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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## SCIENCE EDUCATION: A LIMITED APPROACH

The report of the National Science Board (NSB) Commission on Precollege Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology, released on September 13, lays out a plan for improving both the educational context for science and math instruction and the performance of the nation's students by 1995. The plan deals with such tangibles as standardized testing, teacher retraining, and curriculum improvement as well as with the intangibles of national commitment to quality education in science, math, and technology.

The support of the NSB and the National Science Foundation (NSF) augurs well for the success of this plan, for if improvements in science education are to take place, the science community must take a major responsibility in that effort. A second important aspect of the report is the recognition it gives to problems in other parts of the precollege curriculum. The report states clearly that deficiencies in science and math education cannot be isolated from educational problems in other areas.

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But welcome as is the message of the NSB report, it unfortunately is focused on educational needs in some of the sciences (the physical and natural sciences) and largely ignores those needs in other sciences (the social and behavioral sciences). This approach limits the applicability and usefulness of the report. The accumulated burden of the many recent reports on education in the United States today is that precollege education must be improved in all areas, not just in one or two. Moreover, if the nation takes a narrow disciplinary perspective on educational reform, the basic problems in our education system will remain unsolved long after the dust from the current furor over science, math, and technology education has settled.

It should be noted that the NSB report did not ignore the social and behavioral sciences completely. It wisely emphasized the need for math majors to learn something of statistics and probability prior to entering college, and it suggested that training in political science and history, like "science" and math, was in need of improvement. But the NSB report should not have stopped with these recommendations. For example, quantitative data from the social and behavioral sciences can be used to provide hands-on teaching of the use of the computer and methods of statistical analysis at the precollege level, combining technological training with analytical experience. Similarly, simple behavioral experiments can be undertaken to convey to precollege students a sense of the complexity of human behavior patterns, the intricacies of multivariate analysis, and the nature and problems of observational science. This kind of hard analytic training in the social and behavioral sciences would provide the nation with a generation of high school graduates who are knowledgeable about the use of technology and intellectually capable of advanced training in all areas of national need.

Lewis Thomas has written that science is increasingly viewed as Latin was once viewed -- that its facts are superior to facts in other fields. This approach weakens rather than strengthens both science and education. It reduces science to a set of facts and fails to recognize or to teach the hard analytic basis of human thought.

#### CONGRESS RETURNS

Congress returned from its August recess on September 12 and currently plans to be in session until November 15, two and one-half weeks longer than was initially anticipated. Only one week remains to consider remaining appropriations legislation before the new fiscal year begins on October 1. At that time, agencies without appropriations legislation passed by the Congress and signed by the President will be funded by an omnibus funding bill called a continuing resolution. As of this writing, only 4 out of 13 appropriations bills are completed.

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CONGRESS ACTS ON LABOR, HHS, ED APPROPRIATION

The appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education (Ed) continued to move through Congress as the COSSA Washington Update went to press. On September 15, the full Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives finished work on its bill and reported it out of Committee. The bill is scheduled to be considered by the full House on Thursday, September 22. House appropriation levels for agencies which fund research in the social and behavioral sciences are listed in the table below:

Committee-Approved House Appropriations  
(In millions of dollars)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Actual FY 1983</u>	<u>House Level FY 1984</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Nat'l Inst. of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD)	\$ 244.8	\$ 265.2	+8
Nat'l Inst. on Aging (NIA)	91.6	112.5	+23
Nat'l Center for Health Services Research (NCHSR)	14.4	15.7	+9
Ass't Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)	10.5	10.0	-5
Adolescent Family Life Act	13.5	16.3	+21
Nat'l Inst. of Education (NIE)	55.6	48.2	-13
Title VI Fullbright-Hays (foreign language & area studies)	26.0	35.6	+37

On the same day that the House Appropriations Committee completed its work, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education completed its markup of the Senate bill. Although the full details of the provisions of the Senate bill are not yet available, it is known that the budget level for NIE approved by the Subcommittee is \$4 million less than the budget requested by the administration and approved by the House Appropriations Committee.

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CONGRESS ACTS ON LABOR, HHS, ED APPROPRIATION (cont.)

As of this writing, no date had been set for mark-up of the bill by full committee. COSSA is contacting members of the Senate Appropriations Committee urging them to increase the NIE budget to its FY 1983 level of \$55.6 million. Update readers are urged to contact their Senators if they are members of this committee. A list of Appropriations Committee members follows:

## Senate Appropriations Committee

Mark O. Hatfield, Chairman (R-OR)	John C. Stennis (D-MS)
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. (R-CT)	Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)
James A. McClure (R-ID)	Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI)
Paul Laxalt (R-NV)	Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC)
Jake Garn (R-UT)	Thomas F. Eagleton (D-MO)
Thad Cochran (R-MS)	Lawton Chiles (D-FL)
Mark Andrews (R-ND)	J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA)
James Abdnor (R-SD)	Walter Huddleston (D-KY)
Robert W. Kasten, Jr. (R-WI)	Quentin N. Burdick (D-ND)
Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-NY)	Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT)
Mack Mattingly (R-GA)	James R. Sasser (D-TN)
Warren B. Rudman (R-NH)	Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ)
Arlen Specter (R-PA)	Dale Bumpers (D-AR)
Peter V. Domenici (R-NM)	

Letters should be addressed as follows:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

LABOR RESEARCH BUDGET GUTTED BY HOUSE

The House Appropriations Committee voted last week to add \$17.5 million to the Department of Labor (DOL) budget for four rural Concentrated Employment Programs (CEPs). Funding for the programs would come from the Employment and Training Administration budget for research and evaluation. This move adds 40% to the CEP budget and cuts the research budget by nearly 50%.

The administration made a carefully considered decision to increase the FY 1984 budget for research and evaluation in the Employment and Training Administration where most of the DOL research funds are administered. House appropriation would not only preclude the planned expansion in the program, but it would cast doubt on continuation of existing initiatives. At this point, final determination of the DOL research budget will be made in a conference committee or in a continuing resolution if the appropriations legislation has not passed both houses of Congress by October 1.

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## HEAD OF NIJ, COSSA PLAN SEMINAR

The Director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), James "Chips" Stewart, met with COSSA staff this month to discuss the role of social science research in the agency and future collaboration on a congressional seminar. Mr. Stewart, who has been NIJ Director for nearly a year, expressed strong interest in working with COSSA to plan a congressional seminar dealing with the findings of research sponsored by NIJ. A seminar has been tentatively planned for February, 1984.

The National Institute of Justice supports research in the social and behavioral sciences. Its budget for FY 1983 was \$17.5 million and the budget for FY 1984 is expected to be at the same level. A description of NIJ priority research areas for the coming fiscal year and a schedule of solicitations will be available in November.

## COSSA MEETS WITH NIH DIRECTOR

Dr. James B. Wyngaarden, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), met with representatives of the COSSA Executive Committee on September 13 to discuss the role of social and behavioral science research in NIH. Although he emphasized that he sees the primary mission of NIH to "uncover new biomedical knowledge," Dr. Wyngaarden said that research in the social and behavioral sciences was heavily supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and increasingly supported by the National Cancer Institute.

One of the issues discussed at the meeting was the representation of social and behavioral scientists on NIH study sections (committees that review proposals) and advisory boards where these disciplines are underrepresented. A second issue of concern to the COSSA representatives was NIH support for research on social and behavioral factors in health and disease. It has recently been estimated that lifestyle influences as much as 50% of the mortality from the ten leading causes of death, yet NIH spends less than 3% of its annual budget on health-related social and behavioral science research.

Dr. Wyngaarden was chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Duke University before he was appointed Director of NIH in 1982 by President Reagan.

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NSF AWARDS FOR WOMEN ATTRACT FEW SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

Of 32 awards recently made by the Visiting Professorships for Women Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF), only three were to social or behavioral scientists -- a sociologist, a psychologist, and a philosopher of science. This is roughly proportional to the number of social scientists who applied. The program is designed to encourage women to develop more productive careers and is limited to "the disciplines of science and engineering supported by NSF." It is intended to give greater visibility and opportunities to women scientists and engineers, whether they are employed in industry, government, or academic institutions. Funds for this year's awards totaled \$2 million.

Interested social scientists are encouraged to apply for these awards. Program announcements will be available in October from:

Visiting Professorships for Women Program  
National Science Foundation  
Washington, DC 20550

The next application deadline is January 15, 1984.

NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR TWO AWARDS

The White House announced in August that a new Medal of Technology would be awarded to individuals and companies for "outstanding contributions to improving the well-being of the United States through the promotion of technology or technological manpower." There are no disciplinary or field restrictions on recipients of the award. Nominations should be submitted by November 30 to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. The Secretary of Commerce will submit a list of candidates to the President from these nominees.

The National Science Foundation is again accepting nominations for the 1984 Alan T. Waterman Award. This is an annual award to an outstanding young scientist, mathematician or engineer. Social and behavioral scientists are eligible for the award. Nominations must be made by December 31, 1983. For further information, contact Ms. Lois Hamaty, Office of Planning and Resources Management, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550 (202/357-7512).

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## SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

### Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

FIPSE, part of the Office of Postsecondary Education in the Department of Education, was established in 1972 to provide assistance to educational institutions and agencies for a broad range of reforms and innovations.

FY 1983 Budget: \$11.7 million

Purpose of Program: FIPSE awards grants and contracts for projects that attempt to "solve pressing problems in postsecondary education and to strengthen future opportunities for many learners." FIPSE's mandate is a broad one.

Funding Mechanisms: Mostly grants. The agency especially invites proposals for "seed" grants which include in their plan evidence that private sector or local public support for the project will be available after the federal funding has expired.

Restrictions on Awards: Awards can range from \$5,000 to \$250,000 annually and can be renewed for up to 3 years. Most grants, however, range between \$30,000 and \$100,000 annually.

Review Process: Mostly in-house staff review, although outside readers are also asked to evaluate proposals. Final decisions are made by the FIPSE Director in consultation with the Board of Advisors.

Contact: Deadline for preliminary proposals is December, 1983. For further information, contact:

Dr. Rusty Garth  
FIPSE, Room 3100  
Washington, DC 20202

