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SPENDING CUTS, ROLE OF GOVERNMENT ON AGENDA AS NEW CONGRESS SETTLES IN

As leaders of the Republican-led 104th Congress settle into their new posts and begin to tackle the responsibilities of governing, the House continues to focus on the agenda established in the GOP's Contract with America. A series of hearings on Capitol Hill have made it clear that the central goal of the new majority is to reduce the federal government's role in American life and to accomplish that by reducing and eliminating budgets for many federal programs. Another strategy is to utilize block grants to the States to reduce or abolish the federal role in crime prevention, welfare, and other areas. That budgets will be cut has become a given; the battles to take place in the coming months will be about how, not whether, to cut federal spending.

President Clinton, who has kept a relatively low profile since the November elections, will seek to define his administration's role in these debates through his State of the Union Address and FY 1996 budget proposal, on January 24 and February 6 respectively. As administration witnesses have begun to testify before GOP-led panels, the inevitability of cuts -- and the determination of those wielding the knives -- has been apparent. Most cabinet secretaries have prepared their own list of cuts for their trip to Capitol Hill. Many of these sacrificial lambs have been programs Clinton targeted in last year's administration proposed budget. For example, the administration is once again proposing to eliminate 34 small programs in the Department of Education, including the Law School Clinical Experience program.

Both houses have finally completed their committee assignments. Some unexpected jockeying on the Senate Appropriations committee produced a subcommittee chair lineup somewhat different than anticipated. After failing to obtain a seat on the Finance Committee, (a triumph for his presidential nomination rival Majority Leader Sen. Bob Dole), Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX) used his seniority to claim the leadership of the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations subcommittee. Sen. Christopher 'Kit'

Bond (R-MO) will now chair the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee, which allocates funds for the National Science Foundation. (See page three for Senate committee and subcommittee chairs that impact social, behavioral, and economic research programs, as well as the rosters for the appropriations panels that fund the National Science Foundation.)

Frustrations of a New Majority

As the Republicans continue to push their agenda, the Democrats in the Congress are slowly adjusting to their new minority status. Role reversal is the key as the Democrats learn how to use the rules and other tactics, utilized by the Republicans for so many years, to slow down the rush to fulfill the Contract. Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV), a master of the Senate rules has been particularly frustrating to the new majority. As many new majorities often discover, solidarity in the ranks may be difficult, as Republican disagreements on the language for a Balanced Budget Amendment are demonstrating. Also, lack of consensus between Republicans in charge of the House Budget and House Appropriations panels has slowed down the promised quick pace of FY 1996 budgeting.

The outlook remains difficult for supporters of federal spending. House Budget Committee Chair Rep. John Kasich (R-OH) will begin a series of field hearings in Columbus, Ohio on January 21. The press release announcing the hearings asks witnesses to come prepared to tell the Members of the Budget Committee "how to cut the federal budget." The

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committee also makes clear it does not want to hear from interest groups or "professional testifiers," just "real people." Kasich and his colleagues are also discussing reducing the budget caps for discretionary spending that will exacerbate an already dire situation for allocating funds for domestic programs.

Rep. Robert Livingston (R-LA), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, is still predicting a rescission bill that will reduce spending in Fiscal Year 1995 that is already four months old. Many of the subcommittees are holding hearings to figure out where to make these cuts. Lead witnesses have often been from the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute, leading proponents of reducing the federal role. So far the panels that oversee NSF funding have focused on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's programs, and not the Foundation.

SBE ADVISORY PANEL GETS GOOD NEWS ON FUNDING, DISCUSSES HCI AND CENTERS

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The Advisory Committee to the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate at the National Science Foundation held its fifth meeting on January 9-10, and discussed issues relating to the funding and future directions of the directorate.

The committee, chaired by Marta Tienda, Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago,

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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

began its meeting by hearing Cora Marrett, Assistant Director for SBE, announce a 15 percent increase in funding for the directorate in the agency's FY 1995 operating plan. Marrett attributed this success to the creation of partnerships both within and outside NSF, to priority setting within the directorate, and to congressional recommendations to spend funds on certain programs such as the human capital initiative, violence research, and human dimensions of global change. Although the percentage increase was larger than that given to any of the other research directorates, in absolute terms it amounted to \$15 million, less than the actual increase for almost all the other directorates.

Petersen on Difficulties Ahead

Anne Petersen, NSF's Deputy Director, discussed the significant challenges the Foundation faces in the future, most notably the new congressional leadership's stated intent of significantly reducing federal spending. While Petersen cited long-standing bipartisan support for NSF, she said that when faced with caps on domestic spending that may get even smaller, Congress may cut NSF's budget. In this climate, she said, supporters of the directorate need to make a stronger and more effective case on behalf of SBE research. The absence of strong, public support during difficult times such as these could hurt our interests, she said. However, Petersen did suggest that so far there is no evidence that SBE scientists face a repeat of 1981-82, when the Reagan administration sought to severely reduce funding for these disciplines.

Petersen said that she believes the tactic of relating SBE expertise to other sciences is extremely important. There is still a clear lack of understanding by colleagues in the physical and natural sciences about the contributions of SBE research, she noted. The other approach that will succeed, according to Petersen, is to continue to point out the applied societal problems where basic research in the social, behavioral and economics sciences can provide contributions.

Human Capital Initiative Funds Available

Allan Kornberg, Director of the Division of Social, Behavioral and Social Science Research, announced to the committee that 60 new awards would

KEY SENATE COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appropriations Committee: Mark Hatfield (OR)

Subcommittees:

Agriculture: Thad Cochran (MS)
 Commerce, Justice, State: Phil Gramm (TX)
 Interior (NEH): Slade Gorton (WA)
 Labor, HHS, Education: Arlen Specter (PA)
 Legislative Branch (Library of Congress): Connie Mack (FL)
 National Security (DOD University Research): Ted Stevens (AK)
 VA, HUD, Independent Agencies (NSF, EPA): Christopher S. "Kit" Bond (MO)

Authorizing Committees:

Agriculture: (1995 Farm Bill) Richard Lugar (IN)
 Budget: Pete Domenici (NM)
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Larry Pressler (SD)
 Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space: Conrad Burns (MT)
 Finance: Bob Packwood (OR)
 Foreign Relations: Jesse Helms (NC)
 Governmental Affairs: (Census) William Roth (DE)
 Judiciary: Orrin Hatch (UT)
 Labor and Human Resources: Nancy Kassebaum (KS)
 Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities: James Jeffords (VT)
 Rules: Ted Stevens (AK)

VA, HUD, Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees (oversees funding for National Science Foundation)

House		Senate	
Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats
Jerry Lewis (CA) chairman	Louis Stokes (OH) ranking Democrat	Christopher Bond (MO) chairman	Barbara Mikulski (MD) ranking Democrat
Tom DeLay (TX)	Alan B. Mollohan (WV)	Phil Gramm (TX)	Patrick Leahy (VT)
James T. Walsh (NY)	Jim Chapman (TX)	Conrad Burns (MT)	J. Bennett Johnston (LA)
David L. Hobson (OH)	Marcy Kaptur (OH)	Ted Stevens (AK)	Frank Lautenberg (NJ)
Barbara Vucanovich (NV)		Richard Shelby (AL)	Bob Kerrey (NE)
Joe Knollenberg (MI)		Robert F. Bennett (UT)	
Rod Frelinghuysen (NJ)			
Mark Neumann (WI)			

be made in FY 1995 under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI). The budget for HCI in this fiscal year is approximately \$7 million. The program announcement is available and NSF invites proposals for research which advances basic understanding of the causes of the psychological, social, economic and cultural capacities for productive citizenship. The proposed research should add to the store of fundamental theoretical knowledge about human behavior. The program's intent is that the research will better inform public policies.

The agenda for the HCI is based on *Investing in Human Resources: A Strategic Plan for the Human Capital Initiative*, a report from working groups convened at NSF in 1994 (see *Update*, May 31, 1994). Based on the report, NSF seeks to support fundamental research in six social contexts that affect the development and utilization of human capital: workplace, education, families, neighborhoods, disadvantage, and poverty.

For further information about the announcement contact: Bonney Sheahan 703/306-1733 or bsheahan@nsf.gov or Dan Newlon 703/306-1753 or dnewlon@nsf.gov. The deadline for FY 1995 awards is **February 15**, with another round of competition scheduled for proposals submitted on August 15.

The Future of NSF Centers

The Advisory Committee discussed the future of the NSF Science and Technology Centers (STC) and the role of SBE in creating new centers. NSF established the STC Centers after years of experience with Centers in Materials Research and Engineering. A favorite of former NSF Director Erich Bloch, the STCs were instituted to allow groups of investigators to focus on a particular research area, usually at one site, and to receive multiyear grants. The Centers obtained an initial five year grant, which if successfully reviewed after three years, allowed them to receive a second grant for six more years. Viewed by some scientists as a threat to individual investigator initiated research, NSF consistently maintained that the budget for Centers would never exceed 10 percent of the Foundation's budget. The question now facing NSF is whether to continue the STC concept.

Some members of the advisory committee expressed disapproval of the center concept suggesting that using the funds to support more

individual investigator initiated research would be more useful. Others contended that the opportunity costs outweighed the value added by the Center concept. A consensus developed that each STC would be judged on its own merits and that the concept would probably not disappear.

Cognitive Sciences Center

Paul Chapin, program officer in Linguistics, presented a report on the only STC funded in the social and behavioral sciences, the Research on Cognitive Sciences Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Chapin believes centers are an excellent use of NSF funds and cited the basic research on language acquisition, language processes, perception and action, including robotics, and logic and computation, conducted by the scientists connected to the Center at Pennsylvania.

The Center provides unique value, Chapin argued, in its education, outreach and technology transfer activities. Fortune 100 companies such as General Electric, AT&T, and IBM have contributed to its efforts and utilized its results. A program called Penn Lincs connects language research to K-12 science teaching. Another reason to keep the Center, according to Chapin, is that it is producing the next generation of cognitive scientists.

Tom Baerwald, former program officer in Geography, now Deputy Director for the Geosciences Directorate, noted that the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) is not an official STC, but functions like one at multiple sites -- the University of California- Santa Barbara, State University of New York at Buffalo, and the University of Maine. NSF's geography program, with input from the field, identified the need for such a center and it now consumes about one-third of that program's budget. The NCGIA has helped spawn a multi-billion dollar Geographic Information System industry.

For the past two years, congressional appropriators recommended that SBE establish two new centers, one for research on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (HDGC), and another for research on violence. Cheryl Eavey, program officer in Methodology, Measurement and Statistics, announced that the funds Congress made available for the HDGC Center will be used to develop a number of research centers that will focus

on a series of related topics for a five year period and a research team concept where one topic will be the focus for 3 to 5 years.

Competition Begins for Violence Research Consortia

Patricia White, program officer for Law and Social Sciences, described NSF's response to the violence center recommendation. After months of discussions with the research community, other federal agencies, and within the Foundation, NSF proposes to establish a center/consortium for research on violence. In providing support for a "center without walls" or national consortium, NSF seeks to advance fundamental knowledge on violence and to train future generations of violence researchers.

According to the program announcement, the vision of such a consortium is to play a catalytic and leadership role in producing important science and in stimulating innovative work and new scientific connections on the issue of violence. The research focus will be on interpersonal violence directed among intimates and strangers or at the collective level in gang or mob actions.

The proposed center is slated to take the form of a consortium of universities and other institutions that will: develop integrated theories of violent behavior; facilitate collaborative methodological research to ensure common measures, comparable data resources and effective samples; develop interdisciplinary scientific expertise to conduct multilevel research; develop a knowledge base for designing intervention and prevention strategies; facilitate undergraduate, predoctoral and postdoctoral training across disciplines; encourage data access and sharing; increase the research capacity of historically underrepresented groups; and help disseminate research findings and facilitate the productive interaction of social and behavioral scientists with policymakers, administrators and professionals actively working in communities.

Anticipated initial funding is \$2 million from NSF and \$2 million from HUD. NSF will commit another \$2 million a year for four additional years, with the National Institute of Justice expected to provide \$200,000.

Letters of intent should be sent by **March 15** to Patricia White, Coordinator for the Consortium for Violence Research, National Science Foundation, Room 995, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230; Phone: 703/306-1762; FAX 703/306-0485. Email: pwhite@nsf.gov. It is anticipated that May 1, 1995 will be the closing date for submission of proposals.

ECONOMISTS EXAMINE SCIENCE POLICY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH *HS*

At the recent meeting of the American Economic Association in Washington, DC, a number of economists focused on "Science Policy and the Role of Social Science Research: Its Implications for Economics." The commentators agreed that there are significant economic and social returns from science, but that the influence of social science research on policy deliberations varies considerably.

Joseph Stiglitz, currently a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, argued for government's role in science and technology policy and for the public good basis of basic research. He cited a 50 percent rate of social return on investment in research. He also praised as examples of the usefulness of government's investment in research and its application the extension service and land-grant colleges that helped produce agricultural successes and the development of the Internet.

Contributions of Economics

Regarding the role of economics, Stiglitz cited economists' contributions to increasing the effectiveness of government through the use of cost/benefit analysis, performance objectives, and the use of market mechanisms for health and public safety measures. He mentioned economics' ability to measure the consequences of government action or inaction specifying as examples the behavioral consequences of tax cuts and welfare reform, energy saving technologies, and Global Climate change. He also noted that economists recognize the utilization of imperfect information to make decisions, and therefore the need to revisit decisions as more information becomes available.

NSF NAMES PSYCHOLOGIST SBER DEPUTY DIRECTOR *MB*

Psychologist Hilleary Everist has been appointed the new Deputy Director at The National Science Foundation's Division of Social, Behavioral and Economic Research (SBER). Most recently a Special Assistant to the Acting Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, Everist will assist political scientist Allan Kornberg, the Director of the division.

Previously, Everist was Deputy Director of the Division of Neuroscience and Behavioral Science at NIMH, and a grants officer at the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Everist has a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, and a B.A. and M.A. from Hollins College in Roanoke, VA.

Bob Solow, Nobel Prize winning economist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, suggested that very often the political and institutional environment are more important than research results. Large components of vested interests and ideology will usually win out over research results, he said. As an example, Solow suggested the current debate over welfare reform ignores the results of the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation's evaluations of the work to welfare experiments in the states. Feeling somewhat pessimistic in the current climate, Solow advised economists to keep "piling up the results and bide your time."

He also acknowledged that often economics research does not speak unequivocally on large issues, which sometimes leads to cynicism among government audiences. Noting that the data often do not send the strong message that policymakers are seeking, Solow argued for achieving strong robust results and conducting more experiments to provide information about public policies.

Human Resource Issues

Dan Newlon, program officer for Economics at the National Science Foundation, expressed the view that economics research could prosper focusing on human resource issues, since both Republicans and

Democrats seem interested in this area. Zvi Griliches of Harvard University argued for more attention and funding to further refine the studies on the relationship of science and technology to economic growth. Joyce Justus, Assistant Director for the Social Sciences at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, also stressed the contributions of economics to policy decisions and pointed out the increased importance of the social and economic sciences in the Clinton administration's science policy apparatus.

In another session on welfare reform, David Ellwood, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services, defended the Clinton plan and took a dim view of one Republican proposal to use block grants to the States. In addition, speakers such as Rebecca Blank of Northwestern University and Bob Haveman of the University of Wisconsin decried congressional disregard for the results of social science research in the current discussions of the welfare system.

APPAM CONFERENCE CALLS FOR PAPERS *MB*

The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) is calling for papers for its Seventeenth Annual Research Conference, to be held in Washington, D.C. November 2-4, 1995.

The 1995 conference theme is: *Thirty Years of Policy Analysis and Management: Taking Stock*. The conference will provide an opportunity for participants to share current research findings, as well as to assess the past and future dimensions of policy work. Proposals are welcome that revisit some of the early research in a particular policy field, discuss the relationship between past and current efforts, and speculate about future questions to be confronted in policy research and practice. In addition to the work in specific policy sectors, an effort will be made to highlight a number of cross-cutting themes that have emerged in the field.

Please send a one-page version of your proposal by **March 15** to Dante Noto, Executive Director, APPAM, P.O. Box 18766, Washington, D.C. 20036-8766.

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL** KC

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.

**Cooperative Agreement Program for Urban Center(s)
for Applied Research in Public Health**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of FY 1995 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the establishment of an Urban Center(s) for Applied Research in Public Health. Activities coordinated by the Urban Center(s) are intended to use "population laboratories" to produce information useful in health policy decisions and planning, thereby enhancing the effectiveness, quality, and cost-effectiveness of preventive and health care delivery systems and improving health of persons living in the city.

Program Requirements: Applicants must: 1. Provide evidence of working relationships with partner organizations and community leaders which allow evaluation and implementation of any proposed intervention activities; 2. Provide evidence of supplemental technical and financial assistance from other "partner organizations"; 3. Provide evidence of expertise in research related to urban and minority health issues or a planned process for developing such expertise in a short timeframe; 4. Provide evidence/plans for core activities, demonstration projects, collaborations/collaborative projects with State/local health departments and academic institutions.

Eligible Applicants: Assistance will be provided only to local (city/county) health departments or research organizations collaborating with local health departments of the fifty largest U.S. cities ranked by population per square mile. Applications should be made by the local (city/county) department of health or by one or more other organizations (e.g., academic, technical, or community organizations) with a written indication of support from the local health department.

Availability of Funds: Federal financial assistance totalling approximately \$600,000 is available in FY 1995 to fund up to three awards in support of core activities

Letter of Intent: Potential applicants are encouraged to submit a non-binding letter of intent to apply to the Grants Management Office (address to follow). It should be postmarked on or before **February 21, 1995**. The letter should identify the announcement number being responded to, title and brief description of the proposed population laboratory, and the names and address of the principal investigators.

Deadline: Applicants should submit an original and five copies of form PHS-398 to Henry S. Cassell, III, Grants Management Officer, Grants Management Branch, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 255 East Paces Ferry Road, NE, Room 300, Mailstop E-13, Atlanta, GA 30305, on or before **March 13, 1995**.

Contact: Information may be obtained from Georgia Jang, Grants Management Specialist (address the same as above) at (404) 842-6814. Programmatic technical assistance may be obtained from Mary Moreman, Project Officer, Epidemiology Program Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop C-08, Atlanta, GA 30333, telephone (404) 488-4390. Please refer to Program Announcement Number 515 when requesting information.

*The phrase "population laboratories" as used herein refers to an organization dedicated to epidemiologic, sociologic, and economic study of public health interventions in a well-defined urban population.

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Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America

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North American Regional Science Council
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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
Speech Communication Association

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