

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

1755 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • [202] 234-5703

MEMORANDUM: February 26, 1982

TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors, and Friends

FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

RE: COSSA Legislative Report

An issue of great concern to social scientists is the administration's proposal to discontinue guaranteed student loans to graduate students. As proposed by the administration, graduate students would no longer be eligible for the guaranteed student loans at 9% interest. They would, however, be permitted to apply for auxiliary loans at 14% interest. According to Newton Cattell of AAU, a major problem in opposing the exclusion of graduate students from this program is that the entire guaranteed loan program may be abandoned. Many Congressmen, even those who are supportive of higher education issues, want to reduce costs and may see the only way to do this in scrapping the loan program. Mr. Cattell cautions against too early a compromise on the guaranteed student loans and suggests that the higher education community attempt to preserve the viability of the entire guaranteed student loan program, arguing that loans to graduate students are an essential part of the program.

There are three places where a political compromise may be harmful to the cause of restoring graduate student loans. The first is the expiration of the Continuing Resolution for FY 1982 (March 31). At that time, the administration may propose further FY 1982 budget cuts that may reduce the guaranteed student loan programs. A second danger point is in the debate on the debt ceiling. A compromise here may combine an increase in the debt ceiling with a decrease in domestic spending, including a further decrease in student loans. The third critical point is the construction of a budget package for the Reconciliation Bill, which by law must be passed by May 14. Future issues of the COSSA Legislative Report will carry additional information on this issue.

Enclosed is the current issue of The Numbers News, a supplement to American Demographics containing a summary of the effects of recent budget cuts on the Census Bureau and other statistical agencies.

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COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 26, 1982

National Science Foundation

The House Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology, under its chairman, Congressman Doug Walgren (D-PA), held hearings on the social and behavioral science research budgets at the National Science Foundation on February 23.

John Slaughter, Director of the Foundation, told the subcommittee that the Foundation considered the support of research in the social and behavioral sciences to be an integral part of its mission. Throughout his presentation, Dr. Slaughter emphasized that the quality of research in these fields was fully equal to the quality of research NSF supports in the natural sciences.

In FY 1983, funding priorities in the social and behavioral sciences will include the maintenance and development of key data bases, improvement and development of research methods, and investigator initiated research projects. In response to a question from Congressman Stan Lundine (D-NY), Dr. Slaughter said that the original FY 1981 and FY 1982 budget cuts were a mistake and that funds were being restored. He noted that the administration's original request for social and behavioral science research in FY 1982 was increased by some 53%, from a total of \$20.1 million to \$33.1 million. (If the FY 1980 budget figures are used as a base, however, the FY 1982 figures are, overall, 38% less than the FY 1980 budget. Moreover, because of inflation, the purchasing power of the budget is considerably less than these figures indicate.

Testifying on behalf of increasing research budgets for the social and behavioral sciences were William Baumol (New York University), Philip Converse (University of Michigan), and Charles Kiestler (Carnegie-Mellon University). Copies of their testimony can be obtained by contacting the COSSA office.

Over the past year, Congressman Walgren and members of his subcommittee have generally been strong supporters of increasing the NSF budget for social and behavioral science research. In the coming weeks, their attention may well shift to the issue of science and engineering education because of recently announced plans to dissolve the NSF Directorate for Science and Engineering Education. The survival of this directorate is an important issue and one of concern to many social

National Endowment for the Humanities

Senator Robert Stafford, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities will recommend that funding for NEH be maintained at last year's level of \$130 million during the Labor and Human Resource Committees March 3 mark-up.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior is having outside witnesses on the NEH budget authorization on March 3. Although 40 witnesses had originally been scheduled, the decision to hold floor debate on the expulsion of Senator Harrison Williams that afternoon has led the Committee to limit itself to hearing only 10 outside witnesses. The hearings will run from 9:30am to 12 noon in Room 1224 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Administration witnesses are scheduled for May 11.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior has announced that it will hold authorization hearings on the NEH budget in April. Outside witnesses will testify on April 6; administration witnesses will be heard on April 11.

The House Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education is likely to take its time in examining the Federal Council on Arts and Humanities Bill. This legislation is an outgrowth of recommendations developed by the White House Task Force on Arts and Humanities. The Task Force argued that federal efforts in this area required better coordination and fund-raising. Earlier legislative proposals based on those recommendations had given the Council the authority to dip into program funds and to evaluate federal programs. These proposals were highly controversial and were subsequently modified in negotiations between the Administration and interested parties. The Subcommittee will take a close look at the current draft before acting.

National Archives and Records Service

The National Archives has been under the direct administrative supervision of the General Services Administration (GSA) since 1949. Because the Administrator of GSA is generally unfamiliar with the purposes of the Archives and with the intricacies of managing an archival facility, the Archives has been subject to periodic threats of dismemberment and debilitating interference from GSA. At present, Gerald P. Carmen, the Administrator of GSA, is planning yet another reorganization of the Archives, one which will transfer functions of the Archives directly to GSA. In order to prevent this type of interference with the operation of the Archives, the Senate Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office and General Services has held hearings on a bill to separate the Archives from GSA (S. 1421). The bill has not been reported out of the Subcommittee. Chairman of the Subcommittee is Senator Ted Stevens (R - Alaska).

NSF (cont.)

scientists and to Members of Congress. Nonetheless, the fight for restoration of social and behavioral science research budgets is not yet over and we still need active Congressional help to bring these budgets back to their pre-Stockman trajectories.

We need to generate letters immediately to members of the Walgren Subcommittee because the subcommittee may well mark up the NSF budget in the next ten days. Enclosed (attachment 1) is a list of colleges and universities in the districts of members of the subcommittee. If you live in one of these districts or know people who live in these districts, please urge them to write and/or call their Congressman, requesting that the authorization for social and behavioral science research in NSF's Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS) be increased to the FY 1980 levels.

The message that should be conveyed is that there is widespread acknowledgement that the social and behavioral science budgets cuts last year were a mistake. The Director of the Foundation, John Slaughter, and the White House Science Advisor, George Keyworth, are only two of the many people who have publicly supported increased social and behavioral science research budgets. Yet the FY 1983 budget in these areas still remains considerably below FY 1980 levels. We are asking members of the Walgren Subcommittee to authorize a budget of \$205.9 million for BBS, adding \$19.2 million for research in the social and behavioral sciences. This will provide \$13.4 million for the Social and Economic Science Division and \$5.8 million for Behavioral and Neural Sciences and would bring these budgets back to their FY 1980 levels.

National Institution of Education

Because NIE has been authorized through 1985, the only Congressional action this year on the NIE budget will be in the Appropriations Committees. COSSA has requested permission to testify on the FY 1983 NIE budget before the Appropriations Subcommittees of both the House and the Senate.

There is no word as yet on any change in the Continuing Resolution for FY 1982 which expires on March 31. Social scientists who live in the districts or states of members of the Appropriations Committees should encourage their Congressmen to hold the NIE appropriation in the Continuing Resolution of \$53.4 million. (See attachment 2 for a list of members of the Appropriations Committees.)

Allen E. Ertel (cont.)

Lycoming College
Williamsport Area Community College

Ralph M. Hall - Texas (D)

Austin College
East Texas State University
Grayson County Junior college
Kilgore College
Le Tourneau College
North Texas State University
Southwestern Christian College
Texas College
Texas Woman's University
Tyler Junior College
University of Texas at Tyler

Dave McCurdy - Oklahoma (D)

University of Oklahoma
Cameron University
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College
Oklahoma Baptist University
Oscar Rose Junior College
St. Gregory's College

Margaret Heckler - Massachusetts (R)

Wellesley College
Wheaton College
Bristol Community college
Babson College
Massachusetts Bay Community College
Stonehill College

Vin Weber - Minnesota (R)

St. John's University
St. Cloud State University
College of Saint Benedict
Willmar Community College
Worthington Community College
Southwest State University

Judd Gregg - New Hampshire (R)

Dartmouth College
Colby Sawyer College
Daniel Webster College
Franklin Pierce College
Nathaniel Hawthorne College

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attachment

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Educational Institutions
in the
Districts of Members
Of the
House Subcommittee on Science,
Research and Technology

Doug Walgren - Pennsylvania (D)

Community College of Allegheny County North Campus
La Roche College
Nearby: Carnegie Mellon and University of Pittsburgh

George E. Brown, Jr. - California (D)

California Baptist College
Riverside City College
San Bernardino Valley College
University of California - Riverside

Bob Shamansky - Ohio (D)

Capital University
Ohio Institute of Technology
Ohio Wesleyan University
Otterbein College
Nearby: Ohio State University

Mervyn M. Dymally - California (D)

Compton Community College
El Camino College
Los Angeles Southwest College

Stan Lundine - New York (D)

Alfred University
Elmira College
Houghton College
Saint Bonaventure University
State University of New York College at Fredonia
Corning Community College
Jamestown Community College

Allen E. Ertel - Pennsylvania (D)

Pennsylvania State University
Bucknell University
Harrisburg Area Community College
Lebanon Valley College

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Dale Bumpers, Ark.

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Committee on Appropriations

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Vic Fazio, Calif.
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Les AuCoin, Ore.
Daniel K. Akaka, Hawaii
Wes Watkins, Okla.
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C.W. Bill Young, Fla.
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Virginia Smith, Nebr.
Eldon Rudd, Ariz.
Carl D. Pursell, Mich.
Mickey Edwards, Okla.
Robert L. (Bob) Livingston, La.
Bill Green, N.Y.
Tom Loeffler, Tex.
Jerry Lewis, Calif.
Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., S.C.
John Edward Porter, Ill.

Judd Gregg (cont.)

New England College
Rivier College
University of New Hampshire Keene St. College
University of New Hampshire Plymouth St. College

Joe Skeen - New Mexico (R)

College of the Southwest
Eastern New Mexico University
New Mexico Junior College
New Mexico State University
Western New Mexico University

Edwin B. Forsythe - New Jersey (R)

Burlington County College
Ocean County College

The Numbers News / supplement to American Demographics

cutting process in individual agencies may be rational, but there is no mechanism for assessing the impact of all the cuts in statistical programs," said Courtenay Slater, former chief economist of the Commerce Department and now a private consultant. OMB is said to be preparing a report on the impact of statistical reductions. And several congressmen are awakening from statistical slumber to examine the effects. Robert Garcia's Subcommittee on Census and Population will hold hearings on the subject March 4.

The mood around the Census Bureau is glum, with forced furloughs and the firing of 500 employees about to begin. Some staff members are bitter and critical of the new director, Bruce Chapman. But others say the agency will survive and even emerge stronger. Said Chapman, "We are doing what needs to be done. It is better to do it now and get it over with rather than drag things out, which will make it worse." It is still too early to assess the impact of the personnel cuts on bureau programs and products. There may be some loss in data analysis, fewer publications and public appearances by bureau staff. Some key officials may be lured to better jobs elsewhere. But, in all, the bureau appears to be moving ahead with release of 1980 census data products (see schedule on page 3). Since staff members are being urged to take their forced time off on Mondays and Fridays, plan to visit the bureau or reach specific staff during the other three work days, although offices are supposed to have 70 percent of their members at work at all times.

The Data User Services Division reports that summary tape files are now available for all states except Alabama, which should be released in a few weeks. The division has moved again. Note its new telephone number: (301) 763-4100, customer services. The division announced that it has raised the price of computer tape from \$110 to \$140 per reel. Demand has been strong for tapes; already more than 600 reels have been sold, and demand should grow now that STF 1-A is ready.

In a move designed to trade thoroughness for timeliness, the early national sample containing tabulations from a sample of long-form questionnaires will be available only as a printed report, not on tape as reported earlier (see our August 19, 1981 newsletter). The report "Provisional Estimates of Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics" (PHC80-S1-1) will probably be ready in March. Preparing tabulations on tape would provide more detail, but processing would have taken longer.

Final arrangements have been concluded among members of the private-sector consortium formed to obtain special tabulations of 1980 census data by zip code (see our December 15, 1981 newsletter). According to the National Planning Data Corporation, which organized the consortium, the members are as follows: Sears, Roebuck and Co.; Market Statistics; Urban Data Processing, Inc.; Montgomery Ward & Co.; Demographic Research Company, Inc.; Survey Sampling, Inc.; R. L. Polk & Co.; State Farm Insurance Companies; Geographic Systems, Inc.; Donnelley Marketing; Advo-System, Inc.; Claritas Corporation; National Decision Systems, Inc.; Time Magazine, Inc.; and the National Planning Data Corporation. Each member can prepare its own products and negotiate a price with its clients. Buyers of zip code data would do well to do some comparison shopping.

Adding political insult to statistical injury, the United States was not elected to membership in the United Nations Statistical Commission for the first time since the commission was organized in 1946. Instead, Ireland was elected. Officially, the U. S. State Department had no comment. Some observers said the U. S. had become complacent, assumed it would be elected again this January, and failed to lobby for the post. Member countries may have been angry at the U. S. votes in the U. N. and used the statistical commission vote to express displeasure. In question now are U. N. contributions to the Census Bureau's international division and U. S. contributions to the U. N. Statistical Commission. The action makes it harder for the United States to claim world statistical leadership.

The Numbers News

SUPPLEMENT TO

American Demographics

Vol. 2, No. 3

February 15, 1982

The Reagan administration's 1983 budget will reduce the scope, timeliness, and quality of many statistics gathered by the U.S. government. But no additional cuts will be made in 1980 census products. The Census Bureau will conduct the 1982 economic and agriculture censuses, but certain parts will be delayed or eliminated. The National Travel Survey has been cancelled. The agriculture census will no longer cover Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands and other "outlying areas." The Commodity Transportation Survey will be delayed, and the Census of Service Industries will have reduced coverage.

Many cuts are being made because spending for the 1982 fiscal year, now nearly half over, is authorized only at 1981 levels. The monthly department store sales data for some 9,500 establishments in 200 different areas is being eliminated. The wholesale trade data program is being reduced. No longer will the government tell you its quarterly estimate of stocks and roasting of green coffee, or its estimates of selected canned food stocks during packing season. The service industry trade report program is also being reduced.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is eliminating or trimming 16 different programs. A reduction of 12,000 households in the size of the Current Population Survey, which currently interviews 63,000 households each month, will make statistics for states and metropolitan areas less reliable. Another move is to eliminate the CPS supplement that identifies the characteristics of people who hold more than one job. The CPS voting supplement is being cut back. The family budget series is being eliminated. So is the analysis of collective bargaining contracts.

The time between some surveys is being lengthened. The Annual Housing Survey will no longer be annual, but every other year. The National Center for Health Statistics Ambulatory Care Survey will shift from annual to every three years. Its Nursing Home Survey will shift from every three years to six. The Health and Examination Nutrition Survey will move from every five years to once a decade. "Stretching out these surveys means a flat loss of data," said George Hall, former associate director for demographic fields at the Census Bureau. "Reducing the sample size reduces reliability. And some of the cuts will mean loss of quality."

Each of the cuts may be of low priority to the agency making them, but their sum may be greater than the parts. The U. S. statistical system is not a system at all, but a collection of statistical programs with little central control. The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards in the office of Management and Budget once played a key role, but now finds that role reduced. Its director, Joseph Duncan, recently left government to work for Dun & Bradstreet. And OMB has cut off funds for the office's monthly publication, Statistical Reporter. "The

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March 1982

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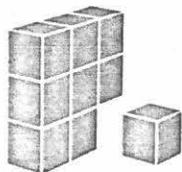
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The Numbers News / supplement to American Demographics

Revised Census Product Schedule

The Census Bureau will soon publish a revised schedule for release of 1980 census data products. Below are selected computer tapes and reports from that schedule. For further information call the Data User Services Division, (301) 763-4100.

Computer Tapes

<u>Product</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Availability</u>
STF 1	Complete-count data	9/81-early 1982
STF 2	Detailed complete-count data	early 1982-mid 1982
STF 3	Sample data	Spring 1982-Fall 1982
STF 4	Detailed sample data	Mid 1982-late 1982
Public-Use Microdata Samples (individual questionnaires)		Mid 1982-late 1982
Census/EEO Special File (sample data for affirmative action)		Fall 1982-early 1983

Printed Reports and Microfiche

PHC80-S1-1	Early National Sample Report	Early 1982
PHC80-1	Block Statistics (microfiche only)	Early 1982-mid 1982
PHC80-2	Census Tracts	Late 1982-mid 1983
PHC80-3	Summary Characteristics for Governmental Units and SMSAs	Spring 1982-Fall 1982
PC80-1-A	Number of Inhabitants	10/81-early 1982
PC80-1-B	General Population Characteristics	Early 1982-mid 1982
PC80-1-C	General Social and Economic Characteristics	Fall 1982-early 1983
PC80-1-D	Detailed Population Characteristics	Mid to late 1983
HC80-1-A	General Housing Characteristics	Early 1982-mid 1982
HC80-1-B	Detailed Housing Characteristics	Fall 1982-early 1983
HC80-2	Metropolitan Housing Characteristics (microfiche only)	Mid to late 1983

These are only some of the 1980 census products, and the bureau cautions that this schedule is subject to change. Order forms for census products are available from Data User Services Division, Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, or from regional offices. The Census Bureau will soon publish a guide to using the census.