

**CONGRESS RETURNS TO A  
NEW YEAR, OLD BATTLES** *HS*

The January 3, 1996 issue of the *Congressional Record* had the date stamped twice on its front cover. What would first appear to be a typo in reality showed that the first session the 104th Congress stayed around so long that, under the Constitution, it had to adjourn, and then reform moments later as the second session. This congressional rarity is symbolic; the first session was a long, cantankerous affair that left a full plate of unfinished business for round two. Paramount is the budget and the lack of appropriations for many agencies and programs included in the six FY 1996 funding bills that have yet to receive approval.

Two partial government shutdowns have not substantially mitigated the continuing disagreements between the White House and the Congress over spending priorities, the role of the federal government, and how to achieve a balanced federal budget by 2002. The Republican congressional leadership has indicated that they would prefer not closing the government again and instead have embarked on a strategy of selectively funding programs they like (*see NIH appropriation story, page 2*). For the moment, this leaves many programs in the Departments of Commerce, Labor, Education, Justice, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and State, as well as agencies such as NSF, NEH, NASA, and EPA, operating at reduced levels until January 26, when a third shutdown could occur. The strategy of "selective appropriations" has brought threats of more presidential vetoes.

The impact of the two shutdowns on those agencies without appropriations has been significant. At NSF, proposals have piled up in the mail, review panels have not met, and continuing grants have not been made. Ongoing operations, such as the Antarctica program, astronomical observatories, and supercomputing centers, have faced uncertainty about their ability to continue business. Surveys to produce the nation's statistical series have been unable to conduct their interviews. In January, the monthly employment and unemployment figures were late.

The first session of the 104th certainly changed the way Congress operated, brought confrontation with the White House to new heights, and moved the budget deficit to the forefront of the political agenda. It failed to provide an increase in the debt limit, forcing Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to manipulate trust funds to keep the U.S. from defaulting on its obligations. Those manipulations continue and GOP members of Congress are not happy, threatening to impeach Rubin.

The Republican-controlled Congress made progress on many items on their agenda, but did not close the deal on many issues. The second session still faces the need to complete legislation on: attempting to block grant anti-crime funding -- including the set-aside for increases in research support; overhauling the welfare system -- a presidential veto forces Congress back to the drawing board; reforming the job training system -- a new youth development system combining education and job training remains mired in a House-Senate conference committee; revising telecommunications law -- GOP House members balked at the conference agreement; and the Farm bill -- questions about commodity support reductions must be resolved.

In addition, the National Science Foundation's authorization bill emerged from the House in an omnibus bill that the Senate has not considered. The House version included the provision requiring NSF to reduce its structure by eliminating one directorate -- the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate according to the House committee report. Late in 1995, Senator Larry Pressler (R-SD),

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Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, introduced his own plan to reauthorize. It does not include anything about reducing directorates. In the Senate, Pressler's panel shares jurisdiction on NSF issues with the Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS). Under Senate rules, Kassebaum must act first on the bill, and it remains unclear when that will happen.

The lack of appropriations for FY 1996 has made planning for the FY 1997 budget difficult. By law, the President is supposed to present his proposed budget to the Congress on February 5. This will most likely not happen. The Republicans have threatened to move ahead anyway, but without an agreement on FY 1996 funding, this may be difficult.

The coming session will also face the problem of increasing partisanship in a presidential election year. In addition, with record retirements in the Senate (13 so far), and an increasing number of House members, including senior members like Reps. Robert Walker (R-PA) and William Clinger (R-PA), both of whom chair committees, leaving Congress, the atmosphere on the Hill will probably not improve. Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS), still the leading Republican presidential contender, has announced that he intends to stay in his majority leader post for the foreseeable future, challenging the conventional wisdom that he could not run for president and run the Senate at the same time.

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## NIH GIVEN 5.7 PERCENT INCREASE FOR 1996 AS

Ending the budgetary uncertainty over FY 1996 funding for the National Institutes of Health, Congress and the President have agreed to award NIH with a 5.7 percent increase above current funding. The agreement provides \$11.94 billion, \$655 million more than last year and \$175 million more than requested by the Administration.

Funding for the NIH is usually provided in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. Due to a number of controversial provisions included in the legislation, the measure has stalled in the Senate. The 5.7 percent increase is the funding level that the NIH received in the House's version of the bill passed on August 4th. A number of policy issues, such as the funding for the Office of AIDS Research, remain unresolved.

The recent appropriations bill not only sets precedent by funding select programs but this is also the first time in the history of funding NIH that only one figure has been provided to fund the agency-- a move that gives the NIH Director unprecedented power.

### Digging Out

Storms, both political and natural, resulted in NIH employees working only one day between December 15 and January 16th. During that time furloughed staff could not answer telephones, receive mail or refill fax machines. According to a notice posted on NIH's home page by Wendy Baldwin, Deputy Director for Extramural Research, NIH "will begin to process grant awards and ensure that competing continuations get priority so that we do not interrupt ongoing work...NIH will continue to work under our financial management plan. That plan includes a modest (4%) increase each year for continuing grants. We will be including that increase in our budget calculations for awards made this year and will make retroactive adjustments to noncompeting grants already awarded." Baldwin cautioned researchers that adherence to NIH's financial plan is dependent upon the annual budget process.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE AT FOREFRONT OF SENATE LOOK AT YOUTH DRUG USE *AS*

Social and behavioral science research findings were frequently cited as part of a recent examination of youth drug use conducted by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Both the statements made at the December 19 hearing and the reports released earlier that day by committee chair Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and ranking Democrat Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) drew heavily from research. Several surveys, including Monitoring the Future and the National Household Survey on Drug Use, as well as the work of criminologists James Alan Fox and Alfred Blumstein were used as reference points. COSSA frequently reminds policymakers of the strong role federally-supported research plays in policy formulation.

### Hatch: Losing Ground Against Drugs

Hatch said his report, *Losing Ground Against Drugs*, details the "failure of Presidential leadership" as a contributor to the drug "epidemic." The report was prepared at his direction by the Republican staff of the Judiciary Committee. In his introduction to the report, Hatch indicates that it "examines trends in drug use and the Clinton Administration's sometimes uneven response to them, including the Administration's controversial policy of targeting chronic, hardcore drug users. The report also reviews trends in use and availability. And, finally, it evaluates the performance over the past three years of our nation's criminal justice and interdiction system."

The reports states that "Federal drug policy is at a crossroads... Ineffectual leadership and failed federal policies have combined with ambiguous cultural messages to generate changing attitudes among our young people and sharp increases in youthful drug use." Citing research by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Hatch says that the "implications for public policy are clear." Hatch asserted that "our ability to control health care costs, reform welfare, improve the academic performance of our school-age children, and defuse the projected 'crime bomb' of youthful super-predator criminals, will all be seriously compromised."

### Biden: Facing the Future -- The Rise of Teen Drug Abuse and Teen Violence

Biden said that his report, *Facing the Future -- The Rise of Teen Drug Abuse and Teen Violence*, "is a warning bell that we must not ignore. It offers the most compelling evidence that I have seen of why we must undertake an immediate effort to reverse the rise of drug abuse among our children. In making projections of what the combination of rising drug abuse among children and the rising number of children means for our nation, this report offers a chilling picture of what we could face in the next quarter century."

Referring to new data released by the Department of Health and Human Services (*see Johnston testimony below*) showing drug abuse among our children continuing to rise," Biden said that "this fact alone...is reason enough to sound a clarion call for action."

Biden's report cites the new demographic bulge -- 39 million American are now younger than ten years of age -- and, based on current statistics about drug abuse and violent crime, projects the effects of this group reaching their late teens. "While this staff report offers the first-ever review of drug abuse in the decades ahead, the fundamental insight underlying this report belongs to ...Northeastern University Professor James Alan Fox and Carnegie Mellon University Professor Alfred Blumstein." Biden's report was prepared by the Democratic staff on the Judiciary Committee and the International Drug Caucus.

Calling the rise of teen drug abuse as the reason for the "unprecedented surge of violence committed by children," Biden said he will introduce comprehensive legislation to respond to the crisis of violent crime by juveniles. "Recalling that the situation with drug abuse among America's teens remains much better today than it was a few years ago should also serve as a reminder that we can make progress against drug abuse among our children," he said.

To obtain copies of the reports, contact Hatch at (202) 224-5225 and Biden at (202) 224-7703.

## Social Scientists Testify at Senate Hearing

In opening the hearing, Hatch noted that the number of young marijuana users jumped from 1.6 million in 1992 to 2.9 million last year. "Today's youth marijuana and LSD users are tomorrow's cocaine addicts," he said.

Lloyd Johnston, a social psychologist and director of the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan, also testified before the Committee. Johnston's testimony was based on the results of the *Monitoring the Future* survey, a series of annual surveys of some 50,000 students in over 400 public and private secondary schools nationwide. According to Johnston, the principal investigator of the survey, the results reveal that while marijuana use has shown the sharpest increase, the use of a number of other illicit drugs, including LSD, hallucinogens other than LSD, amphetamines, stimulants, and inhalants, has also continued to drift upward.

"There are several reasons that today's young people are becoming more accepting of drug use and less worried about its consequences," said Johnston. "Parents of a decade ago may have been more likely than today's parents to talk to their children about drugs, because more of today's parents actually used drugs when they were teens and may feel hypocritical telling their own teens not to use," continued Johnston. "At the same time that today's teens are hearing and seeing less about the consequences of use, they are also receiving more encouragement to use," continued Johnston. He apprised the committee that "news reports on the subject of drugs plummeted after the buildup to the Gulf War, and media coverage of anti-drug ads has declined substantially...The net result is that the balance of messages that kids are receiving has changed appreciably."

Biden, referring to the research of James Alan Fox, a witness at the hearing, and Alfred Blumstein, said that "baby boomers are producing and have produced the next blip on the demographic screen" and that this research has predicted an increase in crime as children of the baby boomers move through the high crime years. Drugs, said Biden, "have fundamentally changed the culture of crime...More are using drugs while fewer understand the consequences."

## Two Crime Trends

Fox, Dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University, testified before the committee on the trends in youth violence, explaining that the 1994 crime rate had decreased and homicides were down 5 percent. Likewise, in the first six months of 1995 the rate had decreased by 12 percent. However, there was not "good news all around... There are actually two crime trends ongoing in America--one for the young and one for the mature, which are moving in opposite directions. Since 1990 the homicide rate for individuals over 25 years of age has declined by 21 percent," he said. Conversely, Fox related, the homicide rate for individuals under 18 years of age has actually increased by 16 percent -- a trend that is true among other violent crimes. Fox emphasized that the increase in youth violence has been happening at a time when we have fewer teenagers. He stated that future demographics are expected to make matters worse; "Not only are today's violent teen maturing into even more violent young adults, but they are being succeeded by a new and larger group of teenagers."

The causes of the surge in youth violence reach well beyond demographic, Fox said. "While negative socializing forces of drugs, guns, gangs and the media have become more threatening, the positive socializing forces of family, school, religion and neighborhood have grown relatively weak and ineffective...Because of deep funding cuts in support programs for youth -- the after-school care to recreation, from mentoring to education -- as a society, we are missing the fleeting window of opportunity to compensate for the diminished role of the family."

Fox adamantly emphasized that "over-investing in quick fixes...retribution, revenge and retaliation" will not work. He concluded by underscoring that "we are not winning the war against drugs and crime." The problem is getting worse and will get much worse, he said, and "we must deal with the problem now. If we wait until they are teenagers it will be much to late."

## Prisons Not the Answer

Also at the hearing, Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) registered his disapproval with the cutbacks in education, treatment and prevention, saying that while there has been an upward trend on the amount spent

on prisons, it is clear that prisons are not working. Citing figures which show that there are more than 150,000 people waiting to get drug treatment in just six states, Simon said the numbers "suggest that we have to do a better job."

Partnership for a Drug-Free America chairman Jim Burke, citing the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, said the good news is that "regular monthly use had declined by over half... the bad news is that drug use among teens is rising dramatically." Using the survey as evidence, Burke added "that marijuana is driving much, though not all, of the recent increases -- with cocaine remaining steady... We know with certainty... that the recent increase in drug use among youth is due to their view that drug use is less harmful and more socially acceptable... We believe this is due to a change in the balance in the information about drugs that children are receiving from many different sources -- fewer overall anti-drug messages and more pro-drug messages."

Citing the success of the Partnership for a Drug Free America as an "excellent private program," Hatch declared that "prevention efforts are essential, and require the cooperation of everyone -- parents, teachers, the media, sports and entertainment role models, and political leaders -- including, especially, the President." Hatch stated that "part of the problem is that the 1960s permissiveness is leading us to a 1990s tolerance toward what is going on in our country."

## UPDATE ON FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS

### Moniz

On December 22, 1995 the Senate finally confirmed **Ernest Moniz** as the new Associate Director for Science at the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Moniz, former head of the Physics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was nominated by President Clinton for the post in early July. He replaces M.R.C. Greenwood, who returned to the University of California, Davis as Dean of the Graduate School.

### Lipset

**Seymour Martin Lipset**, former COSSA Board Member and the former President of the American Sociological Association and the American Political Science Association, has been confirmed by the Senate for a seat on the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace. Lipset, currently Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University, will help make policy for the independent nonpartisan institution created by Congress to promote research, education and training on the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

### Edeleman

President Clinton has nominated **Peter Edelman** to become the new Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Edelman has been filling that position in an acting capacity since David Ellwood returned to Harvard. A lawyer, law school professor, and speaker at the 1994 COSSA Annual Meeting, Edelman had been serving as Special Counselor to HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, focusing on violence issues.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first issue of *Update* for 1996. *Update*, published bi-weekly, is written and produced by the COSSA staff and covers federal policies and debates relevant to social and behavioral scientists.

Our focus is on activities in Congress and the Executive Branch affecting the social and behavioral science portfolios of the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Justice, and Labor, and many other federal agencies.

We welcome your questions and comments, as well as ideas for future issues. Our address is 1522 K Street, N.W., Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005, phone: (202) 842-3525, fax: (202) 842-2788.

Also, a topical index for the 1995 issues of *Update* is available, at no cost, by contacting COSSA.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE BILL INTRODUCED

Legislation to create a National Institute for the Environment (NIE) was introduced on December 15 by Rep. James H. Saxton (R-NJ), chair of the House Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee.

The NIE is a proposed environmental science institute whose mission would be to strengthen the scientific basis for environmental decision-making by supporting peer-reviewed research. A diverse group of NIE supporters include House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA), Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), the Sierra Club, Monsanto, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact the Committee for the NIE at (202) 628-3241.

### INCOME STUDY WORKSHOPS PLANNED

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), which includes several large microdata sets measuring income and economic well-being for a set of modern industrialized welfare states, announces two workshops, to be held July 14-27, 1996, in Luxembourg.

The sessions will address topics such as aging, poverty, and gender issues and the use of the LIS and other data sets.

For more information, contact (315) 443-4526.

### STATISTICS PANEL RELEASES TWO REPORTS

The Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academy of Sciences has announced the publication of two new reports.

*Integrating Federal Statistics on Children* is the result of a workshop that examined the data needs of policymakers in this area. *Following the Money: U.S. Finance in the World Economy* discusses the statistical system in a changing world economy.

Call (202) 334-3097 to obtain copies.

### "TICKING TIME BOMB" IN AREA OF CRIME, STUDY SAYS

Citing demographics and other factors, the Council on Crime in America, in a recent report, said that violent crime is a "ticking time bomb" that will worsen in future years. The report was compiled by Princeton University professor John J. DiIulio.

Despite recent reports of declining crime rates, the report cited a 23 percent increase in 14-17 year old males by 2005 and flaws in probation and parole as causes for alarm.

The Council's phone number is (202) 822-8333.

### NIJ RESEARCH SEMINARS AVAILABLE ON VIDEOTAPE

The National Institute of Justice's *Research in Progress* seminars, several of which have been attended by Attorney General Janet Reno, are now available on videotape.

The 60-minute seminars have featured leading researchers, including Al Blumstein, Lawrence Sherman, and Marvin Wolfgang, discussing their ongoing research before an audience of key policymakers.

For more information, contact (800) 851-3420.

### FULBRIGHT AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR 1997-98

Applications for Fulbright awards to lecture or conduct advanced research in over 135 countries are now available for the 1997-98 academic year.

Deadlines and program requirements vary. For more details, call (202) 686-7877.

### ASA ANNOUNCES FELLOWSHIP

The American Sociological Association is seeking applicants for the 1996 Congressional Fellowship. The award is part of the Sidney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy. ASA will bring a Ph.D.-level sociologist to Washington to work in Congress or a related agency.

For more information, call ASA at (202) 833-3410.

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**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR** *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.

**U.S. Geological Survey  
Federal Geographic Data Committee**

The purpose of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Competitive Cooperative Agreements Program is to facilitate and foster partnerships and alliances within and among various public and private entities to assist in building the NSDI. The NSDI consists of policies, standards, agreements, and partnerships among a variety of sectors and disciplines that will promote more cost-effective production, ready availability, and greater use of high quality geospatial data.

Proposals are to be directed towards four components of the NSDI:

- Creating a distributed clearinghouse for finding and accessing geospatial data;
- Developing and promulgating the use of FGDC-endorsed standards in data collection, documentation, transfer, and search and query;
- Implementing a geospatial data framework that provides a base on which to collect, register, or integrate information accurately; and
- Developing and implementing educational outreach programs to increase awareness and understanding of the major NSDI components among members of the broader community.

**Eligible Applicants:** Applications may be submitted by state and local government agencies, educational institutions, private firms, private foundations, and federally acknowledged or state-recognized Native American tribes or groups.

**Budget:** Total program funding is \$1 million for FY 1996, with approximately 30 applications being funded to last 12 months.

**Review Process:** Proposals must involve two or more organizations and participants are expected to cost share in the project. Activities initiated under this program will promote development and maintenance of and access to data sets that are needed for national, regional, state, and local analyses.

**Deadlines:** The program announcement and application forms are expected to be available on or about February 1, 1996. Applications must be received on or before March 29, 1996.

**Contact:** Copies of Program Announcement 08187 may be obtained by writing to:

Kathleen Craig  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Office of Procurement and Contracts, Mail Stop 205A  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 22092  
(703) 648-7357.

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