

**APPROPRIATIONS BILLS
UNRESOLVED AS FISCAL
YEAR SET TO START** *HS*

With the 1998 fiscal year set to start on October 1, Congress has finished work on only four of the thirteen appropriations bills to fund federal agencies. Military Construction, Defense, and Legislative Branch appropriations are ready for the President's signature. The Agriculture bill has made it through the conference (see following story), but the reconciled bill has not been brought back to the Houses of Congress for final approval yet.

To avoid another government shutdown, Congress is set to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) before the start of the fiscal year. The CR will last until October 23 and continue to fund agencies at their FY 1997 levels. Congress hopes to finish all the bills during this period, although time off for a week-long Columbus day recess and presidential vetoes may necessitate a second CR.

As this issue of *Update* goes to press, House-Senate conferences have begun to hammer out the differences in most of the remaining bills. The largest, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, contains a number of provisions, that if they survive the conference, will engender a presidential veto. A House passed ban on the development by the Federal government of voluntary national tests and a Senate passed amendment to consolidate many of the Federal programs for elementary and secondary education into a block grant to local educational agencies are the two problematic elements of the bill for the White House.

The VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations bill, which includes FY 1998 funding for the National Science Foundation, still has a number of contentious items. On the NSF, one issue is whether to provide the funds all in one year to reconstruct the Antarctic South Pole station. More importantly are revisions to a housing program that will free up sufficient dollars to allow increases for NSF and other agencies in the legislation.

The Commerce, Justice, State bill has not come off the House floor yet. The long anticipated debate and decision on sampling in the Census will occur on Tuesday, September 30. An amendment sponsored by Reps. Alan Mollohan (D-WV) and Christopher Shays (R-CT) seeks to overturn the appropriations committee's ban on the use of sampling in the 2000 Census. The Republican leadership has included a provision in the bill that calls for an expedited review by the U.S. Supreme Court on the constitutionality of using sampling in the Census. If the ban sticks, the President has threatened to veto the bill.

The Interior and Related Agencies bill, which includes funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution, still has disagreements that need working out. Key among them is the House's desire to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts and the Senate's votes to reject all attempts to eliminate the agency or change its operation.

**AGRICULTURE SPENDING
BILL EMERGES FROM
CONFERENCE; STALLS** *HS*

Conferees completed work on the FY 1998 Agriculture Appropriations bill on September 17. Completing work on the bill and sending it to the President is stalled because the White House has

INSIDE UPDATE...

- Anthropology Group Calls for Elimination of Race Category on Census
- A Strategic Plan for NIH's OBSSR
- Key Federal Appointments
- Alcohol and Health Report Links Biology and Behavior
- Integrating NIMH, NIDA, and NIAAA into the NIH Peer Review Process
- NIMH to Fund Centers
- Sources of Research Support

expressed concern about a provision in the Food and Drug Administration portion of the legislation.

The bill contains \$71.6 million for the **Economic Research Service** for FY 1998. This amount is \$18.5 million above the FY 1997 level. The increase provides funding for studies and evaluations of food stamp, child nutrition, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs formerly funded by other Departmental agencies, such as the Food and Consumer Service. The House had proposed this consolidation. The Senate, whose bill did not include this provision, agreed to recede to the House in the conference.

The **National Agricultural Statistics Service** received an appropriation of \$118 million for FY 1998. The conferees took the Senate figure, which was \$2 million more than the House allocation. Included in this amount is \$36.3 million to conduct the Census of Agriculture.

Congress funded **Hatch Act** payments at \$168.7 million same as the previous two years. **Special Grants** totaled \$51.5 million, down from last year's \$61.5 million. The Rural Policies Institute received \$644,000. The **National Research Initiative Competitive Grants (NRI)** program was allocated \$97.2 million, an increase of \$3 million from FY 1997. The **Markets, Trade and Policy** component

of NRI remained at \$3.9 million, same as this fiscal year. Congress also agreed to continue to fund a **Geographic Information Systems** project, providing \$844,000 for FY 1998 and expanding the sites from 6 to 8. The two new sites are in New Mexico and Colorado.

The bills appropriate \$423.4 million for **Extension Activities**. Included in this category are: \$908,000 for rural development centers and \$246,000 for a rural center in Indiana to study and promote HIV/STD prevention.

The conference agreement also provides funds for a National Academy of Sciences' study on the scientific and organizational needs for an effective food safety system.

ANTHROPOLOGY GROUP CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF RACE CATEGORY ON CENSUS

mb,
K3

Responding to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed revisions to Directive 15 regarding Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting (see *Update*, July 14, 1997), the American Anthropological Association (AAA) has called for the elimination of race as a category by the 2010 Census. Until then, AAA argues that OMB should combine the "race" and "ethnicity" categories into one question to appear as "race/ethnicity" on the 2000 Census.

AAA said that while race and ethnicity standards are not scientific, they are often used in scientific research and considered "variables" in research findings. Their statement notes that Census Bureau research has found that the concepts of race, ethnicity, and ancestry are not clearly distinguished, with most people viewing them as one in the same.

AAA notes: "Eliminating the term 'race' presents an opportunity and a dilemma. It is important to recognize the categories to which individuals have been assigned historically in order to be vigilant about the elimination of discrimination. Yet ultimately, the effective elimination of discrimination will require an end to such categorization, and a transition toward social and

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Executive Director: Howard J. Silver
Public Affairs: Michael Buckley
Government Affairs: Angela L. Sharpe
Administrative Officer: Karen Carrion

President: Eleanor Maccoby

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral sciences. *Update* is published 22 times per year. 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.

cultural categories that will prove more scientifically useful and personally resonant for the public than are categories of 'race'. Redress of the past and transition for the future can be simultaneously effected . . . the combination of the terms 'race/ethnicity' . . . [will serve] as a bridge to the elimination of the term 'race' by the 2010 Census."

The statement further explains that the concept of race in the U.S. is associated, historically, with an early European folk taxonomy that linked perceived biological and behavioral differences with a ranking, in terms of superiority, of races. This, unfortunately persists today, "despite the fact that 'race' has no scientific justification in human biology . . . and genetic data indicate that there is as much genetic variability between two different people from the same 'racial' group as there are between two people from any two different 'racial' groups."

At the same time, AAA announced its support for OMB's proposal to allow Americans to choose more than one racial category in identifying themselves on the 2000 Census and other federal forms.

It also called for further research to determine the term that best delimits human variability. Current research indicates that the term "ethnic origin" may be better understood by respondents' than either "race" or ethnicity," AAA suggested.

OMB's proposed revisions announced July 9 culminated several years of interagency research and deliberation. The current federal categories, created in 1977, are widely believed to have become an inaccurate standard to measure a nation experiencing increased immigration and interracial marriage. However, the move to create a separate "multiracial" category lacked broad support in congress and the administration, and was opposed by many leading civil rights groups, who feared it would dilute their numbers and impede the enforcement of existing laws.

While OMB's recommendations were only a proposal, they are expected to be adopted later this year.

An unresolved question is how to tabulate those who select more than one racial category. A House

committee is expected to hold hearings on the topic this fall, and OMB is developing a task force of governmental and statistical leaders to study the question.

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NIH'S OBSSR

AS

NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), directed by Norman B. Anderson, recently released its strategic plan. Incorporating the recommendations of two meetings that brought over 80 scientists, science administrators and representatives of science organizations, including COSSA, the plan "provides both broad goals and specific activities" to accomplish those goals. According to Anderson, the OBSSR will also respond to "unanticipated opportunities for advancing sociobehavioral science that are not necessarily part of the strategic plan."

According to the OBSSR Strategic Plan, furthering NIH's mission requires the expansion of four areas in the behavioral and social sciences: identification of new behavioral and social risk factors; more research on biological, behavioral and social interactions; new behavioral and social intervention and prevention approaches; and more basic behavioral and social sciences research "to accelerate advances in such areas as learning and memory, emotion, motivation, perception, cognition, social class, social relations, family processes, and the nature of the health care systems."

The Plan identifies three goals for OBSSR for the next three to five years. Each goal is connected to several strategies and an even larger number of actions. Below is a summary of the goals and the strategies identified.

GOAL 1: Enhance Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and Training - "A major part of the Congressional mandate for OBSSR was for it to work to increase support for behavioral and social sciences research and training at NIH, both in the extramural and intramural programs." Strategies include:

- Capitalize on scientific opportunities in behavioral and social science research across NIH;
- Enhance behavioral and social science research in the NIH Intramural Research Program;
- Increase training opportunities in behavioral and social sciences research;
- Highlight the contributions of the field to the improvement of health;
- Increase the visibility of the field within the NIH Community.

GOAL II: *Integrate a Biobehavioral Interdisciplinary Perspective Across NIH* -

“Biobehavioral research, also known as biosocial and biopsychosocial research, combines knowledge and approaches from a variety of biomedical, behavioral, and social science disciplines to gain a better understanding of the complex multi-level interactions that determine healthy and pathological human functioning.” Strategies include:

- Increase communication and cooperation between sociobehavioral and biomedical researchers;
- Increase cross-disciplinary training opportunities;
- Create cross-disciplinary funding initiatives;
- Increase the visibility of behavioral and social science within the NIH community.

GOAL III: *Improve Communications among Health Scientists and with the Public* - develop

“comprehensive communications plan that would involve activities aimed at: (1) improving communication and information exchange among behavioral and social scientists; (2) improving communication between sociobehavioral and biomedical scientists; (3) increasing the dissemination of behavioral and social science findings to the public and health care providers; (4) improving medial coverage of behavioral and social sciences research; and (5) ensuring that policymakers are kept abreast of developments in these fields. Strategies include

- Establish communication links between OBSSR and the behavioral and social science community;
- Disseminate behavioral and social research findings to the public and practitioners;
- Improve media coverage;

- Increase communications and cooperation between sociobehavioral and biomedical researchers;
- Increase the visibility of behavioral and social science within the NIH community.

For a look at the strategic plan see the OBSSR's web page at: <http://www.nih.gov>.

KEY FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS

Anthropologist William R. Ferris has been nominated by the White House as the next chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. If confirmed by the Senate, which is considered likely, he would replace Sheldon Hackney, who led NEH since 1993 and recently returned to the University of Pennsylvania. MB X3

Ferris, director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, is an internationally renowned scholar of Southern folklore. His nomination has received widespread support, including the key endorsement of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS).

President Clinton has selected Margaret Hamburg to be the new Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the Department of Health and Human Services. Hamburg served from 1991 to 1997 as the New York City Health Commissioner, where she is credited for designing and implementing a major tuberculosis control program.

If confirmed by the Senate, Hamburg will serve as the principal advisor to HHS Secretary Donna Shalala on policy development, program analysis, and economic policy. ASPE supports a research grants program on issues such as welfare reform, health care and at-risk-youth.

President Clinton announced his intention to nominate Arthur Bienenstock as the new Associate Director for Science at the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The announcement is the first step in the nomination process that ends with Senate confirmation. Bienenstock will replace Ernest

Moniz, who left the office in January 1997. Clifford Gabriel has served as acting since then.

Bienenstock is the Director of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory at Stanford University, a division of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. He also serves as Professor in the Departments of Materials Science and Applied Physics. Additionally, he was Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at Stanford and the university's first faculty affirmative action officer. Bienenstock has served on many scientific advisory panels of the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council. He received a B.S. and M.S. in Physics from the Polytechnic University of New York and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Applied Physics.

ALCOHOL AND HEALTH REPORT LINKS BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

AS

In its *Special Report to the U.S. Congress on Alcohol and Health*, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) makes the latest advances in alcohol research available to policymakers, health professionals, scientists, educators and others. The report highlights research on alcohol use, abuse, and dependence by individuals and society, as well as recent progress in developing interventions to prevent and treat alcohol damage.

"The *Special Reports to the U.S. Congress on Alcohol and Health* document the past and provide a window to the future," said NIAAA's Director Enoch Gordis. "By summarizing research progress every three years, with particular emphases on cutting-edge science, the *Special Reports* lets us glimpse not only where research has been, but also where it is going."

Among the topics highlighted by the report: psychological and socioculture factors influencing alcohol use; the effectiveness of behavioral, psychological, and pharmacological treatment interventions; insights from neuroscience studies that are increasing the understanding of how alcohol's actions on the brain are involved in the development of alcohol addiction; improvement of alcohol treatment and prevention services through health

services research; and the effectiveness of various innovative community-based prevention approaches.

Varmus Recognizes Impact of Behavioral Factors

In the document's preface, National Institutes of Health Director Harold Varmus notes that "scientific advances over the past quarter century have dramatically increased our understanding of the causes and consequences of many diseases. One of the most intriguing advances that we have seen in medical science is the growing understanding of the links between biology and behavior . . . With the cutting-edge tools available to science today, we are learning more and more about how biology and behavior influence disease and, and perhaps, even more importantly, how biology influences behavior and how behavior influences biology. The linking of the biological and behavioral sciences is nowhere more evident than with respect to alcohol abuse and alcoholism."

Copies of the report are available for \$11.00 via written request to NIAAA, P.O. Box 10686, Rockville, Maryland 20849-0686.

INTEGRATING NIMH, NIDA AND NIAAA INTO THE NIH PEER REVIEW PROCESS

AS

In 1992 Congress moved the research parts of the three agencies that made up the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration into the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As part of the move, Congress required the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to adopt the peer review process used by NIH.

Speaking to the National Institute on Nursing's Advisory Council on September 23, Virginia S. Cain, special assistant to the Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), described how NIH will accomplish this task.

Cain chairs a working group that has begun the process of integrating the three institute's into the

newly named Center for Scientific Review (CSR), formerly NIH's Division of Research Grants.

The congressionally-mandated integration of these institutes, Cain explained "provided the opportunity to examine current CSR study sections and reorganize them as necessary, not only to accommodate the addition of the NIMH, NIDA, and NIAAA reviews, but to shape them to better cover behavioral and social science as it is conducted today." She noted that the Working Group is taking a "broad view" and will use the OBSSR definition of behavioral and social sciences research.

Cain said that the Directors of the affected institutes met in August and helped the working group develop the following five principles:

- 1) The array of applications being considered by a scientific review group should be determined by the scientific focus of the research, rather than by the professional affiliation of the principal investigator, the grant mechanism applied for, or the research technique to be utilized.
- 2) The range of science to be considered by a review group should allow a breadth of perspective, yet this should be balanced by an appropriate depth of scientific expertise.
- 3) To allow flexibility in review, the range of scientific expertise of review groups should overlap.
- 4) When both clinical and basic research are reviewed by a single study section, representation of expertise in both areas should be appropriate.
- 5) The structure of the initial review process should be flexible enough to accommodate emerging scientific areas.

Twelve NIH institutes are currently participating in the review, Cain said, and from this the working group will develop the major areas of science. "Following the development of broad categories, the group will recommend specific study sections within the categories," she said.

Cain also emphasized that the working group has established a subcommittee to include the extramural

scientific community early in the process of developing the major areas of science and the subsequent study section development. The working group's recommendations will be presented to the Institutes and the Peer Review Oversight Group.

NIMH TO FUND CENTERS

The National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) is seeking applications for Centers for Behavioral Science Research in Mental Health. The Centers will provide integrated "multidisciplinary research environments in which to pursue focused questions in basic behavioral science related to mental health and questions in basic behavioral science related to mental health and mental disorder."

Up to \$3.25 million will be available across Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999 to support up to five new or competing centers. A maximum of three centers will be funded in either year. The two goals of the CBSR are: (1) to foster integration among the various basic behavioral science approaches in order to provide a fuller understanding of mental health; and (2) to bring the process of translating basic behavioral findings and techniques from the laboratory or the field to more applied mental health arenas by including in each Center some examinations of relevant clinical, preventive, or services issues related to mental health and disorder.

Related research areas include: Societal and cultural influences on behavior; stress, coping and adaptation; language and communication; marital and family relationships; emotion and mood; group identity and behavior (including multi-ethnic and minority issues); interpersonal interactions and processes, learning and memory; personality/individual differences; gender differences; sensation and perception, sexual and reproductive behavior; and reasoning; problem-solving; decision-making; and planning.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of intent by January 5, 1998. For more information contact Mary Ellen Oliveri at 301/443-4822 or MOLIVERI@NIH.GOV.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT

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.

National Research Council: Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowships for Minorities

The goal of the program, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and administered by the National Research Council (NRC), is to increase the presence of under represented minorities on the nation's college and university faculties. Dissertation fellowships are awarded in a nationwide competition to individuals who demonstrate superior scholarship and show greatest promise for future achievement as scholars, researchers, and teachers in institutions of higher education. The **deadline** will be November 15, 1997. For additional information the website is: www2.nas.edu/of/20fe.html

★★★★★

Department of Education: Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education Comprehensive Program

The purpose of this program is to provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities. The **deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications** is October 24, 1997 and the **deadline for Transmittal of Final Applications** is March 20, 1998. **Contact:** Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) for information at (202) 708-5750 or to obtain the application text from Internet address: <http://www.ed.gov/officers/OPE/FIPSE>

National Institute of Mental Health: Mental Health Education Grants

The purpose of these grants is to provide innovative educational programs to encourage individuals to pursue mental health research or to enhance research and career skills in critical areas of need. For additional information **contact** Dianne Rausch at (301) 443-3563 or through email: drausch@nih.gov. A **letter of intent is due** by December 1, April 1 or August 1 and the **final application** is due by February 1, June 1 or October 1.

★★★★★

Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health: AIDS International Training and Research Program

Applicants sought from non-profit private and public U.S. institutions with interest in working with foreign colleagues to build global HIV/AIDS research capacity and thereby help to prevent HIV transmission through development of HIV/AIDS international training and research programs for foreign health scientists, clinicians, and allied health workers in collaboration with U.S. scientists in developing countries. A **letter of intent is due** by October 15, 1997 with the **final application due** by February 18, 1998. For additional information **contact:** Kenneth Bridbord at (301) 496-2516, **email:** bridbord@nih.gov.

MEMBERS

American Anthropological Association
American Economic Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association

American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers

Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Society for Research in Child Development

AFFILIATES

AACSB - The International Association for Management Education
American Agricultural Economics Association
American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Council on Consumer Interests
American Educational Research Association
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Research Libraries

Eastern Sociological Society
History of Science Society
International Studies Association
Institute For Operations Research and the Management Sciences
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
North Central Sociological Association

Population Association of America
Rural Sociological Society
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Sociologists for Women in Society
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association

CONTRIBUTORS

American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
University of Arizona
Bowling Green State University
Brookings Institution
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
Carnegie-Mellon University
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
University of Chicago
Clark University
University of Colorado
Columbia University
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Cornell University
Duke University
Emory University
University of Georgia

Harvard University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
Institute for Women's Policy Research
University of Iowa
Johns Hopkins University
Kansas State University
University of Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
National Bureau of Economic Research
National Opinion Research Center
New York University

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Social Science Research Council
Stanford University
State University of New York, Binghamton
State University of New York, Stony Brook
University of Tennessee
University of Texas, Austin
Texas A & M University
Tulane University
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Yale University

Consortium of Social Science Associations

1522 K Street, N.W., Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005
