
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume II, Number 22
December 2, 1983

This Week . . .

Science Policy in France: Chevènement Visits COSSA
Science Policy in the U.S.: OSTP Names Acting Head of
Life Sciences
New Census Bureau Director Nominated
COSSA Staff Changes
House Vote Assures Social Science Representation at NIH
Keeping the Congress Informed: The Congressional Budget
Office
Ogburn Report Commemorated
No Postal Increase for Scholarly Associations
France Grants Scholarships to American Students
GAO Investigation of OHDS Research Programs
Sources of Research Support: National Endowment for the
Humanities (NEH)

* * *

SCIENCE POLICY IN FRANCE: CHEVÈNEMENT VISITS COSSA

On November 21, COSSA was visited by Jean-Pierre Chevenement, French Minister for Science and Industry from 1981 to early 1983. One of Mr. Chevènement's early actions as Minister of Science was to commission a review of research in the social sciences (see COSSA Washington Update, April 8, 1983). The author of that report, Maurice Godelier, an anthropologist, is now director of the social sciences division of the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). Mr. Chevènement was responsible for providing social science budgets in France with annual increases proportional to those in the physical sciences. Although he is no longer part of the government, the initiatives he set in motion for support of social science research have been maintained by his successor.

What is unusual in the current American context is Mr. Chevènement's view that the rapid technological advances of modern society require a science policy based on strong support for the social sciences. Mr. Chevènement has argued that the

December 2, 1983

SCIENCE POLICY IN FRANCE: CHEVÈNEMENT VISITS COSSA (cont.)

social sciences can help improve industrial productivity, permit better adaptation of new technologies, and stimulate economic development. He also argues that citizens in a democratic society need the kinds of information provided by the social sciences in order to evaluate national conditions and the government's response to those conditions.

At the conclusion of his visit, Mr. Chevènement expressed an interest in French and American cooperation in research, particularly in the field of economics.

After his meeting with COSSA, Mr. Chevènement met with White House Science Advisor, George A. Keyworth II.

SCIENCE POLICY IN THE U.S.: OSTP NAMES ACTING HEAD OF LIFE SCIENCES

Among the six new staff members announced this week by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is the Acting Assistant Director for the Life Sciences. The new appointee, James G. Ling, has spent 21 years in the U.S. Air Force, concluding with a planning position in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Dr. Ling, who will have primary responsibility at OSTP for such fields as the biological, biomedical, agricultural, and social and behavioral sciences, was granted the Ph.D. in the field of nuclear resource management.

NEW CENSUS BUREAU DIRECTOR NOMINATED

The White House has nominated John G. Keane to be the next Director of the Census Bureau. His nomination must be approved by the Senate. Dr. Keane, who is President of Managing Change, Inc., served for four years on the Marketing Advisory Committee to the Census Bureau and was chairman of the Committee in 1981 and 1982.

December 2, 1983

COSSA STAFF CHANGES

With regret, COSSA announces that Helen Rauch, Staff Associate, will be leaving COSSA on December 2 to emigrate to Israel. Dr. Rauch has been a member of the COSSA staff since July, 1982. A developmental psychologist and a former Congressional Fellow, she has had primary responsibility for issues and budgets affecting social and behavioral science research in the Department of Health and Human Services and has played an important role in other COSSA activities.

Howard J. Silver has joined the COSSA staff as Staff Associate for Government Relations. Dr. Silver holds the Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University. He has taught at Washington College, Franklin University, Trinity College, and Ohio State University, and was a legislative analyst in the Office of Legislation and Public Affairs in the U.S. Department of Education. In addition to publishing widely in such areas as policy making in the executive branch of the government, executive-legislative relations, and the congressional budget process, Dr. Silver has managed statewide political campaigns and served as a consultant for legislative and political research.

Eileen Chotiner became a member of the COSSA staff this fall with responsibility for public information. Ms. Chotiner graduated from Oberlin College in June with a B.A. in history. Since she has been with COSSA, she has organized a congressional seminar and edited the papers presented at several congressional seminars.

HOUSE VOTE ASSURES SOCIAL SCIENCE REPRESENTATION AT NIH

In the closing hours of its first session, the 98th Congress passed legislation requiring that one third of the members of advisory committees at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) be comprised of national leaders in the social and behavioral sciences or in the field of public health. This provision is one of many set forth in H.R. 2350, the Health Research Extension Act of 1983, a bill reauthorizing several NIH institutes and setting forth other provisions relating to NIH.

Staff to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources have informed COSSA that they are studying the House bill with the intention of drafting Senate legislation that would correspond closely to H.R. 2350. It is likely that the Senate will vote on its bill later this winter.

December 2, 1983

KEEPING THE CONGRESS INFORMED: THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

The last issue of the COSSA Washington Update featured an article about the Congressional Research Service, the first in a series of four articles about the support arms of Congress -- the Office of Technology Assessment, the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Congressional Research Service. In the present issue, the functions of the Congressional Budget Office are described.

The Congressional Budget Office

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a relative newcomer to Capitol Hill, was established by the provisions of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-344). Prior to the creation of this office, budget information was available to the Congress only through an agency of the Executive Branch of government, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), formerly the Bureau of the Budget. The Congress had no independent source of information on the economy or on the likely effects of its fiscal measures.

The Budget Act of 1974 not only created the CBO, it also mandated the establishment of the House and Senate Budget Committees and reorganized the way Congress appropriates funds. The Budget Act requires that Congress pass the first of two concurrent budget resolutions in the spring, prior to the passage of any tax or appropriations legislation. The goal of the first resolution is to set budget "targets" for the Congress. In September, after individual appropriations and tax bills have been passed, Congress debates and adopts a second concurrent budget resolution, which reconfirms or changes those totals set forth in the resolution passed in the spring. This second resolution establishes an actual ceiling on spending and a floor for revenues. CBO was created to supply Congress with the information it needs to carry out these and other provisions of the Budget Act of 1974.

CBO is a non-partisan organization that conscientiously avoids making recommendations on matters of policy. Its main tasks are to provide Congress with a variety of policy options and to study the budgetary consequences of implementing those options. Its main responsibilities include preparing estimates of the costs of proposed legislation; keeping track of Congressional budgetary actions against budget targets set in the concurrent resolutions; issuing forecasts of economic trends and alternative fiscal policies; analyzing policy issues that affect the federal budget; estimating the inflationary impact of proposed legislation; and issuing an annual report on major federal budget options.

December 2, 1983

KEEPING THE CONGRESS INFORMED: THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
(cont.)

CBO is organized into six divisions and is headed by a Director. The Director, who is appointed for a four-year term by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of both Committees on the Budget, is now Rudolph G. Penner. Dr. Penner recently replaced Alice Rivlin, an economist, who had been CBO Director since the agency's creation in 1975. At present, professional and support personnel number slightly over 200 people.

CBO reports are distributed to all Members of Congress. A list of CBO publications can be obtained from the Intergovernmental Relations Office at CBO or from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

OGBURN REPORT COMMEMORATED

The fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the report of the President's Research Committee on Social Trends was commemorated in Washington on November 27 and 28 with a conference entitled "Knowledge in Social and Behavioral Science: Discoveries and Trends over Fifty Years." The conference, which was held under the auspices of the Committee on Basic Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences of the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences, consisted of sessions dealing with the study of individual competence, economic decision making, social statistics, and organizational response to external change. The conference was attended by federal officials, congressional staff, and social and behavioral scientists.

The President's Research Committee on Social Trends was appointed in 1929 by President Herbert Hoover to assess the state of society and the social resources of the United States. Hoover saw the work of the Committee as feeding directly into policy making in his administration. Although economic events in the form of the Great Depression interfered with Hoover's plans, the work of the Committee continued throughout his administration. The Committee's report, prepared under the direction of sociologist William Fielding Ogburn, was published in 1933 as Recent Social Trends in the United States. The report was a landmark in the presentation of social science research and social statistics by the federal government.

December 2, 1983

NO POSTAL INCREASE FOR SCHOLARLY ASSOCIATIONS

Scholarly and professional associations will be pleased to learn that special nonprofit mail rates were protected by the Congress in the continuing resolution passed in the last hours of the congressional session. Not only did Congress vote the funds to continue the postal subsidy for nonprofit mailers such as scholarly and educational associations, but it also specified that the present postal rates for nonprofits (Step 14 level) be maintained until September 30, 1984.

FRANCE GRANTS SCHOLARSHIPS TO AMERICAN STUDENTS

The French government has announced that Chateaubriand Scholarships in the social sciences will be given to American students pursuing advanced study in France in economics, political science, history, anthropology, and sociology. While applications from students whose research focuses on contemporary France will be given preference, other candidates who would benefit from close contact with the French academic community are also encouraged to apply. Candidates should have at least a working knowledge of the French language.

The grants, which last for ten months, provide 5,500 French francs, or about \$687.50, per month. Application forms can be obtained by writing to:

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
Services culturels
972 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

The deadline for applications is January 31, 1984. Candidates who have been selected will be informed by March 1, 1984.

GAO INVESTIGATION OF OHDS RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Having reported earlier on alleged abuses in the social science research program of the Office of Human Development Services (OHDS), the Washington Post recently published an update on the investigation of the program by the General Accounting Office (GAO) (see Attachment 1).

December 2, 1983

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

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

Division of Research Programs

This Division is one of five NEH programs -- Education Programs, Fellowships and Seminars, General Programs, Research Programs, and State Programs. It supports research in all fields of the humanities including archaeology, regional studies, and humanities, science and technology.

Purpose of Program: To provide support for projects that "advance knowledge, original thought, or critical understanding in a field or fields of the humanities." Applications involving traditional humanities disciplines and also scholarship which crosses conventional disciplinary or institutional boundaries are eligible.

FY 1984 Budget: \$18.4 million.

Funding Mechanisms: Outright grants, matching grants, combinations of these two.

Review Process: Peer panel review.

Restrictions on Awards: Limited to 3 years with provisions for extensions in order to complete the project. The average grant is \$50,000.

Success Ratio: Approximately 20%.

Disciplines Supported: Studies in anthropology, jurisprudence, linguistics, history and philosophy of science. Social science studies that employ a historical or philosophical approach.

Contact: The application deadline is March 1, 1984, for projects beginning no earlier than January 1, 1985.

John Alexander Williams
Asistant Director for Basic Research
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506
202/786-0207

Washington Post
November 28, 1983

GAO Investigates Social Science Grant Program

The General Accounting Office is investigating a federal social science grant program in which projects rated as the lowest of their class were awarded grants, while some highly ranked proposals were not.

The program is run by the Office of Human Development Services of the Health and Human Services Department.

Agency documents show that, of all the proposals rated in the top 25 percent of their group by expert reviewers, half were allowed to compete for funds. In one category, 23 of the top 34 proposals were eliminated and 17 of those approved ranked lower than the top 100, including seven lower than 200.

Rep. Ike Andrews (D-N.C.) asked the GAO to determine if there is "any evidence of impropriety on the part of the assistant secretary [Dorcas R. Hardy] and/or OHDS executive staff in the selection of grantees with regard to favoritism, both personal and political, or conflict of interest." The GAO received two other requests for an investigation.

A spokesman for Hardy declined to comment. Hardy previously defended the grant program, saying she had succeeded in increasing "the diversity of organizations funded." She also said that many more small and innovative agencies have been able to get grants under her administration than in the past, when many large organizations were funded year after year.

The GAO was asked to make an interim report by March.

—Philip J. Hiltz