
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume II, Number 8
April 22, 1983

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CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS ON NSF

The House Science and Technology Committee concluded its mark-up of the FY 1984 authorization for the National Science Foundation (NSF) on Tuesday, April 19. The Committee supported the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology to increase the authorization for the social, behavioral, and information science programs of the Foundation by \$15 million. This amount would bring these programs back to their FY 1980 level, the last NSF budget before the Reagan administration began to reduce funding for social and behavioral science research programs. The next action on the NSF authorization will take place in the Senate on April 27, when the Committee on Labor and Human Resources marks up its authorization bill.

COSSA testified on the NSF appropriation on Wednesday, April 20, before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies. The testimony was presented by Donald White, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Boston College. Copies of Dr. White's testimony are available from the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

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HUD RESEARCH PROGRAM DRAWS FIRE

The major research office in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), is again under public scrutiny and criticism. An unsolicited research proposal was rejected by Benjamin F. Bobo, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, and then was later funded, allegedly because of ties between HUD Secretary Samuel R. Pierce Jr. and the firm that submitted the proposals. According to HUD's "Guidelines for Submitting Unsolicited Proposals," PD&R funds only one or two unsolicited proposals per year. For further information about the contested grant, see Attachment 1. Mr. Bobo recently replaced E. S. Savas as head of PD&R when Mr. Savas was placed on administrative leave pending investigation of improper practices in letting research contracts.

The PD&R research budget has declined precipitously since the beginning of the Reagan administration. In FY 1981, the HUD research budget was \$51.3 million; for FY 1984, the administration has proposed a budget of \$18 million, \$9.0 million of which will go to the American Housing Survey (AHS), formerly the Annual Housing Survey. COSSA presented testimony on the HUD research budget before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies on Thursday, April 21. David Puryear, Director of the Graduate Program in Public Policy Analysis, Johns Hopkins University, presented the testimony. Copies may be obtained by calling the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

COSSA TESTIMONY ON NIJ

COSSA presented testimony on the appropriation for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) before both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Dr. Herbert Jacob, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, testified on April 7 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee with responsibility for the NIJ budget, and Dr. Richard D. Schwartz, Syracuse University College of Law, testified before the corresponding Senate Subcommittee on April 20. Both stressed the pressing research agenda in the research areas funded by NIJ and the need for continued research support. Copies of their testimony are available from the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

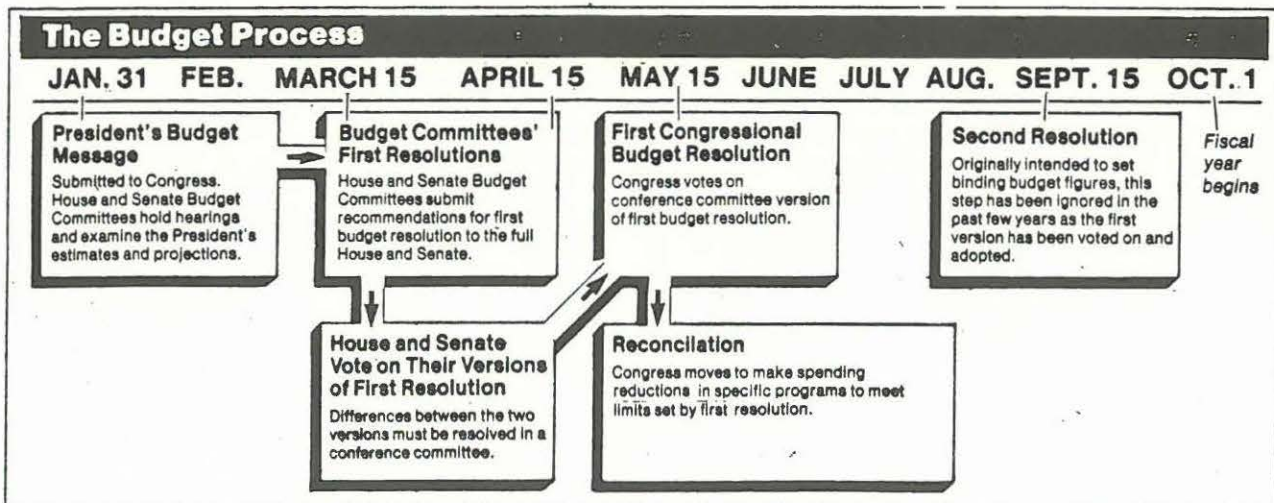
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SETTING PRIORITIES: THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS

It may be tempting for the non-economists among us to shrug off the importance of knowing about the federal budget process because of its technical nature. It is, however, a temptation to be resisted. The budget process, as amended by the Budget Control and Impoundment Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-344), has become the principal tool for determining governmental goals through economic policy. Indeed, it is a rare political discussion or debate today that is not conducted principally in budget or economic terms.

Although the immediate stimulus to passage of the Budget Act was the controversy over presidential impoundments in the early 1970s, Congress had been concerned about reform of the budget process since World War II. Prior to the passage of the Budget Act, the President's budget was the only comprehensive statement of revenue spending and priorities. The Congress, whose only source of budget information had been the executive branch (Office of Management and Budget), characteristically passed authorization, appropriation, and revenue measures without any reference to an overall plan.

The Budget Act made several major changes in the organization of the Congress. Its provisions established the Budget Committees in the House and the Senate, as well as the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). In fact, the establishment of these Committees and the power they have assumed in recent years have shaken up the traditional power structure in the Congress by removing from the chairmen of authorizing and appropriating committees much of the leverage they earlier enjoyed. The establishment of the CBO, however, has provided Congress with a welcome non-partisan resource for information on the budget. The Congress no longer has to rely on OMB budget estimates, which have frequently turned out to be at variance with those submitted to the Congress by the CBO. The Budget Act also changed the start of the federal fiscal year from July to October 1 and set forth a timetable for Congressional action on the budget. (See below.)



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SETTING PRIORITIES: THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS (cont.)

The goal of the timetable is to coordinate actions on authorizations and appropriations, revenue and debt measures, and budget resolutions. Congress is required to adopt its first budget resolution by May 15 each year. It is not in order in either chamber of Congress to consider any tax, appropriating, spending, or debt limit legislation for the upcoming fiscal year until the first budget resolution has been adopted. All authorizations, however, must be reported by May 15. This early date enables the Congress to know about all legislation for which appropriations will be necessary. Once the first budget resolution is passed, Congress may consider spending and tax bills. Congress is required to complete action on all appropriations by early September, although it rarely succeeds in doing so. By September 15, a second budget resolution must be passed as well as reconciliation legislation to reconcile differences between the first and second resolutions.

The Budget Committees, in preparing their Budget Resolutions, set federal spending goals in terms of very broad classifications called functions. For example, Function 150 sets spending goals for International Affairs, Function 600 for Income Security, and Function 500 for Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services. The programs of a particular Department can, and do, fall into different budget functions.

Much social and behavioral science research falls into two functions. Function 250, General Science, Space and Technology, and Function 550, Health. The budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF) falls under Function 250 and that of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA), of which the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is a part, comes under Function 550.

Because the categories considered by the Budget Committees are so broad, and social and behavioral science research budgets are such a small part of them, COSSA has concentrated its efforts on the authorization and appropriation part of the process. It is, nevertheless, important for all of us, as citizens as well as scientists, to be aware that the Congress is setting broad national priorities as it determines spending ceilings for particular functions in its Budget Resolutions.

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PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: RESEARCH TRAINING AT NIMH

Often overlooked in the rush to protect or increase research budgets is the need to assure the continued availability of trained researchers. Now that the extramural research budget at NIMH is no longer under siege, new attention is being directed to the Institute's research training program. Research training funds at NIMH declined from \$18.9 million to \$15.4 million between FY 1981 and FY 1983, a 20 percent cut in funding. The number of research trainees supported by NIMH, however, has declined even more precipitously -- by 30 percent. The latter decline is due to the fact that NIMH has instituted a policy of supporting more postdoctoral than predoctoral trainees.

COSSA will be presenting testimony before Sen. Lowell Weicker's (R-CT) Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education later this month urging Congress to add \$5 million to the President's request for research training at NIMH. The increase would permit the support of 283 more trainees than is possible under the President's budget, although this is still fewer than the number of trainees supported in FY 1981. In addition, increased funding for research training would allow NIMH to undertake a new initiative in prevention research training.

Although COSSA advocates an increase in research training funds for NIMH, we are concerned about the allocation of funds among the research training programs at NIMH. Initial NIMH estimates as to how an additional \$5 million for research training would be divided suggest that the social and behavioral science research programs will receive proportionally less of these funds than biological programs.

Training Programs	FY 1982	Distribution of proposed increase (in millions)	%Gain
Biological Science	\$ 3.2	\$ 1.1	+34%
Epidemiology	2.3	0.6	+26%
Social Science & Psychology	4.6	0.6	+13%
Clinical Research	*	1.1	--

*No previous accounting under this category.

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PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: RESEARCH TRAINING AT NIMH (cont.)

Expenditures for clinical research training should not be confused with those for clinical training. Recent NIMH emphasis on training for clinical research represents an opportunity for social and behavioral scientists to demonstrate the important contributions non-medical disciplines have to make in this area. At this point, the social and behavioral scientists should attempt to see that these new funds are distributed widely among all the disciplines that address mental health research issues and that they not be concentrated in the medically-based research disciplines alone.

Although congressional support for social and behavioral science research budgets is obviously needed, the appropriation of funds for research without simultaneous assurance of a continuing supply of well-trained researchers in these fields is insufficient. As social and behavioral scientists work for increased research training funds in various agencies, it is imperative they attend equally closely to how those funds are distributed.

ARCHAEOLOGY APPROPRIATION

The Society for American Archaeology is attempting to increase the FY 1984 appropriation for the National Park Service by \$300,000 for computerized inventory data base and \$1.75 million of previously authorized Moss-Bennett funds for the analysis and publication of archaeological reports, and other activities associated with archaeological research. These funds will permit already budgeted historical preservation funds to be used in a more cost-efficient manner. Letters of support for appropriating these additional funds should be sent to:

Sen. James A. McClure, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related
Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Sidney R. Yates, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related
Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The bill is expected to be marked up in late May or early June.

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SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

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

Division of Social and Economic Sciences

FY 1983 Budget: Funds available to the entire Division of Social and Economic Sciences for FY 1983 amount to \$19.9 million.

Program Areas: Nine programs comprise the Division -- Decision & Management Science, Economics, Geography & Regional Science, Regulation & Policy Analysis, History & Philosophy of Science, Law & Social Sciences, Measurement Methods & Data Resources, Political Science, and Sociology. The Division supports basic and applied disciplinary and multidisciplinary research. Its goal is "to develop fundamental knowledge of how social and economic systems work, to advance understanding of organizations and institutions, how they function and change, and to enhance the scientific capability of research efforts designed to produce explanations of how human interaction and decision making take place."

Disciplines Supported: Economics, Geography, History, Law, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology.

Funding Mechanisms: Grants only. Proposals should be submitted by February 1 for July-August funding and by September 1 for January-February funding.

Success Ratio: The Division funds approximately 35% of submitted grant proposals.

Restrictions on Awards: Awards may not exceed 5 years and may not be granted to foreign institutions. Citizenship is not required as long as grantee is affiliated with an American institution.

Review Processes Employed: Peer panel review.

Contact Persons:

Decision & Management Science	Trudi C. Miller	202/357-7569
Economics	Daniel H. Newlon	202/357-9675
Geography & Regional Science	George Demko	202/357-7326
History & Philosophy of Science	Margaret Rossiter	202/357-9677
Law & Social Sciences	Felice Levine	202/357-9567
Measurement Methods & Data Res.	Murray Aborn	202/357-7913
Political Science	Frank Scioli, Jr.	202/357-7534
Regulation & Policy Analysis	Laurence Rosenberg	202/357-7417
Sociology	Joanne Miller	202/357-7803

HUD Contract Going to Firm of GOP Adviser Named by Pierce

By Howard Kurtz

Washington Post Staff Writer

A firm headed by a member of a black Republican advisory council, which was assembled by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Samuel R. Pierce Jr. to drum up support for the Reagan administration, is about to receive a \$200,000 HUD contract over the strong objections of senior agency officials.

The Match Institution, a Washington consulting firm, went outside normal contracting channels by giving its unsolicited proposal directly to Pierce, who passed it on to the HUD research office. That office initially rejected the proposal, but later was persuaded by Pierce's office to approve the noncompetitive award.

At least five HUD officials complained in writing that the original proposal was "second-rate," "vague and undefined" and that "there is no reason to believe that . . . Match is uniquely qualified to do this work."

Match initially sought \$1.2 million from HUD to design and evaluate a demonstration program for training young tenants in public housing projects to do maintenance and repair work. HUD officials recently scaled back the initial plan to \$200,000 and agreed to seek another \$10 million from the Labor Department to train 2,500 youths at 20 housing sites selected by Match.

Match Chairman Timothy L. Jenkins was among 40 black Republican leaders handpicked by Pierce last November to improve communications between the administration and the black community.

Pierce set up private meetings with all but two Cabinet members, and said afterward that top officials

in each agency would consult with the group on political appointments and contracts for minority firms.

Jenkins said that the award has nothing to do with his private political activities. He said he wrote the proposal after Pierce told the Republican group that he wanted to launch an initiative to reduce youth unemployment.

"I'm shocked by suggestions that somehow my activities with HUD are politically inspired," Jenkins said. "I've been doing unsolicited proposals for the past 15 years and I pick up my tips any way I can."

Acting Assistant Secretary Benjamin F. Bobo, who heads the HUD research office, told Pierce's office in an internal memo last January that he had rejected the Match proposal.

But after receiving instructions from a senior Pierce aide, Deputy Undersecretary June Koch, Bobo changed his mind and told his staff to make the award to Match as a minority "set-aside" contract.

Bobo did not respond to repeated requests for comment, and Koch declined comment.

Jenkins said that Match has long experience in housing issues and that his initial proposal has been greatly improved. But he said he has run into bureaucratic resistance from Bobo's Office of Policy Development and Research.

"There is a general resentment that the secretary has some priorities that are different than the people in [that office]," Jenkins said. "And so they came up with the allegation that somehow this is not being promoted on its merits but as a political ploy. I emphatically reject that."

HUD research official Charles Taylor told Bobo in an internal memo that Match's original plan was

"second-rate" and "has only the flimsiest rationale." He also cited a political problem in "having tenants do work normally done by union members."

Bobo explained to Koch in a Jan. 27 memo that he considered the proposal "inappropriate for funding."

"The cost of this project is extraordinary," Bobo wrote, and was enough to "support 560 students at Harvard at a cost of \$20,000 [a] year." He added that many public housing authorities already have cut back their maintenance staffs.

"There is no awareness of [public housing's] current financial problems and of the problems which trainees would have in finding paying positions . . .," Bobo wrote. "Match has no housing or housing authority background at all, and their past performance for the department has not been excellent."

On Feb. 4, however, Koch directed Bobo to proceed with the plan, writing: "We want to get moving very quickly, with Timothy Jenkins . . . to design the model."

She added that "we are on a very quick time track" because the plan must be approved by May if it is to be eligible for Labor funding under the new Job Training Partnership Act.

Bobo yielded on Feb. 25, telling Koch that "we have concluded that many of our initial concerns have been answered." Bobo's staff is now rewriting a scaled-down proposal to be awarded to Match.

Jenkins, a Yale Law School graduate who is president of the Council of 100, a black political group, said he has worked on his own time "to get black participation in the Republican Party and to make sure the party doesn't become all white."