NSF TO RESTORE SCIENCE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE?

Faced with a growing Congressional mandate for science education programs, officials at the National Science Foundation (NSF) are beginning to discuss the possibility of reestablishing NSF's Science Education Directorate. The Directorate was disbanded in FY 1982 because of the Reagan administration's budget reductions in science education. At that time, the National Science Board (NSB) established a commission to look into the question of national needs and possible activities in the area of precollege science and mathematics education. The report of the commission has not yet been completed but is expected to be available this fall.

In the meantime, the Congress, alarmed at what it saw as a need for more rather than less attention to science education, passed science education increases in NSF authorizing and appropriating legislation. The FY 1984 appropriation for NSF contains $75 million that is mandated for science education activities. In the face of this mandate, NSF director Edward Knapp recently told Foundation staff that he hopes to restore the Science Education Directorate.
REFORMS PROPOSED IN BRITISH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PLANNING

The effects of the Rothschild Report on the British Social Science Research Council (SSRC) (see COSSA Legislative Report, June 11, 1982) and the political controversies entailed by the commissioning of the report are apparent in current discussions on reforming the structure of research planning in the British SSRC. Plans under consideration would alter the structure of the SSRC Committee System and, at the same time, introduce changes in graduate education in the social sciences in British universities.

The SSRC, which is one of several research councils created by the British government to identify and support needed scientific research and research training, has been under political pressure from the Minister of Education and Science, Sir Keith Joseph, for several years. This pressure was heightened by a government sponsored evaluation of the SSRC that Sir Keith anticipated would recommend the disbanding of the SSRC. The report, which was prepared by a respected scientist, Lord Rothschild, instead strongly endorsed the activities of the SSRC.

The Rothschild Report did, however, propose some administrative changes in the SSRC. At the time of Lord Rothschild's investigation, the SSRC supported approximately 70 committees, panels, boards, and working groups to aid in accomplishing its objectives. The report objected to the administrative burden posed by these many groups and proposed that their number be reduced and their functions changed.

Even before the publication of the Rothschild Report, SSRC Chairman Michael Posner had suggested altering the SSRC structure to broaden committee responsibility to encompass research planning and the distribution of research grants. His proposal, currently under discussion, would give seven SSRC committees jurisdiction over research planning in each area and over the distribution of £ 10.7 million, or roughly half the SSRC budget. The committees, with their budgets, are listed below. A fuller description of the substantive range of the committees and their members is given in Attachment 1 from the [London] Times Higher Education Supplement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Affairs</td>
<td>£ 1.7m</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Human Development</td>
<td>£ 1.4m</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Planning</td>
<td>£ 1.3m</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Resources &amp; Methods</td>
<td>£ 0.7m</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government &amp; Law</td>
<td>£ 1.2m</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Affairs</td>
<td>£ 2.4m</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry &amp; Employment</td>
<td>£ 2.0m</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At the same time that the SSRC is considering changes in its advisory structure, it is also altering its system of graduate awards to make the British system more like the American model for graduate education. This new policy results from a government request that the SSRC make available more research awards to individuals through open competition and reduce the number of institutional awards to university departments. It is also in accord with the suggestion of Lord Rothschild that the SSRC use awards to individual students to encourage speedy completion of their degrees. "The issues raised are extremely intricate," he wrote, "but there is some case for a revision of the entire PhD system in the social sciences, involving, where appropriate, a transition to the American practice, according to which a doctoral degree is at least partly taught, and directed toward competence rather than originality." The Rothschild report recommended that the SSRC encourage universities to reorganize their graduate programs in most areas of the social sciences to include one year of course work followed by a qualifying exam and approximately two years' work on a thesis.

Making more grants to individuals would curtail the long-standing SSRC practice of making long-term awards to university departments, a system that was established in the 1960's to strengthen the newly developing social sciences. At that time, SSRC awards were seen as a means of providing a measure of institutional strength and stability for university social science departments that lacked the long university traditions of other disciplines.

Both the structural changes in the SSRC and the proposed adaptation of the American model of graduate study in the social sciences will be considered by members of the SSRC over the summer.

QUOTATION OF THE WEEK

"Committees are consumers and sometimes sterilizers of ideas, rarely creators of them."

- Henry Kissinger, cited in the Rothschild Report
COSSA SEEKS SUPPORT FOR NIMH, FIPSE BUDGETS

COSSA staff have been visiting the offices of Members of Congress on both the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education. Subcommittee members are being asked to increase funding for research training for FY 1984 at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), to support the increase in NIMH extramural research funding proposed by the administration budget, and to adopt report language that would recommend that NIMH funds for research and research training be distributed equitably among all scientific disciplines supported by NIMH, including the behavioral and social sciences. In addition, COSSA has been urging Subcommittee members to reject administration proposals to reduce the FY 1984 budget of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) by 49% and instead to increase the FIPSE budget by 5% over its FY 1983 level. FIPSE is the only federal agency that supports education initiatives on the postsecondary education level.

The Senate will not begin considering the large Labor, HHS, and Education appropriation until it reconvenes in September after the summer recess. Although the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education has completed marking up its bill, it has not been considered by the full House Appropriations Committee. Results of the Subcommittee markup are embargoed until full Committee consideration.

Obtaining congressional support for increased research budgets involves much more than asking for funds. An essential prior step is educating the Congress about the importance of research. The upcoming recess presents an excellent opportunity for social and behavioral scientists to visit the local offices of their Representatives and Senators to discuss the importance of continued federal support of research in the social and behavioral sciences and to provide information about the research currently underway in the Representative's district. Those researchers who reside in the states and districts of Members who are on either of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, HHS, and Education also have an opportunity to discuss the specific needs of NIMH and FIPSE. The names of members of the two Appropriations Subcommittees are listed below. Included as Attachments 3 and 4 are fact sheets used by COSSA to lobby on behalf of NIMH and FIPSE, respectively.

Readers who would like to visit their Members of Congress and have further questions are encouraged to call the COSSA office for assistance (202/234-5703).
COSSA SEEKS SUPPORT FOR NIMH, FIPSE BUDGETS (cont.)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education

Lowell Weicker, Chair (CT)  William Proxmire (WI)
Mark Hatfield (OR)  Robert C. Byrd (WV)
Ted Stevens (AK)  Ernest F. Hollings (SC)
Mark Andrews (ND)  Thomas F. Eagleton (MO)
Warren B. Rudman (NH)  Lawton Chiles (FL)
Arlen Specter (PA)  Quentin N. Burdick (ND)
James A. McClure (ID)  Daniel K. Inouye (HI)
Pete Dominici (NM)

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education

William H. Natcher, Chair (KY-2nd)  Silvio O. Conte (MA-1st)
Neal Smith (IA-4th)  George M. O'Brien (IL-4th)
David R. Obey (WI-7th)  Carl D. Pursell (MI-2nd)
Edward R. Roybal (CA-25th)  John Edward Porter (IL-10TH)
Louis Stokes (OH-21st)  C. W. Bill Young (FL-8th)
Joseph D. Early (MA-3rd)
Bernard J. Dwyer (NJ-6th)
Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5th)

COSSA CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR ON ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Over 100 Members of Congress and congressional staff attended a Congressional Luncheon Seminar on the role of foreign area studies and foreign language competence in promoting U.S. economic competitiveness abroad. The group was addressed by Dr. William O. Baker, retired Chairman of the Board of Bell Telephone Laboratories and member of the National Commission on Excellence in Education and the COSSA Board of Directors; Professor Michel Oksenberg, political scientist at the University of Michigan and former member of the National Security Council; and Professor Fritz Stern, historian at Columbia University and consultant on Western European and contemporary German affairs.

The luncheon seminar was organized as part of a continuing program to bring information about current research and its uses to the Congress. Co-sponsors of the seminar with COSSA were the American Council on Education, the International Educational Exchange Liaison Group, and the Joint National Committee on Languages. Congressional co-sponsors were the Export Task Force of the House of Representatives and the House and Senate International Education Group. Funds for the seminar were provided in part by the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

For an account of the seminar from the Washington Times, see Attachment 2.
SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for information.

Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

The Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 directs that small firms receive a fixed minimum percentage of research awards made by federal agencies having sizeable research and development budgets. It is estimated that $45 million will be awarded to researchers in all fields in FY 1983.

The solicitations listed below are open to small profit-oriented concerns only and concern topics of interest to social and behavioral scientists.

Department of Education (DOEd)

- Research and development of models, guides, and plans for handicapped populations - this topic includes plans for analyzing architectural barriers, integrating community resources, and other topics related to handicapped individuals.
- Input and output mechanisms and devices - includes ways of improving communication between learners and computers, with emphasis on handicapped populations.

Copies of the DOEd SBIR solicitation are available from:
Education Technology and Science Staff
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
Mail Stop 40
Washington, DC 20208
202/254-8247

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- National Institute on Aging - behavioral sciences research on aging; clinical research on aging.
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development - population research; research for mothers and children.
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism - treatment compliance; prevention.
- National Institute on Drug Abuse - adolescent prevention technology; prevention program assessment methods.

Copies of the DHHS SBIR solicitation are available from:
Office of Grant Inquiries, Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Building, Room 449
Bethesda, MD 20205
301/496-7441
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS — £1.7m for 1983/84 (16% of total)

The committee continues to work on a range of economic issues, particularly those concerning the impact of economic trends on society. It also receives regular briefings on the economy, particularly on the latest economic indicators and forecasts.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT — £1.4m for 1983/84 (13% of total)

The committee has been working on the development of new curricula and educational policies, particularly in the areas of science and technology.

GOVERNMENT AND LAW — £1.2m for 1983/84 (12% of total)

The committee has been focusing on issues related to government and law, particularly those concerning the impact of government policies on society.

INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT — £2.2m for 1983/84 (19% of total)

The committee has been working on issues related to industry and employment, particularly those concerning the impact of economic trends on employment and the economy.

RESEARCH RESOURCES AND METHODS — £0.7m for 1983/84 (7% of total)

The committee has been working on the development of new research methodologies and the assessment of existing research methods.
Linguistics are vital to overseas business

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

A distinguished educator and a retired Bell Telephone executive said yesterday that U.S. businessmen must become fluent in foreign languages to compete effectively in overseas markets.

Businessmen have difficulty negotiating complicated international deals because their knowledge of foreign languages rarely surpasses rudimentary levels, said William O. Baker, former chairman of the Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J.

Citing his personal experience as a Bell executive, Baker said the American communications giant experienced "enormous problems" when it won a contract to install microwave links in Saudi Arabia.

"The only thing that carried us through is that English is so widespread," Baker said. "We muddled through with it, but with this high-tech commerce we aren't going to be able to muddle through it in the future."

At a seminar sponsored by the American Council on Education, Baker said American industry must learn language and cultural habits in order to keep up with foreign counterparts.

"In comparison to the Japanese, Americans are not well equipped," he said.

Prof. Michel C. Oksenberg of the University of Michigan, an authority on contemporary China and a former senior member of the National Security Council, said U.S. companies were not doing enough to penetrate foreign markets.

"Our corporations do not have a long-term development strategy like the Japanese," Oksenberg said.

"For example, Japanese companies are spending huge sums to establish their own brand-name products in overseas markets, he said.

Seiko watches can be seen on city streets in China, and Mitsubishi has a long-range plan to market its electronic products in that country, he added.

Despite the language barrier, Oksenberg said some large U.S. corporations like Coca-Cola and Philip Morris have done credible marketing jobs in China.
RESEARCH ON MENTAL HEALTH

Fact Sheet for the National Institute of Mental Health, FY 1984 Budget

Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education are urged to fund extramural mental health research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the level requested by the administration ($119.2 million) and to increase funds for research training in mental health by $5 million.

Mental illness is one of the nation's major public health problems. It is estimated that about 20 million people in the United States suffer from some form of mental illness. Moreover, the annual cost of mental illness, taking into account factors such as loss of earnings and the cost of care in and out of institutions, is estimated to exceed $25 billion. Mental health research in the social and behavioral sciences at NIMH has expanded and improved the range of treatment options available to patients and has extended our understanding of the etiology and the cause of mental illness.

Extramural Research at NIMH

The administration is requesting an increase of 12% in NIMH extramural research funds. It is important that these funds not be used in a single discipline or field of inquiry but that they be used to support the best and most promising research in all fields. For example, social and behavioral science research is beginning to clarify such basic mental processes as learning, memory, and emotional development. It is helping practitioners to understand how stress and the strategies we use to cope with stress affect mental health. A fuller discussion of the contribution of scientific research in this area can be seen in the report to the Director of NIMH of the Behavioral Sciences Cluster Group.

Recommendation: Extramural research at NIMH should be funded at the requested level of $119.2 million. The Committee report should include language emphasizing that promising research from all disciplines, including the social and behavioral sciences, be supported with these funds.

Research Training at NIMH

NIMH research training grants to university programs in the biological, social and behavioral sciences allow these science departments to train researchers with expertise in issues of mental health. Funds are awarded to provide stipends for pre- and post-doctoral trainees and to support specialized training in areas of mental health research. Recognizing the importance of research training support and the need for additional funding in this area, the Congress added $1 million to the administration's requested budget for research training at NIMH in FY 1983. The FY 1984 budget request, however, is at almost the same level at the FY 1983 budget for research training.

Recommendation: We urge the Congress to put an additional $5 million in the NIMH research training budget for FY 1984. The Committee report should include language emphasizing that this increase in research training support be extended proportionally to all disciplines supported by NIMH in the form most useful to each discipline.
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) urges Members of Congress to fund FIPSE for FY 1984 at $12.3 million, 5% above its FY 1983 level.

FIPSE, the major instrument through which the federal government encourages improvements in postsecondary education, appears to be slated for elimination by the administration. The President has proposed that FIPSE's budget for FY 1983 of $11.7 million be halved for FY 1984. This reduction would preclude the initiation of new awards, since approximately half of each annual budget is used to fund continuing commitments.

COSSA strongly urges Members of Congress to continue supporting FIPSE and the innovative postsecondary education projects it funds. As economic, technological and demographic conditions continue to change, many postsecondary institutions will be required to make major adjustments in their missions and delivery systems. Thus the need for venture capital in postsecondary education — and that is what FIPSE provides — has never been greater.

There are, moreover, important proposals to support. FIPSE is now receiving many worthy applications that address issues such as enhancing the state role in postsecondary education, electronic technology and education, institutional management and leadership, high school/college cooperation, and retraining of the workforce. Indeed, among the strongest proposals are those that deal with developing cooperative educational efforts among colleges, local governments, unions, and business.

FIPSE's remarkable effectiveness and reputation have set it apart from other federal programs:

- 70% of projects continue (and usually grow) after the grant ends, compared with rates of 5% to 15% in other federal education seed grant programs.

- Most projects influence other postsecondary education institutions, without further federal funds. Also, in a random survey of educators, evaluators of FIPSE found that FIPSE is widely known and that 80% of those who know FIPSE think that it has broken new ground.

- FIPSE has been able to reach new audiences. One-third of the grantees from 1973-78 had never before applied to any Federal programs.

- FIPSE has conducted special competitions with money transferred from the Department of Labor and the Carnegie Corporation.

- Applications increased from 1750 in 1981 to 2250 in 1982 and 2300 in 1983. The number of new grants made in 1982 was 71 or 3 out of every 100 applications.

The 5 percent increase being requested would allow FIPSE to fund approximately the same number of awards that it did in FY 1983 and to continue its pioneering work in postsecondary education innovation.