

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors, and Friends
FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

July 30, 1982

This Week ...

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Rescissions of Labor Department Research Funds

According to the Federal Register of July 22, 1982, the Reagan administration has returned Labor Department (DOL) funds totalling \$47.4 million, including \$5.3 million in research, development and evaluation funds, to the federal Treasury. The rationale for the rescission was that these were "unanticipated" balances and "no compelling program or operational need has developed in this account to justify increasing 1982 and 1983 outlays by utilizing these balances."

The magnitude of the rescission can be seen by comparing the \$5.3 million in unused research funds to DOL's total FY 1983 research budget request of \$9.6 million (excluding ETA funds for Youth Programs, CETA, and WIN).

The claim that "no compelling program or operational need has developed," does not accord with the DOL position in January when the agency prepared detailed explanations of its FY 1983 research budgets. For example, a DOL document dated January 6, 1982, states that research activities in the Office of Research and Development of the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) will be phased out pending passage of new legislation. Similarly, research in

Rescissions of Labor Department Research Funds (continued)

the Youth Program (OYP) "is presently in a wind-down phase awaiting new legislative developments." In the Labor-Management Services Administration, DOL's January position was that "In FY 1982 and FY 1983, all research funds for contractual services are eliminated in order to protect enforcement activities ... from the severe reductions imposed on LMSA." Again, in the Employment Standards Administration, the January position was not that there was "no compelling ... need," but rather that "In compliance with President Reagan's economic program, research and evaluation activities in the Employment Standards Administration have been sharply curtailed." (Emphasis added.)

There would seem to be a basic inconsistency between the DOL position in January and July, between the time when an already restrictive research budget was being cut further and when \$5.3 million in unspent research funds were being returned to the Treasury. A comparison of DOL documents in January and July suggests, instead, that research funding at DOL is being curtailed beyond what the budget figures suggest for political and economic reasons.

Attachment 1 shows DOL research budget estimates for FY 1983. Copies of the January and July DOL documents are available from the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

NSF Budget Mark Up

Congress has again acted to increase funding for social and behavioral science research, adding \$9 million to the NSF budget for Research and Related Activities in a closed Appropriations Subcommittee mark up.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies met on Thursday, July 29, to mark up the National Science Foundation budget for FY 1983. The actual mark up levels have been embargoed until the full Appropriations Committee meets on August 10. Despite the embargo, however, informal sources indicate that the Subcommittee added \$9 million to be divided between NSF's directorates for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences and Science, Technology and International Affairs (STIA) and \$25 million to the administration's original request for science education.

The House floor debate and vote on the NSF budget, to be held in mid-August or early September, will be critical to maintain the increased appropriation. Further details will be available in the COSSA Legislative Report.

Behavioral Sciences Cluster Group at NIMH

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has formed a Behavioral Sciences Cluster Group to compile a major statement on the status and future of research in the behavioral and social sciences at NIMH. At its first meeting, the group agreed to arrange for the preparation of essays on twenty or more research areas within these disciplines. It is hoped that the essays, which should be available for distribution in the spring, will strengthen support for social and behavioral research at NIMH.

When asked what she expected the group's impact to be, Dr. Margaret Clark, president of the American Anthropological Association and member of the cluster group, said she anticipated that the group "would serve to liberalize the reading of the restrictive redefinitions forced on NIMH by the current administration."

Other members of the Behavioral Sciences Cluster Group include:

John Clausen, University of California-Berkeley, Chairman
Al Bandura, Stanford University
Robert Emde, University of Colorado
Seymour Feshbach, University of California-Los Angeles
James S. Jackson, Institute for Social Research-University of Michigan
Gregory Kimble, Duke University
David Reiss, Center for Family Research
Lloyd Rogler, Fordham University
Leonard Rosenblum, Downstate Medical Center, New York
James Spence, University of Texas-Austin
Sheldon White, Harvard University

COSSA Meets with NSB Education Commission

Representatives from several of COSSA's member organizations met this week with Dr. Richard S. Nicholson, Executive Director of the National Science Board (NSB) Commission on Precollege Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology. The NSB is the policy-making body of the National Science Foundation.

The need for improved precollege education in the social and behavioral sciences was stressed by all present, including COSSA staff and representatives of the American Anthropological Association, the American Sociological Association, the Association of American Geographers, and the American Educational Research Association. The social scientists urged that the new Commission not concentrate all its efforts on improving instruction in mathematics and engineering at the expense of

COSSA Meets with NSB Education Commission (continued)

the social sciences. For example, one participant noted that "geographic illiteracy" has become a grave problem that is exacerbated by geography's being taught by instructors with little or no formal training in the discipline. This was seen as a pervasive problem in precollege teaching of the social sciences.

The Commission was established in February, 1982, in response to the perceived decline in the quality of precollege mathematics and science education in the U.S. The purpose of the Commission, which is co-chaired by William T. Coleman and Cecily Cannan Selby, is to determine what should be done to improve mathematics and science education. It will develop a plan of action that may encompass the appropriate roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments, professional and scientific societies, and the private sector in addressing this national problem.

Dr. Nicholson encouraged COSSA and its member organizations to write him with suggestions and ideas about precollege education in the social sciences. Organizations should communicate their concerns and suggestions to Dr. Richard S. Nicholson, NSB Commission on Precollege Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology, Room 527, 1800 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20550. Telephone: 202/357-7700.

Statistical Budgets

The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) released its recommendations for FY 1983 Statistical budget priorities on Tuesday, July 27. The priorities were prepared for the JEC by Courtenay Slater, former Chief Economist of the Department of Commerce. The release of this document was timed to make it available to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies which met on July 28 to mark up the budgets for the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Affairs (BEA) in the Commerce Department.

As the JEC recommended, funds were added to the budget of the Census Bureau for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP); for additional work on local, state and regional population estimates; and for the redesign of household surveys (National Crime Survey, Health Interview Survey, Annual Housing Survey, and Consumer Expenditure Survey) using 1980 Census data. Funds were also added to BEA for use in the National Income Accounts. Specifically, this restoration would permit BEA to improve its monitoring of changes in the availability of source data, to improve data sources, and to complete a handbook explaining GNP concepts, methodology, and data sources.

The JEC report "Statistics for Economic Analysis: 1983 Budget Requirements," is available from the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

New Series of Articles on Statistical Budget Cuts

Review of Public Data Use, under the editorship of Charles Renfro, Chase Econometrics, will publish a series of articles on the specific impacts of budget cuts on federal data collection programs. The first article in the series, an analysis of the effect of budget changes on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by Joel Popkin, will be published in late fall. Suggestions for additional topics and authors for the series should be sent to Dr. Renfro, Review of Public Data Use, 11 East Princeton Road, Bala Cynwid, PA 19004.

COSSA Staff

The Consortium of Social Science Associations is pleased to announce that Helen Samuels Rauch has joined COSSA as a Staff Associate. Dr. Rauch received the Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1981, where she was also a Fellow at the Bush Institute for Child and Family Policy. Most recently, as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Fellow, she worked on the staff of Congressman Ted Weiss. She was selected to participate in the Fellowship Program by the Society for Research in Child Development. Dr. Rauch has published several articles in the area of human social development.

Upcoming Hearings

A number of Congressional Hearings of potential interest to social and behavior scientists have been scheduled for August and September. These are listed below with information on whom to contact for further information.

Senate: CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH & STUDIES CENTER

Education, Arts & Humanities Subcommittee of the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee will hold a hearing on Carl Albert Congressional Research & Studies Center Endowment Act (S1405) 10am 4232 Dirksen Building, August 4. For further information, contact Senator Robert Stafford (R-VT), 5219 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

STUDENT LOAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Education, Arts & Humanities Subcommittee of the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae) 10am 4232 Dirksen Building, August 12. For further information, contact Senator Robert Stafford (R-VT).

House: EXTENDED LIFE SPANS

House Aging Committee will hold a hearing on extended life spans: new scientific frontiers at 10am, Room TBA, September 8. For further information contact Representative Claude Pepper, (D-FL) 2239 Rayburn House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

PELL GRANTS

Postsecondary Education Subcommittee of the House Education & Labor Committee will hold a hearing on delays in processing FY82-83 Pell Grant applications and possible disapproval resolution of FY83-84 Family Contribution Schedule on August 5. For time and room and further information, please contact Representative Paul Simon (D-IL), 227 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

(In millions of dollars)

	<u>Line</u> <u>Code</u>		<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Conduct of R&D by Activity					
Basic Research	101	B.A.	3.7	3.3	.3
		Oblig.	3.7	3.3	.3
		Outlays	3.6	4.7	.3
Applied Research	102	B.A.	29.2	13.6	9.3
		Oblig.	23.7	13.8	9.3
		Outlays	30.8	18.6	9.0
Development	103	B.A.	67.7	12.9	.5
		Oblig.	36.0	13.2	.5
		Outlays	131.7	31.6	1.4
Total Conduct of R&D	199	B.A.	100.6 ^{1/}	29.7 ^{2/}	9.6
		Oblig.	60.6	30.3	9.6
		Outlays	166.1	54.9	10.7
Conduct of R&D Performed by Colleges and Universities	201	B.A.	8.5	2.6	.6
		Oblig.	7.9	2.6	.6
		Outlays	8.6	2.6	.6
R&D Facilities	301	B.A.	-	-	-
		Oblig.	-	-	-
		Outlays	-	-	-

Revised 1/22/82

Note: For FY 83 no data was available from ETA for Youth Programs, CETA, WIN,

1/ Includes deferral of .65 million2/ Excludes deferral of .65 million

