

**APPROPRIATIONS SETTLED:  
CONGRESS ADJOURNS** *HS*

After settling the last disputes on the remaining four appropriations bills, the first session of the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned on November 13. The second session is scheduled to commence on January 26.

The Commerce, Justice, State bill had the dubious distinction as the last of the 13 FY 1998 spending bills to pass Congress. Finally agreeing to let the Census bureau test sampling in two of the three dress rehearsal sites next year, Congress still maintained its ability to bar sampling at any point in the next two-year run-up to the 2000 Census.

On the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education bill, the administration and Congress reached an agreement that will allow further development of a national test. The administration could not implement the national test until it is specifically authorized by the Congress. In the meantime, the National Academy of Sciences will conduct a study to determine if the current battery of tests conducted by states and the National Assessment of Educational Progress can be translated into individual assessments.

Congress sent the D.C. appropriations bill to the President after removing the controversial school voucher program from it and enacting it as separate legislation that the administration can veto. The Foreign Operations bill went forward after conferees dropped the provision blocking family planning money for organizations that perform or promote abortion in other countries. As the price for yielding to the administration position, Congress refused to appropriate any funds for the U.S. contribution to the United Nations or the International Monetary Fund.

(Appropriations Details on p. 5)

**COSSA'S ANNUAL MEETING** *HS*

On November 17, COSSA held its Annual Meeting. Sixty representatives from the Consortium's Members, Affiliates, and Contributors heard from a number of federal officials, discussed infrastructure needs and problems in the social and behavioral sciences, and heard people from the fourth estate consider the press treatment of social science. COSSA's President Eleanor Maccoby of Stanford University presided. This issue of *UPDATE* covers the talks of the three main speakers and the press panel. The next edition will include a story focusing on social science databases and infrastructure. This story will incorporate Felice Levine's presentation at COSSA's annual meeting as well as coverage of meetings of the Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (CBASSE) and the NSF's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate's Advisory Committee.

**WHITE HOUSE'S CHUBIN DISCUSSES  
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE** *DL*

Daryl Chubin, assistant director for social and behavioral sciences at the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, began the day with a discussion about social and behavioral science policy and the federal government.

**INSIDE UPDATE**

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Chubin started his discussion with a few words about his position at OSTP. He said that his job at OSTP has encompassed three main duties: supporting the science advisor and the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST); coordination of agency activities; and working with constituencies, an area where "COSSA is so valuable."

The OSTP, according to Chubin, is a "steward for science and the national interest" as articulated in the Science in the National Interest Report of 1994. He optimistically noted that since arriving at OSTP, he has seen five areas of emerging opportunities for social and behavioral science input: improving math and science education; increasing the funding for research on children; achieving the goals of the human capital initiative; improving the research capability of minority institutions; and addressing youth violence and juvenile justice. On this last issue, he commented that the National Institute of Justice is currently involved in "an enormous amount of quality research . . . which probably deserves a closer look."

Chubin proceeded to discuss recent "political flashpoints," including Census 2000, the Candidate Emergence Study, a concern for social science at the National Park Service, the reduction in basic science support at the Air Force, a continuing concern for social science infrastructures and

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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. ISBN 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.

databases, controversy surrounding the fossil remains "of a 9,200 year skeleton found on the banks of the Columbia river" and the remains of a Tyrannosaurus Rex found in Montana.

Briefly discussing OSTP's role in the President's Initiative on Race, Chubin said that OSTP has developed a work plan to describe the effects of racism on minority participation in science and technology and ways to alleviate the problem.

He said that OSTP, working in conjunction with the American Sociological Association, is attempting to reach scholars who can describe the "state of scientific knowledge about the root causes of racism and identify research gaps."

Through the work of OSTP and other agencies, Chubin said that social and behavioral scientists have had their research and development priorities "respected," and have provided information for policymaking. Unfortunately, however, there are projects where social and behavioral scientists' input, has been minimal, including a set of initiatives on climate change. He therefore concluded that "there is work to be done."

#### RICHE TALKS ABOUT THE CENSUS D4

Martha Farnsworth Riche, director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, spoke about the difficulties she has faced in preparing for the 2000 Census. The bureau's goal has been to produce "a more accurate, less costly" Census. Acknowledging that no Census has ever counted everyone, the Bureau decided that sampling would be used to complete the enumeration of the U.S. population. This raised problems with Congress. In addition, the revision of Directive 15 regarding race and ethnicity (see *UPDATE*, November 10) created early problems with the nation's minority groups. There is still discussion as to the fate of the long form. All of these situations, Riche suggested, came down to a matter of trust or lack of it by the funders and constituents of the Bureau.

With regard to sampling, the denouement of this year's dispute, amounted to what Riche called "an operational truce." Congress will allow the use

of sampling in two of the three test sites for next year's Census "dress rehearsal." In Sacramento, California and an Indian reservation in Wisconsin, after attempts to count the population are made, sampling will be utilized to fill in the missing gaps. In Columbia, South Carolina and its surrounding rural counties, the rehearsal will be conducted without statistical sampling, an "old style Census," Riche said. Congress has provided sufficient funds to the Bureau to complete conducting and analyzing the dress rehearsal sometime next Winter.

Congress expects the bureau to compare the results of the Sacramento and Columbia trials. Riche stressed that this is an unfair comparison, since the two communities are "apples and oranges." She hoped the social and behavioral science community would continue to follow the example of the American Statistical Association's statement supporting sampling as a valid statistical technique for use in finishing the count of the American people. If the dress rehearsal is a success, Riche said the use of statistical sampling would reduce the error rate to 0.1 percent at the national level, and 0.6 percent at the Congressional district level. The error rate for the traditional old style Census was 1.9 percent.

Riche felt that the results of the revision of Directive 15, providing an opportunity for Americans to check off more than one racial category, had satisfied most in the minorities community. She expressed some concern about the tabulation of the data, but noted that an inter-agency task force was working on the problem. The ultimate fate of the long form question is somewhat more difficult. Riche noted that in focus groups around the country the Bureau discovered that the people wanted the information provided by the long form about educational attainment, health care, and transportation indicators. Congress, however, believes it is the customer for the Census and they believe that the long form depresses response rates, Riche said. The problem is that many members of Congress view data collection as a burden.

Another concern Riche had was the Bureau's ability in getting the dress rehearsal done since the dispute over sampling has put them six weeks behind. She also expressed concern about the Bureau's ability to hire the required number of workers to

conduct the initial count. She did say that the Bureau will undertake a massive marketing campaign to get Americans to fill out their Census forms

### **Online Dissemination Planned**

Riche told the audience that the data for Census 2000 would be delivered online through the Data Access Dissemination System (DADS). She said that this system, to be created by IBM, will be a "fantastic educational tool" for researchers and students. The system, "a large-scale data mapping," will allow individuals interested in the data to choose their own variables for testing. Riche said the Bureau's operational deadline for the DADS online system is 2001. She lauded the system's possibilities in the nation's school system. Ultimately, DADS will be used to deliver all of the Census Bureau's data, not just the decennial census.

### **AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES** *DH*

Judith Auerbach, coordinator of the Behavioral, Social Science and Prevention Center of the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, was the meeting's luncheon speaker. Auerbach, who once served as COSSA's associate director for government affairs, spoke on the AIDS epidemic in the United States and what steps the National Institutes of Health has undertaken to address the "shifting" epidemic.

Auerbach began her talk with a rundown of the current demographic figures of AIDS cases in the United States. Auerbach noted that the epidemic is in the process of shifting. In 1996, the disease affected more males than females, 84% to 16%, respectively. Now, however, women account for 20% of those afflicted with AIDS. In addition, Auerbach said that the disease is progressively affecting more injection drug users and heterosexual couples. She also pointed to the fact that the disease is also "not proportionately representative of the population"; the proportion of African Americans (35%) and Hispanics (18%) afflicted with the disease is much greater than their percentage of the total population.

## OAR Research Activities

As mandated by the Omnibus Health Bill of 1988, the OAR is required to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for AIDS-related research and distribute funds for AIDS research to the National Institutes of Health. The OAR also directs the planning, coordination and integration of all AIDS research activities across the institutes, centers and divisions. The NIH AIDS research effort is based on five areas of scientific emphasis, including: natural history and epidemiology; etiology and pathogenesis; therapeutics; vaccines; behavioral and social science research. Additional funds are also allocated to training, infrastructure and capacity building, and information dissemination.

The budgetary allocation for the comprehensive plan for AIDS research, according to Auerbach, was \$1.5 billion in FY 1997. She noted that behavioral and social science research was one of the least funded areas of research while natural history and epidemiology received the greatest funding. The areas were expected to receive the following funding levels in FY 1997: natural history and epidemiology, \$228.3 million; etiology and pathogenesis, \$430.6 million; therapeutics research, \$447.1 million; behavioral and social science research, \$196.6 million; training and infrastructure, \$50.0 million; and information dissemination research, \$17.0 million. Auerbach stated that most of the research areas are expected to receive increases in the FY 1998 budget, but behavioral and social science research, however, will not see a significant rise in its share of the funding (see *UPDATE*, January 13).

Social and behavioral science AIDS research has four main priorities: primary prevention of HIV infection and transmission through intervention research, primary prevention of HIV infection and transmission through basic social and behavioral science research, research for developing and evaluating strategies to deal with the consequences of HIV and AIDS, and research to advance and enhance HIV-related behavioral and social science research. Auerbach told the crowd that the majority of funds for this research are devoted to "primary prevention through intervention science," which includes

development, implementation and evaluation of HIV prevention interventions.

The NIH recently formed a working group under the director to "promote innovative and cross-disciplinary research." It is also attempting to develop a "vision statement" about the types of studies and activities that the office needs to engage in to be more effective. Auerbach said that the charge of the new working group is to "assist the OAR and the NIH in defining HIV prevention science, and in identifying opportunities, priorities and gaps in HIV prevention science and developing and implementing a research agenda to address them." The NIH set aside \$6 million for research projects that met the criteria articulated by the working group. The money was devoted to several research projects, including research to assess the impact of new therapies on HI transmission, to develop strategies to prevent perinat HIV transmission and to develop comprehensive HI prevention strategies for injection drug users.

For more information about the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, consult their Internet webpage at <http://www.nih.gov/od/oar/>.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE AND THE PRESS *DIH*

E.J. Dionne, *Washington Post* syndicated columnist and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, moderated a lively discussion entitled "Social Science and the Press." The panel included Daniel Greenberg, retired editor of *Science and Government Report*, Wil Lepkowski, senior correspondent for *Chemical and Engineering News* and Rochelle Stanfield, journalist for the weekly *National Journal*. The panel discussed the relationship of social scientists and the press. While each panelist offered his or her own unique view on the social sciences and the press, they all agreed on two main points.

First, the panelists discussed the press' use of sources to substantiate and strengthen their stories. An audience member raised the point that journalists often use the same sources for their stories. The panelists agreed that journalists often do use limited sources to substantiate stories, but it is not always by

design. Stanfield told the audience that many times she will call a particular person, but they will not call her back. The people who are used as sources, she explained, are often the ones who return phone calls. Greenberg noted that the press also uses a limited number of science journals as sources, including Science, New England Journal of Medicine and The Lancet.

Despite their views on the use of sources, the panelists agreed that the press and social scientists have a collaborative relationship. It is up to both sides to promote social science and to ensure that more social scientists are used as experts or, as Lepkowski preferred, "specialists." Dionne agreed with the other panelists but stated that the onus is on social scientists. He said that it is up to social scientists to "get into the public debate" and become "more involved in self-promotion." They should be more involved in self-promotion. He also noted that social scientists "run into problems with the press" because the press are often skeptical of social science data. The data, according to Dionne, is often used "tendentiously" to promote a particular point of view. Lepkowski stated that "there is a lot of work to do" for social scientists to be accepted by the press.

Stanfield offered another view of the press' skepticism of the social sciences. She noted that reporters and editors are uncomfortable with ambiguity. The social sciences, according to Stanfield and the other panelists, are riddled with ambiguities; thus, a precarious press-social science relationship inevitably results. Some of the problems between the press and social scientists were also attributed to the nature of the social sciences. The social sciences deal with human and societal problems which are often intractable.

Greenberg juxtaposed the current situation with the multiplication of the press with on-line resources. Reporters can now substantiate a story or receive sources on the Internet without talking directly to social scientists. Dionne further noted that at the same time there is increasing subject expertise of journalists. This has resulted in a situation where the reporters and editors don't necessarily have to consult "social scientists" for

verification or substantiation. Greenberg admonished the crowd not to worry too much and pointed to Ben Bradlee's insight that press stories are only the first draft of history.

## MORE APPROPRIATIONS DETAILS

AS, #5

The Labor, Health Human Services, Education appropriations conference agreement provided \$2.378 billion for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**. The bill provides \$86 million for the National Center for Health Statistics, with 59.2 million coming from the Public Health one percent evaluation set-aside. The conferees set aside \$51 million for the violence against women programs, which are financed from the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

The agreement includes \$113.7 million for the sexually transmitted disease program, an increase of \$7.5 million. As stipulated in both the House and Senate bills, the conference committee approved thirty-four million dollars more than the president requested for chronic and environmental disease prevention program priorities, including diabetes prevention and control.

The conferees agreed to House language regarding the need for "a comprehensive cardiovascular program, with particular emphasis on risk factors and the promotion of health behaviors." The agreement includes funding increases above the 1997 levels for the following "activities within the injury control program: fire injury prevention; community-based strategies against youth violence and suicide; domestic violence prevention; . . . suicide prevention among the elderly; and prevention of accidental injury among older Americans."

In addition, the conferees expressed their approval of "the progress made in the" national health and nutrition examination survey (NHANES). Consequently, conferees provided "sufficient funds" to fully fund "this important survey at the requested level."

**The National Institutes of Health (NIH)** received \$13.6 billion — a \$907 million or 7.1 percent budget increase for FY 1998.

The conference agreement provides \$674.8 million for the **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**. The conferees concurred with the Senate report language directing NICHD Director Duane Alexander to take the “lead in convening the national panel to assess the status of research-based knowledge on the effectiveness of various approaches of teaching children to read.”

The agreement also provides \$519.3 million for the **National Institute on Aging**; \$63.6 million for the **National Institute on Nursing Research**; \$227.2 million for the **National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism**; \$527.2 million for the **National Institute on Drug Abuse**; and \$750.2 million for the **National Institute on Mental Health**. The conferees did not include additional report language for these institutes.

Congress expects NIH Director Harold Varmus to provide leadership for a pediatric research initiative, as part of the NIH Areas of Special Emphasis. The special emphasis areas target those “areas of research opportunity most likely to yield greater returns on the Federal investment.” The NIH estimates that it will support \$38.5 million in funding for the pediatric research initiative, in addition to the funds provided by the conference committee and the appropriations bill.

Expressing their concern regarding delays in the initiation of the “study on the status and funding of research on cancer among minorities and the medically underserved,” the conferees stressed that this research is a priority. The conferees expect Dr. Varmus to be prepared to report on the progress of the study at the FY 1999 budget request hearings.

**The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research** will be provided \$90.2 million in funding for FY 1998. In addition, the conferees designated \$56.2 for AHCPR under the Public Health Service one percent evaluation set-aside, for a total allocation of \$146.4 million.

The Fiscal Year 1998 appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State (CJS) was approved by the House-Senate conference committee November 13 by a 282-110 vote. The CJS appropriations bill, which provides \$31.2 billion in discretionary spending, was the last of the 13 appropriations bills; it is currently awaiting President Clinton’s signature.

The conference agreement allocates \$137.3 million for **Bureau of the Census Salaries and Expenses** account; the House proposed \$136.5 for the account while the Senate proposed \$138.1 million. In addition, the conferees approved \$555.8 million for the Census Bureau’s Periodic Census and Programs account — approximately \$8.1 million more than the House requested and \$35.1 million more than the Senate requested. As a separate appropriation under this account, the conference report allocates \$389.9 million for FY 1998 for decennial census programs. This account includes \$27 million for the Census Bureau to plan and develop a contingency plan in case sampling is not used in the 2000 decennial census and \$4.1 million for modifications to the dress rehearsal. The conference report includes, as part of the amount approved for the Census Bureau’s Periodic Census and Programs account, \$165.9 million for other periodic programs, including \$63.7 million for economic censuses and \$24.8 million for data processing systems.

The conferees appropriated \$42.6 million for the **National Institute of Justice**. The amount coincides with the House proposal but is considerably less than the Senate allocation of \$50.1 million. The appropriation for the NIJ includes \$7.0 million for NIJ research and evaluation on the causes of and impact of domestic violence provided under the Violence Against Women Act grants program.

The report also provides \$20 million for the **Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program** for the research and development of new law enforcement technologies. The **Bureau of Justice Statistics** received \$21.5 million, as stipulated in both the House and Senate bills.

Conferees agreed on a \$238.7 million allocation for **Juvenile Justice programs** — a 36% increase over funding for FY 1997. The conference committee agreed on the funds despite the fact that Congress is considering major changes to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs in its unfinished reauthorization of the legislation creating these activities. As part of the total funding level, \$231.7 million is “for grants and administrative expenses for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention programs.” The agreement also provides \$1.4 billion for the **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** program.

The conferees agreed on Senate language and provided the **Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs of the United States Information Agency** with \$197.7 million. The amount is less than the Senate proposal (\$200 million) but greater than the House proposal (\$193.7 million). This amount includes \$25 million for the expansion of broadcasting to China of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America.

The **Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation** received \$14 million, \$5 million of which is to be used for a study on the outcomes of welfare reform. The conferees “recommend that this study involve state specific surveys and data sets, survey data on the impacts of state waiver programs, and administrative data such as Food Stamp, Social Security and Internal Revenue Service records.” Congress also directs ASPE to submit its research plan to the National Academy of Sciences for approval.

The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** will receive \$327.6 million in federal funds and \$380.5 million in total (including trust funds), a six percent increase in federal funds over last year. **Research, Demonstrations, and Evaluation at the Employment and Training Administration** will receive \$10.2 million, a \$2 million increase over FY 1997.

Once again, Congress provided \$5.9 million for continuations and a new competition in the **Javits Fellowship** program for graduate study in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. It will remain a separate competition within the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program. **International Education and Foreign Language** programs

received \$60.4 million, a slight increase over last year. Congress provided a half-million dollar increase for the Fulbright-Hays overseas program and a \$100,000 increase for the American Overseas Research Center program.

The conferees funded the **Office of Educational Research and Improvement's** five research institutes at last year's level of \$54 million. This may create a problem for funding new Field Initiated Studies research. The Regional Laboratories received a \$5 million increase to \$56 million, as part of the \$150 million education reform package. The **National Center for Educational Statistics** was allocated \$59 million, a \$9 million increase over FY 1997. The **Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)** was appropriated \$25 million, up \$7.2 million from last year. The National Education Goals Panel will continue in business for another year.

The **United States Institute of Peace** will receive \$11.2 million for its programs.

## **HESS JOINS COSSA STAFF; BUCKLEY GOES TO MARYLAND** *DH*

David Hess has joined the COSSA staff as Associate Director for Public Affairs. He replaces Michael Buckley who left COSSA after six and one half years to become the Executive Director of the Crime Prevention Effectiveness Program at the University of Maryland. In that capacity, he will be working closely with the university's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology.

Prior to joining COSSA, Hess was a staff writer for the *National Journal's* daily *American Health Line*. He earned a Masters in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. At Pittsburgh, he served as a Graduate Research Fellow for the Ridgway Center for International Security Studies. While at Pittsburgh, he also served as a student researcher for the National Drug Intelligence Center. Hess earned a B.A. in Government from Franklin & Marshall College.

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Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics  
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion  
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality  
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Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association  
Speech Communication Association  
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