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MASSEY DEFENDS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REQUEST FOR NSF BEFORE HOUSE PANEL *MS*

Appearing before the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee on February 23, National Science Foundation Director Walter Massey defended the \$207 million FY 1993 supplemental appropriations request for his agency proposed by the Clinton administration as part of its short-term stimulus package. New subcommittee chairman Rep. Louis Stokes (D-OH) offered his support for the additional funds and the subcommittee approved the supplemental a few days later.

Massey told the subcommittee that "NSF's activities contribute to improving the nation's productivity by generating new knowledge and investing in the future by training the current and next generation of scientists and engineers." New subcommittee ranking Republican Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) supported the Foundation's request calling it a "downpayment on long-term investments," although he did argue that since recent economic growth was strong the country did not need a stimulus package.

Massey told the subcommittee that he expected the supplemental dollars to fund 2,400 additional grants. Most of the funds (\$112.2 million) would go to "fully fund our strategic research initiatives at the levels proposed in our FY 1993 budget request." These strategic research initiatives include: advanced manufacturing, global change research, materials research, biotechnology, and high performance computing and communications.

According to Massey, about \$85.2 million would be used to "augment our other, curiosity-driven research activities." (In recent weeks "curiosity-driven" has been the preferred term for what was once called "individual-investigator initiated" basic research.) Most of the \$85 million "will be used to enhance existing awards so that we can more fully enable the conduct of the research we support," Massey announced.

Massey's testimony included a revised FY 1993 current plan that assumed the supplemental funding. Those figures show that funding for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences directorate would increase to \$99 million, which would make the increase over FY 1992 15.2 percent, which is greater than the 10 percent total increase for all research and related activities.

Subcommittee members spent most of the hearing asking Massey about the \$4.7 million increase proposed to augment the salaries and expenses appropriation. The director argued that the additional funds were necessary in order to maintain the Foundation's FY 1992 levels of staffing and support services.

The supplemental appropriations bill has stalled as the Clinton administration tries to respond to criticism that the economic package does not reduce spending enough to offset the short-term stimulus expenditures and the tax increases. Rather than pushing the short-term stimulus package through immediately, the administration now hopes Congress will produce a FY 1994 budget resolution by the middle of March that demonstrates a commitment to deficit reduction through spending cuts, and then to move the supplemental bill forward. The administration has also announced that the agency-level details of the FY 1994 budget will not be released until April 5.

INSIDE UPDATE...

- ◆Science Committee Looks at Mission of NSF
- ◆Administration Asks Healy to Resign at NIH
- ◆House Passes NIH Bill; Would Create Behavioral Research Office
- ◆NICHD Appropriations Testimony Includes Social & Behavioral Research
- ◆AMA Report Links Health Costs and Behavior
- ◆House Panel Examines Census Reform; GAO Cites Lack of Progress
- ◆Advocates Call for Restructuring of Federal Environmental Research
- ◆Data Needs in the Social Sciences
- ◆Texas, NBER Join COSSA

SCIENCE COMMITTEE LOOKS AT MISSION OF NSF *MS*

The House Science Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA) continued its inquiry into the future of federal science policy by examining the mission of the National Science Foundation (NSF) at a March 3 hearing. The subcommittee focused on the recent report of the National Science Board's (NSB) Commission on the Future of the NSF.

William Danforth, co-chair of the commission and chancellor of the Washington University in St. Louis, presented an overview of the report A Foundation for the 21st Century: A Progressive Framework for the National Science Foundation (see *Update*, November 23). Danforth declared that the "mission or missions of the NSF should depend on both the needs of the nation and the Foundation's special role in a coordinated response." It is also important to understand how NSF "fits into the total federal effort in science and technology," he stated.

One of the report's recommendations was to enhance the role of the NSB as a spokesman for all federal research policy. Boucher was intrigued by this suggestion and wondered how this would be accomplished, especially since the NSB's main function is to set policy for the NSF. James Duderstadt, current NSB chair and the president of the University of Michigan, acknowledged that the Board is proceeding with a re-examination of its role and contributions in setting directions for national science policy. However, both Danforth and

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Duderstadt agreed that the NSB should be a "participant" in a process where a group similar to the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering and Technology (FCCSET), which was utilized by the Bush administration, would retain a leadership role.

Calls for Doubling NSF Budget

Duderstadt also stated that the "Commission recommended an appropriate balance between curiosity driven research and strategic research." He believed that given NSF's current funding level, "the mix is approximately correct." Responding to subcommittee ranking Republican Rep. Sherwood Boehlert's (R-NY) question about what budget level would be adequate, Duderstadt argued for a continued commitment to double the NSF budget within the next five years, a goal the Clinton administration economic proposal has picked up from the Reagan-Bush administrations. Duderstadt also suggested that if the role of the Foundation changes, i.e. more emphasis on strategic research, the need for additional resources would grow. Above all, "NSF's primary obligation is to maintain the excellence and health of curiosity driven research," Duderstadt declared.

The NSB chairman also dismissed as "unfounded" fears that future partnerships might entangle NSF in industrial research activities not driven by science. Danforth, however, noted that the transfer of ideas between universities and industrial scientists can be improved. The report recommended more scientists from business on the NSB, more exchanges of people between industry and academia, better diffusion and dissemination of knowledge and skills, and the development of joint science, engineering, and management programs.

Boucher Says Facilities Program Underfunded

Boucher also expressed considerable interest in the unmet needs in providing university research facilities. Echoing the Chairman of the Science, Space and Technology Committee, Rep. George Brown (D-CA), Boucher derided the increasing use of earmarks to substitute for a woefully underfunded NSF facilities program. Danforth responded that if the approximately \$700 million in earmarked funds could be redirected to a peer-review based and well-thought out facilities program some of the problem might be alleviated. Duderstadt pointed out that the lack of funding for facilities is a national problem for which NSF, in its current condition, was too small to provide the full solution.

ADMINISTRATION ASKS HEALY TO RESIGN AS NIH DIRECTOR *SP*

Bernadine Healy, the first female director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), recently announced that she will resign her position by June 30. Her resignation came at the request of the Clinton administration, and a successor has yet to be named.

Healy's two-year tenure generated both controversy as well as bold initiatives. Her departure is due in part to what critics say is her abrasive leadership style, her unwillingness to publicly criticize the Bush administration's ban on government-funded fetal tissue research, and her opposition to several research guidelines mandated by Congress that were intended to benefit women. Having alienated key leaders on Capitol Hill, including Reps. John Dingell (D-MI) and Pat Schroeder (D-CO), Clinton was faced with congressional pressure not to reappoint Healy.

In April 1991, Healy called for the development of a "strategic plan" that would state the long-term research priorities of the NIH and articulate its mission, saying it was necessary in order to deal with unprecedented budget constraints. Many NIH scientists did not welcome the formulation of a strategic plan, some out of concern that it would lead to strong central control of the Institutes. The final version of the plan will be released in April.

In response to a General Accounting Office study citing the lack of participation of women in clinical trials and to those on Capitol Hill who were decrying a neglect of women's health concerns at NIH, Healy established the Office of Research on Women's Health. Its mission is to ensure that women are included in the clinical research of common diseases, and that diseases predominately afflicting women are not neglected.

The Women's Health Initiative (WHI) was also a priority of Dr. Healy. The study, a 15-year \$625 million effort, focuses on prevention and treatment of the three leading causes of mortality and morbidity among women--cardiovascular disease, cancer, and osteoporosis. COSSA advocated successfully for the modification of the original WHI study design to include social and behavioral components.

Healy, a cardiologist, plans to return to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the research center where she worked prior to joining NIH. She has

been on leave from that Foundation for the past two years.

HOUSE PANEL PASSES NIH BILL; WOULD CREATE BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH OFFICE *SP*

On March 3 the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), approved legislation reauthorizing programs of the National Institutes of Health for the next two years. The 34-10 vote sends the measure to the House floor, where consideration could come as early as mid-March.

The bill would create an Office of Behavioral Research at NIH, charged with "coordinating research conducted or supported by the agencies of the NIH with respect to the relationship between human behavior and the development, treatment, and prevention of medical conditions." The office was created by an amendment offered by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), and was approved by a voice vote. Research authorized includes studies on teen pregnancy, infant mortality, violent behavior, suicide, and homelessness. COSSA has long advocated an office at this level to increase the social and behavioral research agenda at NIH.

OAR Funding Differs From Senate

In approving a second Waxman amendment, the House differed from the Senate over funding of the Office of AIDS Research (OAR). The House panel voted that funds for the OAR would be received and distributed by the NIH director, rather than by the director of the OAR, as was proscribed by the Senate. (see *Update*, February 22) Noting that much concern has been voiced over the funding issue, Waxman offered this amendment as a "compromise," and said it had the support of the Administration.

The bill also includes provisions codifying President Clinton's executive order ending the moratorium on research using fetal tissue from elective abortions. Rep. Thomas Bliley (R-VA) offered an amendment that would have required more extensive consent procedures in order to obtain fetal tissue for transplant procedures, but his effort was defeated, 17-27.

NICHD APPROPRIATIONS TESTIMONY INCLUDES SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH *SP*

Speaking on behalf of a broad coalition including COSSA, Pat Kobor of the American Psychological Association testified before a House panel on FY94 appropriations for the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Kobor made her February 26 presentation before the House Appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education chaired by Rep. Bill Natcher (D-KY).

NICHD has one of the broadest missions of any institute at NIH, and yet is on the low side of funding compared with other institutes. Unlike other institutes, NICHD is not disease specific, but instead focuses on the entire spectrum of human growth and development.

COSSA's role in the coalition's effort was to highlight the critical role of social and behavioral science at NICHD. Studies on child care, middle childhood development, injury prevention, minority health, and many others demonstrate NICHD's recognition of the complex interplay between biological and social-behavioral phenomena.

In her testimony, Kobor described several current and proposed studies at NICHD with significant social/behavioral components. The first NICHD study she highlighted addressed issues of child care. In order to give parents and policymakers the information they need to make sound decisions regarding child care, NICHD is supporting a ten-site study that will contribute to the understanding of the psychological and social issues of non-parental care and the elements that constitute high quality child care.

Kobor also mentioned the Normative Behavioral Research on Ethnic Minorities Program, saying that all too often the focus of research on minorities has looked only at high risk behavior. This research will result in a basis for evaluating early educational interventions and other childhood programs, and also will help dispel the distorted images that may result from an unbalanced or incomplete research data base, she said.

Finally, Kobor expressed support for an NICHD initiative currently in the planning stages that will focus on middle childhood development. This study

stems from the knowledge that many problems of adolescence and young adulthood have their roots in the middle childhood years, the ages of 5-11. These are the years least understood by child development researchers.

Since President Clinton and Secretary Shalala have both expressed their support of research on the public health aspects of sexual behavior, NICHD is now able to continue to fund studies that will address the problems of sexually transmitted diseases, unintended pregnancy, sexual abuse and AIDS.

AMA REPORT LINKS HEALTH COSTS AND BEHAVIOR *MB*

According to a recent report published by the American Medical Association (AMA), "much of the impetus behind the growth in health care expenditures can be traced to lifestyle factors and social problems." The report, *Factors Contributing to the Health Care Cost Problem*, states that approximately half of the American deaths each year could be postponed.

The AMA said that 500,000 premature deaths are directly related to cigarette smoking, 100,000 to the abuse of alcohol, and 400,000 to failure to use life-saving technologies such as seat belts and smoke detectors, failure to screen for and treat diseases, abuse of addictive substances, and other forms of unsafe behavior.

The report places price tags on the annual direct health care costs of behavior: \$49 billion for coronary heart disease, \$22 billion for smoking, \$13.5 billion for alcoholism, \$10.3 billion for HIV/AIDS, \$5.3 billion for violent injuries, and \$2.1 billion for drug abuse.

The current report reiterates what earlier documents from the Institute of Medicine indicated about the relationship of behavior and health. Yet, the National Institutes of Health continues to spend around 4 percent of its budget on researching social and behavioral aspects of health, despite congressional admonitions to increase that support.

For more information about the most recent report, contact the AMA at (312) 464-5372.

HOUSE PANEL EXAMINES CENSUS REFORM; GAO CITES LACK OF PROGRESS *MB*

The House Subcommittee on Census, Statistics, and Postal Personnel, chaired by Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-OH), held a March 2 hearing to examine efforts to plan the 2000 census in the aftermath of the widely criticized 1990 census.

In his opening remarks, Sawyer cited the importance of the 2000 census planning, calling the census, "the cornerstone of the entire federal statistical system" and adding "if we learned anything from the 1990 census, it is that our nation is changing so rapidly that traditional census methods alone are becoming obsolete."

Commenting on the Census Bureau's efforts to select by this fall two census methods for testing in 1995, Sawyer urged the Bureau to create a blueprint from the workable components of the 14 proposed designs it is considering. He also called on the Bureau to state a clear set of goals to guide its planning, research issues leading to diminished accuracy, and use the 2000 census as an opportunity to experiment with new techniques.

William Hunt, director of federal management issues for the General Accounting Office (GAO), told Sawyer's panel that redesign efforts have, "slowed to the point of jeopardizing the prospect of fundamental census reform." He stated that progress has been slow in identifying prospective census designs, and that the Census Bureau has, "made limited progress on researching and developing the more promising major innovations for the next census."

Hunt said that the Bureau needs to make critical decisions on its goals for 2000 in the coming months, and that this is occurring at time when it faces changes in key personnel because of the new administration, considerable uncertainty over future funding levels, and a reduction in standing advisory committees because of President Clinton's recent executive order. (see *Update*, February 22) He commented that unless the Bureau accelerates its research efforts, "time constraints may force the Bureau to design a 2000 census with only modest refinements." Hunt cited progress on research efforts addressing public response cooperation, but said that the Bureau has gotten a late start in evaluating sampling for nonresponses.

TEXAS, NBER JOIN COSSA

COSSA is pleased to announce that the University of Texas at Austin and the National Bureau of Economic Research have joined the Consortium as Contributors. We look forward to working with both of them on issues of common concern.

Also testifying was Norman Bradburn, chairman of the Panel to Evaluate Alternative Census Methods at the National Academy of Sciences. Bradburn, a professor of psychology and public policy at the University of Chicago and Director of Research at the National Opinion Research Center, is overseeing a study of feasible methods for the 2000 census and years beyond. A second National Academy panel, chaired by Brookings Institution fellow and COSSA Board Member Charles L. Schultze, is evaluating the needs for data currently being collected, and will recommend methods for achieving accurate and cost effective data collection.

Bradburn's committee issued its first report to the Census Bureau in December 1992. In it, the panel agreed with the Bureau's elimination of narrow content and administrative record designs from consideration for use in the 2000 census. The panel cautioned, however, that elements of these designs are worthy of further study for use in years beyond 2000. The Academy made four recommendations for considering the use of administrative records in future censuses: undertake a research program for using records in 2010, identify the steps needed to make a records-based census possible, seek the cooperation of federal agencies in maintaining record systems, and use records in 2000 to evaluate coverage.

Bradburn said the panel is considering ways to improve coverage of the census without significant cost increases. He noted that traditional efforts to reduce the differential undercount in low response areas have increased the cost of census data collection. "Efforts to improve the differential undercount may not be compatible with the objectives of reducing unit costs," he told the House committee.

Acting Census Bureau director Harry Scarr outlined the goals of the Bureau's research and development program: identify alternative census designs, conduct research on these designs, and incorporate the concerns of data users on the

federal, state, and local level in addition to the private sector. He said a top priority is to address the issue of an undercount, but cautioned that there is no "magic bullet" to solve the problem. Scarr added that specific research projects are underway to address barriers to enumeration that have been identified by the Bureau.

Scarr divided the 14 proposed designs into four classes: the first builds upon the basic structure of 1990, the second relies heavily on use of administrative records, the third collects a more narrow scope of data, and the final group acquires data in stages. Scarr said that both a more narrow survey and one based on administrative records would not yield sufficient data to meet Voting Rights Act requirements, but that administrative records can help improve coverage in 2000.

ADVOCATES CALL FOR RESTRUCTURING OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH *MB*

A House subcommittee recently heard calls for restructuring the way the federal government supports environmental research. The March 2 hearing was held by the House subcommittee on Technology, Environment, and Aviation, chaired by Rep. Tim Valentine (D-NC).

Saying "current environmental research programs... are not integrated with each other," A. Karim Ahmed of the Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment, argued for the creation of a National Institutes for the Environment (NIE), a new independent federal agency performing research, assessment, information, and education and training functions. According to Ahmed, there are three reasons why policymakers lack sound scientific information on environmental issues: federal efforts are spread over a wide range of diverse agencies, there is no coherent system for assessing and communicating knowledge, and no one agency is charged with education and training of environmental scientists.

Ahmed said the NIE would serve as "a necessary bridge to span major deficiencies of existing federal agencies' program... [creating] more inclusive and flexible ways of setting environmental priorities and funding of research and educational programs." He said NIE-supported research would be "problem-based, interdisciplinary, competitively peer-reviewed and extramural" and NIE research would be

organized around clusters of Environmental Resources, Environmental Systems, and Environmental Sustainability. It would also include an in-house Center for Integrative Studies.

Mark Schaefer, Director of the Washington office of the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government, outlined for the committee the 1992 Carnegie report, *Environmental Research and Development: Strengthening the Federal Infrastructure*. The report called for a consolidation of EPA's laboratory structure, the establishment for six major research institutes within EPA, the development of goals for EPA research, and the establishment of a major extramural grants program. Schaefer said that this grants program could include an NIE, one that is part of EPA but insulated from short-term political and regulatory pressures.

Ralph De Gennaro of Friends of the Earth discussed a recent study he directed examining federal appropriations for the environment. Expressing support for an NIE, he termed current funding levels for environmental research and development, "utterly inadequate." De Gennaro cited a 1992 study by the American Association for the Advancement of Science that said that, in constant dollars, federal environmental R&D for Fiscal Year 1993 is eleven percent below FY80 levels.

Gary Foley, Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development at EPA, presented the committee with an overview of EPA's research efforts. While not taking a position on the NIE, he said that EPA shared the same goals as advocates of improved research. "The debate, if any, centers about the institutional arrangements that could best ensure that these needs are met," Foley said.

SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA NEEDS *MS*

The following is a report on a panel at the recent meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston in mid-February.

Participants on the panel included: Robert J. Gordon, Economics, Northwestern; Robert Summers, Economics, University of Pennsylvania; Ariel Pakes, Economics, Yale; Robert Hauser, Sociology, Wisconsin; Arne Kallenberg, Sociology, North Carolina; Tim Smeeding, Metropolitan Studies, Syracuse; Aage Sorensen, Harvard; and Tom Juster, Economics, Michigan. The panel was

organized by Phyllis Moen, Human Development, Cornell.

Gordon, Summers, and Pakes focused on the deficiencies in the economic arena. Gordon discussed improving macroeconomic data focusing on the development of better productivity numbers and price indexes. He specifically called for improvements in the Consumer Price Index and the Producer Price Index, both of which Gordon noted, have difficulties with the introduction of new products. There is also a dearth of information about industry output data, Gordon suggested. He favors a centralized statistical system similar to the Canadian model.

Summers concentrated on international economic data which suffers from accuracy problems based on the unreliability of national account data, trade flow data, and demographic statistics. For example, he noted that often the information for a country's exports does not equal its imports. Gathering nations' Gross Domestic Product data under a United Nations sponsored project has proven extremely difficult and costly. Criticizing the "softness" of international social and demographic data, Summers noted that much of it is heavily politicized. He did conclude that some progress has been made, in other words, it used to be worse.

Pakes noted that enhanced computer capability has paved the way for micro-level information about industries at the firm and establishment levels. However, public accessibility to much of the data collected at this level remains a problem. Part of the reason, Pakes suggested, is the data's proprietary nature and the divergence of sources, but even statistics collected with government support is tough to find. He recommended repositories for firm specific data sets that would be made publicly available after a certain amount of time.

Hauser favored surveys that examine intergenerational social mobility in the general population, since no specific social mobility survey has been done since 1973. He had high hopes for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), but these have not been fulfilled as that collection has experienced difficulty in recent years and will now be conducted every four years. Calling youth the "neglected stepchildren of the federal statistical system," Hauser also recommended more data collection on middle to late adolescence youth for information on their school to work transitions. It is time for a new youth cohort for the National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experiences,

Hauser declared. Yet the NLS has spent most of its recent history trying to maintain its federal support.

Kallenberg focused on the data needs for examining the labor force and productivity. He proposed greater information gathering on the organizational contexts of work and employment. Such issues include: strategies for enhancing organizations' productivity and economic competitiveness; restructuring work in light of computerization, automation and other forms of technological change; and dealing with employment, training, family, and other emerging needs of a changing labor force. He argued for data collected on samples of diverse organizations that are matched to information on their employees.

Smeeding, who is the director of the multi-national Luxembourg Income Study, focused on measuring economic inequality, noted the proposal by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-NY) to develop measures of welfare dependency and income inequality. He expressed concern about the possible loss of the Hispanic sample from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) and called for making better use of currently available information including administrative data and longitudinal health care data. Smeeding suggested it was time to rethink the overreliance on the Current Population Survey for much of the data on income and poverty.

Calling data collection the "jewel of the social sciences," Sorensen thought there had been improvement, yet problems remained. There was too little coordination of efforts, too many needs, and a reluctance to settle on priorities. He was also concerned with how confidentiality requirements would impinge on solutions. Sorensen wondered whether social scientists were ready to advocate a system similar to Denmark where there was great linkage among administrative and survey data.

Juster, who is currently directing the National Institute on Aging-sponsored Health and Retirement Survey, discussed the problems with the federal statistical system. He claimed that system focused on dependent variables, but did a poor job of identifying and collecting information about independent variables affecting public policy. Data priorities would have to be developed, Juster argued, through collective efforts among a larger group than those who make the decisions now, and they should be driven by analytic needs.

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