

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume XIV, Number 10

June 5, 1995

CONGRESS RETURNS: THE REVOLUTION GETS REAL *HS*

Following passage of the House and Senate budget resolutions, members of the 104th Congress left Washington for a ten day Memorial Day recess or district work period. Upon their return on June 6, they will begin to translate the guidelines of the budget resolution into actual resource allocation decisions for agencies and programs. The authorizing and appropriating processes will start in earnest this month.

The Senate, after disposing of Democratic amendments designed to put the Republicans on record in opposition to popular programs, passed its budget resolution on May 25. The resolution, unlike its counterpart in the House, does not include a major tax decrease, but does include a \$170 billion set-aside for a possible future reduction. This issue will be the most contentious question facing the House-Senate conference committee that will meet to resolve differences in the two resolutions. Presidential politics within the Senate between Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS) and Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX) may force the Senate to move closer to the House's position.

President Clinton, who has no constitutional role on the budget resolution, has toyed with the idea of presenting a revised administration FY 1996 budget proposal. Instead of ignoring the deficit, as he was accused of doing in his original budget presented in February, Clinton might propose achieving a balanced budget, albeit within a longer time frame than the GOP goal of 2002. This could allow the President to protect his favored investment programs for education and training. At the same time, the President has threatened vetoes if the details from the authorizers and appropriators match some of the policy assumptions in the GOP sponsored budget resolutions.

During consideration of its budget resolution, the Senate adopted two amendments to realign funding to help research and education. One amendment co-sponsored by Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR), Chairman

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SCIENCE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THREAT TO SOCIAL SCIENCES AT NSF *HS*

The threat to the social, behavioral and economic sciences (SBE) at NSF has energized the scientific community to respond to Congress, defending the importance of these sciences to the Foundation and the United States. In addition, the SBE community itself has demonstrated its commitment to inform Congress that jeopardizing the continued existence of these sciences as an integral part of NSF would lead to serious long-term consequences for the nation.

Led by the NSF's top leadership, the scientific community has called on Congress to maintain support for SBE. NSF Director Neal Lane has written House Science Committee Chairman Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA), arguing that "these areas of science have been an integral part of the portfolio of research that we have funded since the 1950s, and ... have contributed significant advances in research." (for the full text of Lane's letter see page five). Walker's statement denigrating these sciences at a press conference as well as the assumptions of the House Budget Resolution underlying the dollar figures for NSF research that alerted the community to the danger SBE faces. (see *Update*, May 22)

In addition to NSF, the American Association for

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PREPARING TO REVISE FARM BILL, SENATE LOOKS AT AGRICULTURE RESEARCH MB

In a hearing on the 1995 Farm Bill, the Senate Agriculture Committee's Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee on May 24 examined federally-sponsored agriculture research. The panel, chaired by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), heard from representatives of the Clinton Administration and other stakeholders in these fields.

In his opening statement, McConnell said, "Research is the foundation for the future success and viability of our nation's agricultural sector. Agricultural research has enhanced the productivity of our nation's farmers and has enabled them to compete in world markets." He cautioned, however, that because of budgetary pressures, prioritization is needed and greater efficiency must be found in research programs. Panel member Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) concurred with McConnell on the importance of research, but spoke on behalf of smaller colleges in his state and region that he said lack the large endowments to compete for grants and to meet matching fund requirements.

Karl Stauber, confirmed by the Senate the previous day as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, outlined the Clinton Administration's proposals for the research title of the bill. While acknowledging the pressures to balance the federal budget, he said, "our research structure

needs reforming regardless of these budget pressures. Stauber told the panel that reform "should be organized to better reflect the integration of the biological, physical, and social sciences to address future agricultural research problems as systems -- without compromising the important contributions of disciplinary research." USDA spends approximately \$1.8 billion per year on research, education, and economics, about 2.5 percent of Federal non-defense research and development.

Stauber proposed five priority outcomes for a focused research agenda:

- enhancing economic opportunity for existing and future farmers and rural people;
- reducing risk for consumers and farmers;
- having a healthier, better-educated citizenry;
- protecting the natural resource base for society;
- enhancing agriculture's global competitiveness.

Under a recent reorganization of USDA, four research and analysis agencies were brought together under the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area. The four agencies -- the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and the Economic Research Service -- were more closely linked to provide better coordination and more comprehensive capability across the spectrum of the biological, physical and social sciences, Stauber said. In the 1995 Farm Bill, the administration would like to create an REE Policy Council to provide for greater policy coordination and development, and also merge three different general research advisory committees into one National Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Committee.

Another change the administration would like in the new legislation is the creation of a competitive grant program with a 50-percent match that would replace the current earmarking process of the Special Grants Program. Stauber said that while earmarking of Federal dollars may respond to a local need, "a more coordinated approach reflecting national priorities would be more justifiable."

Turning to research facilities, Stauber said the Administration proposes two new approaches to the question of Federally-funded facilities: 1) authorization of an Agricultural Research Facilities

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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 \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. 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

Study Commission, and 2) creation of a competitive grant program to support research facilities at the 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities.

John Owens, Dean of Agriculture and Home Economics at New Mexico State University and Chair of the Board on Agriculture of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, also testified before the panel. According to Owens, the primary beneficiary of federally-sponsored research, extension, and education is the consumer, as these programs "affect the well-being and quality of life of every person in this country." The average consumer pays 8 percent of annual income for at-home food costs, less than in any other developed country, he said.

Owens said that the current method of setting research and education priorities is "an excellent model of decentralized decision making with joint Federal-state-local planning and flexibility to take specific actions at the grass-roots level" He said that Federal funding in this area requires a balanced portfolio of base formula funds, special initiative funding, and competitive grants.

Dismissing the notion that agricultural research can be privatized, Owens said that these studies provide a "public good." Therefore an individual company could not afford to conduct such research because it would be difficult to capture the benefits just for themselves.

Owens urged the committee to strengthen the linkages between REE and the action agencies in USDA, saying "Too often we hear that the same agency or another in USDA needs a special research or education project done and they can't get it done through REE. Because they can't get the work done that they feel they need, some of the administrators of these action agencies try to develop their own research and education capacities, or they try to contract outside of the Department. Presumably, some of this frustration is unavoidable because science is always slower and more tedious than action agencies wish it to be. On the other hand, there are short-term products and tools that can be developed reasonably quickly based on existing science and action agencies should have mechanisms for contracting for their development."

Owens supported the retention of science and education programs within REE., and advocated representation of Land Grant Colleges on the proposed REE Policy Council. He expressed concern that consolidating the current advisory board process into a single panel could lead to a committee that is too large to be effective, and recommended that the USDA institutionalize methods of soliciting input that extended beyond the committee.

SOCIAL SCIENCE THREATENED AT NSF

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the Advancement of Science has written Walker that "these [SBE] disciplines are an integral part of the U.S. research and development enterprise, as important to the Nation as physics, chemistry, engineering and biology." AAAS quotes Allan Bromley, former Bush administration science adviser, who as AAAS President in 1981 noted: "There is a unity to all science and technology that we will destroy or let perish only at great peril. Our goal must be that of supporting excellence wherever we find it..."

The Coalition for National Science Funding, representing over 70 groups across the broad spectrum of science and engineering disciplines, higher education associations, and industrial research groups, has also written the House Science Committee members that the "social and behavioral sciences are recognized as full members of the scientific community," and urged that the committee not circumvent NSF's longstanding priority-setting process, that would "cut off research and education activities that are of genuine value to the nation." In addition, former NSF directors, and individual scientists from across the broad range of disciplines from physics to engineering have come to the defense of the SBE sciences.

The impact of all this support should be known when the reauthorization process commences in the Basic Research Subcommittee of the House Science Committee. Chaired by Rep. Steve Schiff (R-NM), the Subcommittee is now expected to mark up its bill on June 14. A roster of the panel appears on page seven. The full House Science Committee, chaired by Walker, will review the Subcommittee bill, probably the week of June 19.

The House VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee is slated to vote on funding levels for programs in its purview on June 22. The Subcommittee faces a very difficult task. It has received an allocation that is close to \$2 billion less than it had to divide in FY 1995. The Subcommittee must apportion its shrinking pie among NSF, NASA, HUD, EPA, Veterans Affairs, FEMA and other smaller agencies.

CONGRESS CONSIDERING FUNDING, FATE OF AGENCIES

(continued from page one)

of the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), Chairman of the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS), Chair of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, restored \$7 billion of the assumed \$8 billion cut spread over the next seven years in the budget of the National Institutes of Health. To achieve this, the amendment provided an offset of across-the-board reductions of 0.58 percent for all other functions of the budget excluding education, defense, international affairs, Medicare, and social security. The House budget resolution has recommended a 5 percent reduction in NIH funding.

The second amendment, co-sponsored by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-MI), partially restored the in-school interest subsidy for graduate and professional students who secure guaranteed student loans to pay for their education.

Exchange Programs Slashed

Early indications from the authorization process in the House suggest that the frenzy to cut the budget and eliminate programs remains as strong as ever. The House is currently considering legislation, which President Clinton threatens to veto, that would merge the U.S. Information Agency, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the Agency for International Development.

In a troubling development, freshman Rep. Sam Brownback (R-KS) successfully offered an amendment in late May to reduce fiscal year 1997 funding for the Fulbright Academic Exchange by \$20

million and also mandates reducing an equal amount from other USIA exchange programs. Despite losing badly in committee, Brownback was able to turn around and muster the votes to pass his amendment by a 276-134 margin. The reversal shows the uncertain fate federal programs face on the floor of the House when, despite minimal time for deliberation, they are framed in terms of reducing the size and scope of government.

House Bill Would Phase out NEH

Last month a House authorizing committee voted to slowly phase out the the National Endowment for Humanities, culminating in the agency's demise in 1999. The Senate version of NEH reauthorization, while still being drafted, is likely to be significantly more friendly to the Endowment.

Commerce Programs Would be Scattered

As part of their plans to abolish the Commerce Department, House Republicans have drawn up a proposal to relocate agencies that would be left homeless by such a move. Authored by freshman Rep. Dick Chrysler (R-MI), the Census Bureau would move to the Treasury, Weights and Measures to NSF, the Bureau of Economic Analysis would go to the Federal Reserve, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration would be scattered about to several locations.

In the House, the chairs of the thirteen appropriations subcommittees were recently given what is known as their 602(b) allocations, which are the amount each panel has to fund the programs under their jurisdictions. The allowance for Labor, HHS, and Education was reduced significantly from fiscal year 1995, posing problems for these programs, many of which -- such as health and education research, graduate education, Goals 2000, and international education -- are also targeted for elimination or significant reduction (see *Update*, May 22).

The House appropriations panels hope to complete their work and send their bills to the full House by the July 4th recess. The Senate will consider appropriations later in July.

**NSF DIRECTOR NEAL LANE'S LETTER TO HOUSE SCIENCE CHAIR
BOB WALKER REGARDING THE SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND
ECONOMIC SCIENCES AT NSF**

May 22, 1995

Honorable Robert Walker
Chairman
Committee on Science
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am very pleased to see that even in the face of a very difficult budget environment, the budget plan drafted by the House Budget Committee provides continuing strong support for the National Science Foundation. I recognize the role that you played in developing the budget and I want you to know how much I appreciate your efforts on the behalf of the Foundation.

I am, however, concerned that we have not been more effective in informing the Congress about the important role played by the social, behavioral, and economic sciences in the Nation's basic research enterprise. These areas of science have been an integral part of the portfolio of research that we have funded since the 1950's, and are important to our mission to maintain the health of the Nation's science and engineering enterprise. These disciplines have contributed significant advances in research.

More importantly, current basic research activities in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences are integrated with those of other directorates to help us understand basic phenomena. For example, recent discoveries of human thinking processes, neurobiology, and machine computational processes have stimulated important new work that will advance computer design and understanding of human cognition. Research in mathematical economics, supported by NSF, has yielded new insights into the dynamics of competition in the marketplace. The Federal Communications Commission drew upon these insights when designing the auctions to allocate licenses for the use of the electromagnetic spectrum--auctions that have netted billions of dollars to the U.S. Treasury.

Just as we cannot predict when the next breakthroughs will occur in physics, chemistry, or mathematics, neither can we predict where the next breakthroughs will occur in psychology, economics, or any other discipline. Maintaining strength in all scientific and engineering disciplines is our best insurance of being able to seize opportunities presented by new insights--wherever they occur.

I understand and agree that in these times of extreme fiscal constraint, no aspect of any Federal activity, including science and engineering, should be exempt from scrutiny. Therefore, as the Committee prepares to mark up an NSF reauthorization bill, I just want to urge the Committee to provide the Foundation with as much flexibility as possible so that I can maintain an appropriate balance among disciplines, initiatives, and modes of support.

Let me close by, again thanking you for your strong and consistent support for NSF, particularly in the development of the House Budget Committee spending plan. I am hopeful that Congressional support for NSF research and education activities will continue to be evident at every step within the rest of the Congressional budget process.

Sincerely,

Neal Lane
Director

cc: Honorable George Brown
Honorable Steve Schiff
Honorable Pete Geren

CARLIN CONFIRMED AS ARCHIVIST MB

Despite opposition from historians and archivists, John W. Carlin was confirmed by the Senate on May 25 as Archivist of the United States. The former Kansas governor had been criticized for his lack of experience in history and archives.

An unsuccessful Democratic congressional candidate in 1994, Carlin received strong support from Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS).

ELLWOOD TO RETURN TO HARVARD HS

David Ellwood, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services, has announced his intention to return to his position at Harvard University. Ellwood, a leading scholar on welfare policy, has spent two years in the government trying to put his research into practice developing the administration's revision of welfare reform.

With the Republican ascendancy in the Congress, many of the ideas that emerged from the research conducted by Ellwood have fallen by the wayside. An early triumph for Ellwood was the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit as a device for "making work pay." The GOP has threatened to restrict the EITC, arguing that many ineligible people are claiming the credit.

In 1994, Ellwood was a featured speaker at the COSSA Annual Meeting.

ARMACOST ELECTED BROOKINGS PRESIDENT MB

Ambassador Michael H. Armacost, a veteran diplomat and prominent figure in the national and international policy community, will become president of the Brookings Institution on October 2. Armacost was elected by a unanimous vote of the Brookings Board of Trustees following a year-long search. He will replace Bruce MacLaury, who will retire this summer after leading Brookings since 1977.

Armacost is currently distinguished senior fellow at the Asia/Pacific Research Center at Stanford University and serves as director of the Aspen Strategy Group and as an international consultant to Goldman, Sachs & Company. During his distinguished government career, he was Undersecretary of state for political affairs, and ambassador to Japan and the Philippines, and held senior policy positions on the staff of the National Security Council and in the Departments of State and Defense.

He is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Carleton College and earned his master's and doctorate in public law and government from Columbia University.

COSSA STAFF CHANGES MB, HS

COSSA is pleased to announce that Angela Sharpe has joined the Consortium staff as the Assistant Director for Government Affairs. Sharpe replaces Susan Persons, who is now Director of Government Relations for the American Psychological Society.

Sharpe brings over six years of congressional experience to COSSA, having served as a legislative assistant to Rep. Carrie P. Meek (D-FL) and former Rep. R. Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA). She had previously worked for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She holds a B.S. in Industrial Relations and a B.S. in Psychology, both from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Sharpe will advocate on behalf of social and behavioral scientists to Members of Congress, their staff, and federal agency officials. She will focus primarily on health and behavior research.

In a related development, COSSA has promoted Michael Buckley to Associate Director for Public Affairs. Buckley has been with the Consortium since 1991.

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SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Profession Development Federal Activities Program: Initial Teacher Profession Development Projects

The goal of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program is to provide K-12 teachers with sustained and intensive high-quality professional development that will improve teaching in the core academic subjects, and that is consistent with challenging State content standards, in order to enable all children to meet challenging State student performance standards. Funded projects should address reform of all aspects of teacher preparation, including recruitment and selection of teacher candidates, collaboration of colleges of arts and sciences, curriculum and instruction offered in teacher preparation programs, faculty incentives and development strategies, clinical experiences of teacher candidates, State-level licensing policies and procedures, and support for teachers in the initial years of teaching in schools.

Eligible Applicants: The Secretary is authorized to make grants to local educational agencies, educational service agencies, State educational agencies, State agencies for higher education, institutions of higher education, and other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Funding: There is \$3,000,000 available with approximately 6-9 awards being funded, with an average range in the awards being \$400,000. The project period is up to 36 months with a budget period of up to 12 months.

Deadlines: Applications are due June 23, 1995.

Contact: For applications or information contact, Carolyn Warren, Annora Dorsey or Trudy Turner, U.S. Department of Education, Room 502, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208-5572, fax:(202) 219-2106, phone:(202) 219-2206.

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