

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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SOCIAL SCIENCE TOUTED AT WHITE HOUSE SCIENCE MEETING 15

The first meeting of the President's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST), held on October 25-26, featured a wide-ranging update on federal science efforts, a discussion in which the social and behavioral sciences figured prominently. The 18 member panel chaired by John Young, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, was appointed by President Clinton last spring and is largely dominated by physical and natural scientists. (see p. 3 for a list of PCAST membership)

John Gibbons, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), outlined for the committee the administration's research and development policies, which reflect both new priorities in the post-Cold War era and the continuing pressures to reduce the budget deficit. Gibbons also reported that the nine committees of the inter-agency National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) will release strategic plans by the end of the year. The committees are: health, safety and food; information and communication; national security; civilian industrial technology; education and training; international science; engineering and technology; transportation; and fundamental science.

In describing their respective portfolios, the four Associate Directors of OSTP all noted areas where the social and behavioral sciences are playing roles that are significant and can be expanded. M.R.C. Greenwood, Associate Director for Science, focused on the report *Science in the National Interest* (see *Update*, August 8). Greenwood specifically referred to the re-emergence of the social and behavioral sciences as part of the changing mission of scientific policy in the post-Cold War era. She stated that the NSTC committees have under consideration 15 of the 18 recommendations produced by the report. Of particular interest to the NSTC are improving the infrastructure (a report is due soon), expanding cooperation with the private sector, improving participation and access in science, and enhancing science education and public literacy.

Lionel 'Skip' Johns, Associate Director for Technology, outlined for PCAST the administration's focus on the development of dual use technology for the defense and commercial sectors. He also asserted the need for greater support for social and behavioral science research to focus on the problems society faces in urban areas and education. He noted the forthcoming availability of a comprehensive Federal Research and Development database that will provide access to a listing of government funded projects in science and technology. In addition, the White House has produced an on-line system for the Internet using the Mosaic software to provide access to the White House and all government agencies.

Johns also discussed the Clean Car project, Information Superhighway, and increasing educational technology in the nation's classrooms, eliciting comments from PCAST members about the need for evaluation research on all these projects. Johns responded that OSTP has a project to produce metrics to measure the success or failure of these innovations. PCAST member Judith Rodin asserted that it was important to study technology transfer from fundamental to applied problems. She argued for more case studies analyzing these models.

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Jane Wales, Associate Director for National Security and International Affairs, took note of the changing agenda in these areas. Her bailiwick now includes three areas: 1) the traditional security area where the nonproliferation issue dominates, and, most importantly, the disposition of what she called "loose nukes;" 2) the new security agenda that focuses on developing strategies for science and technology cooperation; and 3) the economic security agenda whose purpose is to create markets and remove barriers to trade.

The change of the present national security strategy from containment to integration has led to a focus on six countries -- Russia, China, India, South Africa, Argentina, and Brazil -- for increased S&T cooperation, Wales announced. She also expressed interest in examining the origins of civil stability and the prevention of civil breakdown. She said more knowledge is necessary about how societal stresses create instability and how conflict originates. Another item, Wales noted, was producing increased research on how science and technology can build a sustainable global society.

Challenge in the Environment

This last issue also interests Bob Watson, Associate Director for Environment and Natural Resources. He noted that more social and behavioral science research must be conducted on sustainable global change. He argued that the research funded so far has been disappointing, declaring: "The research agenda in the social sciences has failed," in the area of

global change. Issues of population, poverty, inter- and intra-generational equity, environmental justice, and cultural conditions, are integral parts of the global environmental change agenda requiring more research, Watson declared. Equally important is further work on risk assessment and risk management. Watson wants to consult with the social science community to identify other issues and produce more useful research. He told PCAST that the social sciences have advantages because the research costs are often less than the funding required for research in the natural and physical sciences.

Watson also declared that the Federal government machinery for environmental research does not require institutional changes, such as the proposed National Institutes for the Environment. He argued instead for culture changes in federal agencies, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency.

Advising the President

After hearing these presentations, PCAST proceeded to a broader discussion of how it can fulfill its mission of giving advice to the President. The panel focused on large broad areas such as education, the environment, health, international affairs and investment across these and many other areas.

In this general discussion the impact of the social sciences stood out more clearly. Shirley Malcolm talked about "sustainable human development," quality of life, demographic changes, social summits, political will, as part of the S&T agenda. Murray Gell-Mann noted such issues as the need to examine the impact on society of the information revolution, the greening of the economy, mental health, and the origins of conflict as within the purview of the science advisers. He also noted the paucity of social scientists on the PCAST itself.

Although the panel concluded its two-day meeting without a definitive sense of how it will proceed, it was clear that the social and behavioral sciences had affected their future agenda.

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Executive Director: Howard J. Silver
 Government Affairs: Susan Persons
 Public Affairs: Michael Buckley
 Administrative Officer: Karen Carrion

President: William Julius Wilson

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 \$60; institutional subscriptions, \$120, overseas mail, \$120. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND POLICYMAKING *HS*

The recent conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management held October 28-30 in Chicago heard several presentations concerning social science research and its connection to policymaking. COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver attended the meeting and his report follows.

HEALTH CARE REFORM HURT BY TIME LAGS IN RESEARCH AND POWER OF CBO

Paul Starr, Professor of Sociology at Princeton University and author of the award winning book *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*, was a key adviser to the Clinton administration as it developed and unsuccessfully sold its health care reform plan. According to Starr, President Clinton and senior administration officials were well-versed in health policy research. In an administration with prominent social scientists such as HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, Labor Secretary Robert Reich, and then-OMB Deputy Director Alice Rivlin, it is hard to argue that social science was left standing on the outside, Starr contended.

Starr argued that the presence of those versed in research was offset by outdated health care research and data, which he termed the biggest problem faced by these policymakers. The health care system was changing faster than the studies could be conducted, he asserted. As examples, he noted that the data still focused on fee-for-service systems while there was a lack of research on managed care systems. In addition, the administration had to rely on the National Medical Care Expenditure Survey of 1977 and studies conducted by RAND in the 1970s for data on costs.

Starr expressed reservations about the growing power of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) over policy through its non-partisan estimates of budgetary impacts of policy changes. While he lauded CBO institutionalizing social science into the policy process, Starr said that the CBO's increasingly relied-upon projections are based on economic modeling and forecasting, which he said too often ignore social variables. Starr urged Congress hold the CBO to greater accountability.

(continued on next page)

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chairs

John H. Gibbons, Asst. to the President for Science and Technology

John A. Young, Former President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard

Members

Norman R. Augustine, Chairman and CEO, Martin Marietta Corporation

Francisco J. Ayala, Professor of Biological Science, Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Irvine

Murray Gell-Mann, Professor, Santa Fe Institute, Professor of Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology

David A. Hamburg, President, Carnegie Corp. of New York

John P. Holdren, Professor of Energy, University of California, Berkeley

Diana MacArthur, Chair and CEO, Dynamac Corporation

Shirley Malcolm, Head, Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Mario J. Molina, Professor of Environmental Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Peter H. Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden, Professor of Botany, Washington University, St. Louis

Sally K. Ride, Director, California Space Institute, Professor of Physics, University of California, San Diego

Charles A. Sanders, Chairman and CEO, Glaxo, Inc.

Phillip A. Sharp, Professor of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

David E. Shaw, CEO, D.E. Shaw and Co.

Charles M. Vest, President, Mass. Institute of Technology

Virginia V. Weldon, Senior Vice President for Public Policy, Monsanto Company

Lilian Shiao-Yen Wu, Member, Research Staff, Thomas J. Watson Research Center, IBM

Starr suggested the role of the social scientist and his/her research in policymaking can flow from hypothesis generating to hypothesis testing, to fitting together discrete findings, to translating those findings to policymakers, to developing policy concepts, then policy specifications, and then law. The cycle can continue with assessments and evaluations.

GETTING GUNS OUT OF KIDS' HANDS

Citing evidence of increased homicide rates among 15-19 year olds and the increased use of guns to commit these crimes, Al Blumstein, J. Erik Jonsson Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research at the Heinz School of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, argued for policymakers to become aggressive trying to get guns out of the hands of juveniles in urban areas. Long respected by policymakers, Blumstein had recently made this point at a National Institute of Justice seminar attended by Attorney General Janet Reno.

Since 1985, which is the year associated with the introduction of crack cocaine into urban neighborhoods, the number of homicides committed by 15 to 18 year olds has more than doubled. The ratio of gun to non-gun homicides before 1985 was 60-40. Since 1985 twice as many homicides are committed with guns.

Blumstein posited a diffusion theory of the increase in juvenile crime. Noting what he termed misguided efforts to increase penalties for those in the drug trade, such as the Nelson Rockefeller-sponsored harsh sentencing laws of the early 1970s, Blumstein argued this led to recruitment of teenagers into the drug business. Since guns are needed for protection in that dangerous trade, these juveniles were soon carrying guns. Because kids are tightly networked in urban neighborhoods, he noted, these guns soon spread to juveniles not connected to the drug trade. This led to an increase in guns in schools, and fights among teenagers turning increasingly deadly.

Although the presence of hundreds of millions of guns in America and the political power of the National Rifle Association makes general gun confiscation untenable, Blumstein favors policies to enforce already-on-the-books laws against teenage gun toting. He also stressed the need to shrink drug markets, which act as a stimulus to homicide, but he

argued that existing policies have overemphasized drugs and underemphasized guns.

MARTIN NEIL BAILY NAMED TO THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS

HS

President Clinton has nominated Martin Neil Baily as a Member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. If confirmed by the Senate, Baily will join Chair Laura D'Andrea Tyson and Member Joseph E. Stiglitz at the Council. He replaces Alan Blinder, the former Princeton University economist who is now Vice-Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Baily was educated at Cambridge University, England and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he completed a Ph.D. in economics in 1972. After teaching at MIT and Yale he became a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in 1979 and a Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland in 1989. In the Spring of 1993, he took a leave of absence from his academic work to become a Fellow of the McKinsey Global Institute, a research group within McKinsey and Company.

A research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, his principal fields of interest are productivity, macroeconomic and employment policy and applied microeconomics. He has served as an academic adviser to the Congressional Budget Office and the Federal Reserve Board and has testified numerous times to House and Senate committees.

Baily is the author of many professional articles and the coauthor or editor of four books. Among Baily's publications are *Macroeconomics*, *Financial Markets*, and *the International Sector* (new edition forthcoming); *Growth with Equity: Economic Policymaking for the Next Century*; *Innovation and the Productivity Crisis*; and *Jobs For the Future: Strategies in a New Framework*. In 1987 Baily spoke at a COSSA congressional breakfast seminar, "Perspectives on Productivity: Some Under-Examined Aspects."

Baily has not yet been confirmed by the Senate. If no action is taken by the lame-duck session in late November, his nomination will need to be resubmitted to the 104th Congress in January.

NSF JOINS IN EFFORT TO INTEGRATE SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES STUDIES *MB*

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has joined two other federal agencies in an effort to more fully integrate the study of sciences and the humanities at the undergraduate level. The collaborative grants reflect an increasing federal emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of undergraduate education.

The awards are part of an initiative titled "Leadership Opportunity in Science and Humanities Education," which is jointly sponsored by NSF, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

The 14 grants totaling \$1.7 million are for curricula development projects that integrate studies in the humanities with the study of science. They will fund a number of initiatives, including several courses to introduce students to the interdisciplinary nature of modern problems in the environment, and to ethical issues raised by technology. All programs are characterized by hands-on-science either in the laboratory or through field experiences.

For example, the University of Maine will undertake a major initiative called Integrating Students Into Interdisciplinary Study. The program includes team-taught courses aimed at increasing the connection between physical sciences, humanities, social sciences, and art. The results of the project will be disseminated in a book about interdisciplinary studies.

Senior officials from the three agencies began the science and humanities program three years ago as a way to provide education that crosses traditional academic disciplines and presents students with a coherent, interrelated view of the various fields of human knowledge. Including the most recent 14 grants, the program has provided nearly \$4.5 million in funding to 38 colleges and universities.

For more information, contact NSF's Division of Undergraduate Education at (703) 306-1670.

GAO: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS NEED OVERHAUL *HS*

Responding to a request from the Congressional Rural Caucus and the chairs of six agriculture committees on Capitol Hill, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) investigated the economic problems facing rural America and evaluated whether Federal programs efficiently addressed these problems.

GAO concluded that the many complex and narrowly focused programs are difficult and costly to use and are "an inefficient surrogate for a single federal policy for economic development in rural areas."

Reiterating an earlier GAO report based on a symposium of 78 rural policymakers and researchers (see *Update*, January 11, 1993), the current document explains that the characteristics of rural areas -- distance from metropolitan areas, reliance on a single, often natural-resource-based industry, and sparse population -- make economic growth difficult. Few people and distance from cities often increase the costs of delivering essential services to rural areas. Dependence on a single industry creates problems when that industry experiences economic hardships or slow growth.

GAO does suggest that local leadership can be the key to overcoming these development problems, if it is willing to promote a diversified economy and focus on long range planning. In addition, a favorable business climate created by credit availability, tax incentives, and high skilled workers, can also help in development. The problem is that these three factors are often lacking in rural America.

The programs in question provided \$15.5 billion between 1983 and 1992 for business and industrial development and economic planning in rural America. Despite this largesse, GAO identified four major problems that officials from rural areas claim make these programs difficult to use: 1) identifying the sources of federal assistance; 2) understanding the programs' rules and regulations; 3) learning the intricacies of different application processes; and 4) reconciling inconsistencies and/or conflicts in rules among the programs.

The issue of overlapping is shown by the existence of 11 different programs in six different federal agencies providing assistance for water and sewer projects, each with its own set of regulations. Inefficiencies also occur, when a rural area has to piece together several different programs to complete a single project, according to GAO.

The groups established under the 1990 Presidential initiative on Rural Development -- the Economic Policy Council Working Group on Rural America, the National Rural Development Council (an interagency working group), and the State Rural Development Councils -- have brought together officials to discuss common problems, but have had little impact on improving the delivery of services. In addition, GAO criticized the lack of evaluations of federal rural development programs, making it even more difficult to gauge the impact of federal expenditures. Although the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 emphasized the need to conduct program evaluations, these efforts are barely under way.

As Congress moves toward reauthorization of the Farm Bill in 1995, GAO recommends the establishment of an interagency executive committee to recommend alternatives to the current system of multiple, narrowly focused programs. The committee, GAO hopes, will help develop a comprehensive, national strategy for federal assistance to rural America. GAO warns, however, "the strategy should recognize that economic realities may dictate a disturbing political reality. No reasonable amount of federal assistance will enable some rural areas to successfully adjust to changing economic conditions."

Copies of the report *Rural Development: Patchwork of Federal Programs Needs to Be Reappraised* are available by calling GAO at 202/512-6000 and asking for GAO/RCED-94-165.

RECEPTION HONORS NEW JUSTICE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIRECTORS

On the day before taking the oath of office for their new positions, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Director Jeremy Travis and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Director Jan Chaiken were honored by the leaders of the research community at an October

SOCIAL WORK INSTITUTE JOINS COSSA

COSSA is pleased to announce that the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research has joined the Consortium as an Affiliate. We looked forward to working with the Institute on issues of common concern.

26 reception. The event, which sought to introduce the new leaders to a diverse group of researchers and federal agency officials, was co-sponsored by COSSA, the American Society of Criminology, the American Sociological Association, and the Law and Society Association.

After brief welcoming remarks by COSSA Executive Director Howard J. Silver, ASC president-elect Freda Adler introduced Travis and Chaiken to the audience of 90. Adler commented on the close and constructive relationship between criminologists and the two Justice Department agencies. She said that the two presidential appointments have been warmly received by many researchers.

In his comments, Travis expressed his enthusiasm for the challenges and opportunities facing NIJ. He stated that Attorney General Janet Reno recently visited with the entire NIJ staff, and is a strong supporter of research. He said that NIJ is excited about exploring new avenues in research, and will reach out to researchers in formulating NIJ's research agenda.

Chaiken noted that this is an auspicious time for BJS, for as the repository for the nation's crime data, it will play a large role in evaluating and quantifying the effectiveness of the sweeping package of anti-crime legislation adopted by Congress earlier this year. He said that BJS is working with the FBI to better coordinate data collections, and that his agency is working closely with other components of the Justice Department to implement the Crime Bill.

FEATHERMAN TO ISR, SSRC SEEKS NEW PRESIDENT *HS*

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is seeking nominations and applications for the position of President, effective July 1, 1995. David Featherman, who has led the Council since 1988, has resigned to accept the position as Director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan, replacing Robert Zajonc who retired.

The SSRC, based in New York City, was founded in 1923 for the purpose of advancing research in the

social sciences. Nongovernmental and interdisciplinary, the Council seeks to achieve its purpose through a wide variety of national and international programs of research and training in the social sciences and the cognate disciplines in the humanities.

Completed applications, including a letter of interest and a vita, should be sent by December 31, 1994. These and all other inquiries should be directed to: Chair, Presidential Search Committee, Social Science Research Council, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY *MS*

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Competition

The United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) will conduct a competition in 1995 for one-year Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships in support of unclassified doctoral dissertation research in arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament studies. The fellowship stipends will be \$5,000 plus applicable tuition and fees up to a maximum of \$3,400.

Deadline: March 15, 1995

For more information: (703) 302-7714.

William C. Foster Fellows Visiting Scholars Program

The ACDA will conduct a competition for selection of visiting scholars to participate in the agency's activities during the 1995-1996 academic year. Evaluation of applicants for appointments to these positions will focus upon the scholar's potential for providing expertise or performing services needed by the ACDA, rather than on the scholar's previously displayed interest in arms control. While pursuit of the scholar's own line of research may sometimes be possible, support of such activity is not the purpose of the program.

Visiting scholars will be detailed to ACDA by their universities; the universities will be compensated for the scholar's salary and benefits in accordance with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act and within agency limitations. Visiting scholars will also receive reimbursement for travel to and from the Washington, D.C. area for their one-year assignment and either a per diem allowance during the one-year assignment or relocation costs.

Deadline: January 31, 1995

For more information: see above phone number.

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American Economic Association
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American Political Science Association

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Social Work Research
Midwest Sociological Society
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
North Central Sociological Association
Operations Research Society of America
Population Association of America

Rural Sociological Society
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Advancement of
Socio-Economics
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Sex
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
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The Institute for Management Sciences

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