

# CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors, and Friends

FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

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COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

June 18, 1982

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This Week ...

July Mark Up for NSF Appropriation in the House  
Department of Labor  
NIE Director to be Replaced  
COSSA Interns

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## July Mark Up for NSF Appropriation in the House

Shortly after the July 4 recess, which ends on July 11, members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD and Independent Agencies (Chairman, Edward Boland, D-MA) will meet to mark up the FY 1983 appropriation for NSF. Last month the House passed an NSF authorization that restored funding for the social and behavioral science research programs to their FY 1980 level. This permits the House Appropriations Committee to add as much as \$17.6 million to the NSF appropriation for social and behavioral science research.

In order to turn the NSF authorization to an actual budget increase for social and behavioral science research programs, it is important that members of the Boland Subcommittee be contacted on this issue during and immediately following the upcoming recess. Representatives should be reminded of the House authorization and told that this restoration is critical to the maintenance of the Foundation's programs in the social and behavioral sciences. Other points that might be raised in a letter or a telephone call to members of the Subcommittee are discussed in the enclosed fact sheet. (See attachments 1 & 2.)

July Mark Up for NSF Appropriation in the House (continued)

COSSA has sent information on this issue to 150 social scientists in the congressional districts of members of the Boland Subcommittee. We are asking the recipients of this mailing to both write and call their Congressman on the NSF appropriation. If you or your colleagues live in the districts or states of the members of this subcommittee, please contact them during or immediately following the July 4 congressional recess. A list of members of the Subcommittee, giving both local and Washington phone numbers and addresses, is enclosed (see attachment 3).

Department of Labor

Research funding at the Department of Labor (DOL) has declined considerably over the past two years, from over \$100 million in FY 1980 to about \$13 million in FY 1982. According to DOL officials, this decline is due to the completion of the large major experiments or demonstrations supported by the Department in the past. However, others who are familiar with DOL research funding say that the completion of the experiments is only one element in the decline in DOL research support. Another element is the Department's refusal to spend all the money it has available for research.

Unlike the Department of Health and Human Services where research in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation is a line item in the budget, most DOL research is funded through the CETA program and administered by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). These funds have been used to support longitudinal studies of labor market behavior, a variety of empirical analyses of labor markets, and research on experimental or demonstration projects. Despite the importance of this research for understanding labor markets, there is no specific budget recommendation for research because there is no replacement for CETA as yet.

The FY 1983 DOL appropriation will probably be marked up by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education (under Chairman William Natcher, D-TN) after the July 4 recess. COSSA is attempting to strengthen the research budget within the DOL appropriation and to have language put into the appropriations report that emphasizes the importance of maintaining core support for DOL research programs.

NIE Director to be Replaced

Edward A. Curran, director of the National Institute of Education (NIE), left his post on June 10. It is not known if Curran volunteered to leave or was forced to resign. Curran favored abolishing NIE, but Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell, wanted to maintain the Institute. Curran has come under attack recently for requiring the use of individuals selected by the Director's office to review proposals for NIE grants, a policy the education community has labelled politicization of the review process. Robert W. Sweet, Jr., formerly deputy director of NIE, has been named acting director of the Institute until a new director is appointed.

COSSA Interns

Two summer interns have joined the COSSA staff this week. Katy Mancuso and John Madden are both senior political science majors from Carleton College, Minnesota. During their months with COSSA, they will be working on grass roots communications, the COSSA Legislative Report, and congressional appropriations.

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## NSF Appropriation - FY 1983

### Fact Sheet

Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies are urged to restore funding for the social and behavioral science research programs at the National Science Foundation to their FY 1980 level, adding \$17.6 million to the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS) for this purpose. The House authorization for NSF, passed on May 19, 1982, increased the authorization for BBS to \$201 million to allow funding for the social and behavioral science research programs at their FY 1980 level.

1. As it stands, the FY 1983 budget recommendation for NSF's social and behavioral science programs represents a severe misallocation of scientific resources:
  - \* It provides just about half the amount of resources, in real terms, as in FY 1980;
  - \* It results directly from the disproportionate cuts proposed by the Administration over a year ago -- cuts now acknowledged by the White House Science Advisor to represent "poor judgement;"
  - \* The social and behavioral sciences have about 34 percent of the Ph.D.-level scientists and engineers in the U.S., but are allocated only 3 percent of the research support at the NSF.
  
2. At the proposed FY 1983 funding level, an important set of programs in the areas of data development, theory and methodology, and new conceptual and empirical initiatives cannot be undertaken. Specifically:
  - \* The continuation of crucial and unique longitudinal data bases would be threatened;
  - \* Measurement-oriented programs of research on time use and productivity, on the environmental data base, and on the quality of American life would be precluded;
  - \* Creation of public-use data files from government archives would be severely restricted;
  - \* Development of software to improve both academic and public policy access to data banks would be curtailed;
  - \* Important initiatives in theory and statistical methods would be severely hampered.
  
3. The recommended budget level precludes new programs with important scientific and public policy payoffs. For example:
  - \* The influence of an aging population on saving behavior;
  - \* The basic determinants of productivity for firms and establishments;

- \* The impact of organizational structure and new technology on productivity and worker well-being;
- \* The influence of uncertainty on financial and investment behavior.
- \* The determinants of well-being, and its distribution among the population.

Over the next decade or so, our society can achieve major strides in understanding economic and social processes if we are willing to make the right kinds of investments in social and behavioral science research for a sustained period of time. This will not take place at the level of funding proposed for NSF's social and behavioral science research programs in FY 1983.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
 Level of Funding for Selected  
 Directorates and Programs  
 1980 - 1983 (proposed)  
 (in million \$)

	Actual 1980	Actual 1981	Actual 1982	Proposed 1983	% Change 1980 - 1983
RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES	893.1	946.7	969.7	1,055.6	+18%
I Mathematical and Physical Sciences	227.0	256.5	272.9	298.7	+32%
II Astronomic, Atmospheric, Earth and Ocean Sciences	218.1	236.3	240.0	259.7	+19%
III Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences	185.7	185.6	176.0	186.7	+0.5%
A. Physiology, Cellular & Molecular Biology	72.1	78.2	79.4	85.2	+18%
B. Behavioral and Neural Sciences (in part)					
1. Cognitive Science					
Memory and Cognitive Processes	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.3	-12%
Social and Developmental Psychology (Applied Psychology)	3.3	2.6	1.5	1.6	-52%
Linguistics	1.4	1.1	**	**	
Linguistics	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.2	-19%
2. Anthropology	6.6	6.0	5.5	5.6	-15%
Subtotal	16.6	14.3	11.3	11.7	-30%
C. Social and Economic Science Division					
1. Economics and Geography					
Economics	12.2	9.4	6.3	6.4	-48%
Geography	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.7	-56%
2. Social Measurement and Analysis					
Sociology	3.9	3.0	2.2	2.2	-44%
Measurement Methods and Data Resources	5.0	3.9	2.9	3.0	-40%
History and Philosophy of Science	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.9	-40%
3. Political and Policy Sciences					
Political Science	3.6	2.9	2.1	2.1	-42%
Law & Social Sciences	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	+22%
Regulation and Policy Analysis	2.6	2.7	0.9	0.8	-69%
Decision and Management Science		(0.4)	0.5	0.7	
Subtotal	31.3	25.5	17.6	17.9	-43%

\*\* absorbed into other departments

Members of the House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee on HUD - Independent Agencies

Majority Members

\* Edward Boland, Chairman (D-MA,2)  
2426 Rayburn House Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202/225-5601

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New Federal Building, Room 1052  
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\* Louis Stokes (D-OH,21)  
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New Federal Building, Room 2947  
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Minority Members

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110 East 45th Street  
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