving, and decision making under stress. The study of these topics under conditions of heavy cognitive demand is especially appropriate. Support is available for theoretical and experimental research that illuminates the fundamental mechanisms underlying human performance. Research can include behavioral methods alone or a combination of behavioral and biological or computational methods. The current budget for this division is about \$2 million.

AIR FORCE HUMAN RESOURCES LABORATORY  
Pat Ladwig, Unsolicited Proposals Coordinator,  
AFHRL/PR, Brooks Air Force Base, TX 78235  
(512) 536-3853

The Air Force Human Resources Laboratory (AFHRL), which encompasses the four divisions described below, conducts exploratory and advanced development projects on manpower, personnel, and training. While the majority of AFHRL research is intramural, some funding goes to unsolicited proposals. Actual funding of extramural research varies yearly but is currently about \$2 million.

Proposals and pre-proposals (short concept papers) should be submitted to the unsolicited proposal coordinator at Brooks Air Force Base. After technical and scientific review, funding recommendations are made to Air Force headquarters. All extramural research is funded through contracts.

#### Logistics and Human Factors Division

This division focuses on improving job performance, particularly of non-flying crews. Research topics include command and control training, improving combat performance, and team performance analysis.

#### Manpower and Personnel Division

This division seeks to improve the selection, classification, utilization, productivity, and retention of Air Force personnel. Management and personnel techniques, such as computer-based job modeling, are also appropriate research subjects.

### **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY JOINS COSSA, BUT ITS ALUMNAE DEPARTS**

COSSA is pleased to announce that American University has joined the ranks of our Contributing institutions. The latest arrival brings the number of COSSA Contributors to 52.

On a less happy note, COSSA bids farewell to COSSA intern and recent American University graduate Kate Pringle. Kate will embark on her legal career next fall as she enters Georgetown University law school.

Operations Training Division

The focus of this division is the assessment of air crew training, including current and proposed training systems, simulation, and differences in performance as a result of training.

Training Systems Division

This division studies technical and skills training methods for enlisted men and women. Research topics include teaching methodology, evaluation techniques, learning strategies, and the use of artificial intelligence.

**BLOCH DEFENDS NSF TREATMENT OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE**

*Excerpted below are comments by departing National Science Foundation Director Erich Bloch. Bloch's remarks were made in an April 25 interview with the Washington-based Science and Government Report. SGR editor and publisher Daniel S. Greenberg conducted the interview.*

**SGR:** The social and behavioral scientists feel neglected by NSF.

**Bloch:** Everybody feels neglected – the physicists, the chemists, the materials science people, the engineers feel neglected, on and on. So do the behavioral and social scientists.

**SGR:** But they've got numbers to prove it.

**Bloch:** Everybody has numbers to prove it. First of all, we brought the behavioral and social sciences back to a level that is, in constant dollars, where they were at the time when they took a nosedive [early in the Reagan Administration]. It took time to do that. Secondly, there are many programs in the Foundation where behavioral and social sciences have an influence and can participate – in the biological areas, for example; in engineering, think of human factors, and on and on. I think the behavioral and social sciences, besides being an entity by themselves, also have to get much more integrated into the big projects, or not so big projects, of the Foundation. For instance, the behavioral and social sciences in global environment. We're just starting a program in social sciences in the Arctic, as part of the Arctic research effort. So, there are many ways they can push out into other [disciplinary] directorates and get participation.

The other thing which I say very bluntly is the behavioral and social sciences are a conglomeration of a large number of very small disciplines, and that's a difficulty all by itself.

**SGR:** In terms of visibility?

**Bloch:** No, in terms of satisfying it. If you would want to look at each one in the same depth and treat each one in the same depth, you would have a budget that goes from here to the moon. So, we'll never satisfy them, in my opinion. We also started to redirect them somewhat, in terms of being more selective as to the capabilities and putting them more on a quantitative kind of a basis. We focused very heavily on economics, and that took some toll out of the rest. But, the behavioral and social sciences are a conglomeration of a large number of disciplines.

**SGR:** Some of them would respond that you, as an engineer, are no more capable of judging these disciplines than they are of judging engineering.

**Bloch:** I'm not judging them. I'm not making day-to-day decisions.

**SGR:** But you do cast an influence over decisions.

**Bloch:** I hope so, but sometimes I wonder. What do they want? They want a Director of the NSF for every discipline, the physicists are saying the same, the engineers are saying the same. In a job like I have, there are a lot of complaints, all the time. If you don't get any, you're not doing anything. So, I'm kind of proud that I get a lot of complaints.

## WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIPS IN THE JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES

The last two issues of UPDATE described congressional fellowships available to social and behavioral scientists. In the final segment of our fellowship series, COSSA spotlights similar programs in the executive and judicial branches. The Consortium provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the relevant organizations for further information and application materials.

### Judicial Fellows Program

Two or three judicial fellows are chosen annually for assignments with the Supreme Court's Office of the Chief Justice, the Federal Judicial Center, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. Fellows are given research and development responsibilities, as well as some administrative duties. Fellows usually serve for one year, beginning in September, and receive a salary based on education and experience. Candidates should have one or more post-graduate degrees and at least two years of professional experience, preferably in the multi-disciplinary applications of law. Applications should be received by November 15, 1990.

**Contact:** Executive Director, Judicial Fellows Program  
Supreme Court of the United States, Room 5  
Washington, DC 20543  
Tel. (202) 479-3400

### White House Fellowships

White House Fellowships are intended for men and women with outstanding accomplishments in business, government, science, arts and the academic world. Fellows serve in cabinet departments, with senior White House staff, and with other major executive branch agencies. Fellowships include a year-long educational program and can involve domestic and international travel. No particular professional area is specified, but applicants should be U.S. citizens in the formative years of their careers. Fellows will receive a stipend. The application deadline is December 15, 1990.

**Contact:** The President's Commission on White House Fellowships  
712 Jackson Pl., NW  
Washington, DC 20503  
Tel. (202) 395-4522

## FELLOWSHIPS FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

### AAAS Science, Engineering and Diplomacy Fellowships

These fellowships provide opportunities for scientists to spend one year working in either the Agency for International Development or the State Department's Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. A September orientation kicks off the program and seminars on various science, technology, and public policy issues are held throughout the year. Scientists from any area of natural or behavioral science or engineering are eligible. Applicants should be oriented toward the international policy applications of their field. Salaries are consistent with education level and experience. The application deadline is January 15.

**Contact:** Science, Engineering and Diplomacy Fellows Program  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
1333 H St., NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. (202) 326-6600

### AAAS Science, Arms Control and National Security Fellowships

Arms control and national security fellows are placed in appropriate executive federal agencies or in congressional offices, committees, or support agencies. The program is supplemented by an orientation and frequent seminars on topics related to arms control and national security. Fellowships begin in September and continue for one year. AAAS provides a stipend of up to \$30,000, plus relocation and travel allowances. Applicants should have some experience with arms control/national security issues, as well as demonstrated excellence in a natural or social science, or a science-related profession. Applications must be received by January 17, 1991.

**Contact:** Science, Arms Control and National Security Fellowships  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
1333 H St., NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. (202) 326-6600

### AAAS Summer Environmental Science and Engineering Fellowships

This ten-week summer program places scientist at the Office of Research and Development of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Fellows will undertake a detailed research project identifying and assessing the significance of long-range environmental problems and opportunities. The program includes a one week orientation and weekly seminar programs on environmental issues, science, technology, and public policy. Fellows receive \$800 per week, plus relocation and travel expenses. Applicants should be postdoctoral or mid-career professionals with expertise in a relevant field of natural or behavioral science or other related area. The application deadline is March 1, 1991.

**Contact:** Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows Program  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
1333 H St., NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. (202) 326-6600

### American Historical Association Fellowship in Aerospace History

AHA sponsors one or more fellows for research in a project related to aerospace history. Fellows are sponsored for six months to one year to engage in advanced research. Fellows will have access to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) documentary resources and may spend the fellowship in residence at NASA headquarters or centers. Applicants must possess a doctoral degree or be enrolled in a doctoral program. AHA provides a stipend of up to \$25,000, plus some relocation and travel expenses. Applications are due by February 1, 1991.

**Contact:** Fellowship in Aerospace History  
American Historical Association  
400 A St., SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
Tel. (202) 544-2422

American Anthropological Association  
American Economic Association  
American Historical Association

American Agricultural Economics Association  
American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of  
Business  
American Association for Public Opinion  
Research  
American Educational Research Association  
American Psychological Society  
American Society of Criminology  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Social Sciences in Health  
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