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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In coming to the Consortium, as its second executive director, I am impressed and reassured by the evident esteem in which the organization is held -- by its members, affiliates, and contributors, and by the organizations with which COSSA works within the general science community. The degree of support COSSA enjoys is a clear reflection of need, felt and expressed within the research world, and a clear tribute to the resolute efforts of Robert Balstad Miller, COSSA's first executive director, the staff, and the COSSA Board.

There is little disagreement about where COSSA's attention should focus. There is inevitably some unclarity about what the scope of its activities should be. In part, this is because COSSA's constituency has diverse concerns and priorities; in part, I believe, because our own solidarity, our demonstration that we can work together to protect and advance social science research, counts for discouragingly little in the outside world. Many people in our society, including its managers, do not really understand why intelligent professionals should be interested in systematically studying the subject matters of the social and behavioral sciences.

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

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As it happens, I am personally familiar with the pattern by which many individuals enter into a prolonged latency period as regards the salience of the study of society and behavior. Most people in late childhood (there is considerable research to support this) recognize in themselves an awareness of social reality, which seems direct, unproblematical. They also confront the curious fact that people disagree sharply about what that seemingly unmediated reality consists in. Having grasped a few conceptual priors -- notions of social organization, political process, caste and class, markets and capital formation, and a few others -- many people then fall back on some version of, It takes all kinds to make a world.

Yet those who profess disinterest, as adults, in fact are deeply involved. They care how they are enumerated and classified; they have expectations about their life chances; they adopt and revise standards for personal and group behavior; they enact their roles as consumers and voters; and they have normal onlookers' interests in the various professions and institutions, among them social and behavioral scientists and the unique "estate" that is the American research university.

In recent decades -- it was not so among the founders -- social scientists have tended to feel isolated, and have debated a number of issues that now seem rather arcane. We have heard that we are "young" disciplines, which is only superficially true and not of great moment. We have tried to define our essential differences from the physical sciences and humanities; while such differences do exist, recent empirical studies of science suggest that they have been overdrawn. Such studies also show that the standard implicit model: research - technology - application - revision of theory: is inadequate.

We have worried the issue of relevance, and found ourselves attacked for being too relevant and not relevant enough. Tending to identify "pure" science with theory-building, we have seemed to suggest that our most solid methodological accomplishments -- survey and sampling procedures, econometrics, human factors research -- are simply technical facts, with "science" being some mysterious residuum. (I argue, in contrast, that these dependable accretions of knowledge have equal status with tables of values or canonical texts and are, etymologically and practically speaking, basic indeed.)

I do not mean to imply that we are suddenly grown-up, that epistemological issues have all been solved. It is good to be modest. But we should not fail to communicate -- to our university colleagues and the public at large -- one crucial thing: social and behavioral science, of all kinds at all levels, is driven by a deep and abiding impulse, curiosity.

COSSA priorities as they have been defined in the past three years are correct and timely. To achieve them we need to speak to the widest available audience in the simplest possible

terms. I recall the sense of conquistadorian excitement I felt when, as a biomedical researcher forced to learn about epidemiology, I found that I had moved beyond that pragmatic need and was, in fact, learning to think demographically. It was the end of my own latency period, my re-entry into social science.

Ultimately, our rationale for asking for attention and support is, simply, that the stuff we deal with is interesting -- to almost everyone, whether they know it or not. The deep motive of curiosity is valued in this society. We should be proud to evince it.

#### MILLARD RUUD NEW CHAIRMAN OF COSSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Millard Ruud, Executive Director of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), was named the new Chairman of the COSSA Executive Committee on September 10. The Executive Committee, composed of the executive officers of the ten member associations of COSSA, provides overall direction and guidance to COSSA's activities. Mr. Ruud, Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas Law School, is serving his second tenure at the AALS, having been Executive Director from 1973 to 1980. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, Mr. Ruud has served as Chairman of the Law School Admission Council, as a member of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, and in various advisory roles to the Texas legislature, the American Law Institute, and the American Bar Association.

#### CONGRESS RETURNS: MANY ISSUES UNRESOLVED

Congress returned from its August recess on September 5, hoping to conclude this session by October 4 in order to return home for a month of campaigning before the election. Although most observers concede that Congress has accomplished more than expected in an election year, a number of bills of interest to COSSA and the social and behavioral science community still remain on the legislative calendar.

The Labor/Health and Human Services (HHS)/Education (ED) appropriations bill, which contains funding for social and behavioral science research in all three departments, has passed the House, but has yet to reach the Senate floor. The delay has been caused by Senator Lawton Chiles' (D-FL) threatened filibuster of any appropriations bill until the budget resolution required by the Congressional Budget Act is passed. Political maneuvering over the defense budget has prevented such action. Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R-TN) and House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-MA) have been meeting to arrange a compromise on the defense numbers that will then allow the appropriations bills to move forward. That compromise will allegedly be reached by the end of this week, and the

Labor/HHS/ED bill should come to the Senate floor. If that scenario does work out, the Senate should pass the appropriations bill in time for a conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions and send the bill to the President before adjournment. If does not, a continuing resolution will be necessary, which in most cases will fund programs at lower levels than in the appropriations bill.

Legislation creating an independent National Archives and Records Administration by removing it from the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration has passed both the Senate and House. Although a conference committee has not been officially appointed, the staffs from both houses have worked out the necessary compromises and the expectation is that the bill will reach the President before adjournment. (For an earlier report, see COSSA Washington Update, July 27, 1984.)

The reauthorization of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has passed both the Senate and House. The conference situation is complicated by the fact that there is one Senate bill, but two House bills. The major problems to be worked out are on the OJJDP part of the bill. Staff sources suggest that agreement should be reached by the end of next week. Unless there are attempts by Republicans in the Senate to attach other parts of the anti-crime package to the final bill, the reauthorization should clear the Congress before the September 30 expiration date of these agencies' authorizations.

The reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is stalled. The House bill, which includes the COSSA-sponsored provision to require the appointment of social and behavioral scientists to NIH board and councils, was passed last year. The Senate passed a part of the House bill, the provision that creates a National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. The House then attached its bill to the Senate bill and asked for a conference to resolve the differences. The Senate has not appointed conferees because of Senator Jeremiah Denton's (R-AL) threat to tie up the bill over provisions dealing with fetal research. Senate staff do not expect this to be resolved before adjournment.

The creation of the National Peace Academy hinges on resolution of the the arguments over the Defense authorization bill. The Senate version of the bill includes the Academy, the House version does not. Given the discussions between Senator Baker and Speaker O'Neill it is anticipated that this will be resolved in the next few weeks.

The Math-Science Education legislation was signed into law by President Reagan on August 11. The funds to implement the programs created by the legislation are in the Labor/HHS/ED appropriations bill.

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SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA

This is the fourth in a series of occasional articles which will examine intramural social and behavioral science research programs in federal departments and agencies.

The Economic Research Service (ERS) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides economic information to policymakers and public officials to aid in developing and administering agricultural and rural policies and programs.

In FY 1984, Congress appropriated \$43.8 million for ERS; approximately \$2 million in additional funds were transferred to ERS from other USDA agencies that requested special studies. Although the House and Senate have not yet agreed on the final FY 1985 appropriation, the figures are similar -- \$45.8 million in the House bill and \$45.6 million in the Senate bill.

ERS is comprised of four divisions: National Economics, International Economics, Natural Resource Economics, and Economic Development.

National Economics Division (NED): Research in National Economics covers such topics as the economic behavior of consumers, agribusiness managers, and producers, interdependencies of the U.S. agricultural system with the U.S. economy, analysis of the current status of commodity markets, input markets, credit and policies, estimation of the performance and well-being indicators of the U.S. agricultural system, and policy analysis. This division also measures the supply capacity and responsiveness of the agricultural sector.

International Economics Division (IED): IED seeks to develop timely information about world agriculture and how it relates to the U.S. agricultural system. IED conducts research on the economic relationships that determine agricultural production, consumption and prices in various countries, the implications of the current world agricultural situation for U.S. agriculture, and short and medium-term forecasting of world agricultural conditions. In 1984, IED is giving special emphasis to the political and institutional factors influencing world agriculture and agricultural trade.

Natural Resource Economics Division (NRED): This program emphasizes national and regional problems of land and water management with relation to U.S. agricultural capacity. NRED's program for 1984 is particularly concerned with natural resource policy, the outlook for manufactured inputs, land and water use, farmland values, and the economics of soil and water conservation.

Economic Development Division (EDD): The EDD program includes rural economic development research, research to support USDA's nonfarm rural assistance programs, and research to support the development of USDA strategies and goals. In order to carry out this program, EDD monitors and analyzes trends in rural population, employment, income, housing, credit, and local government services and finances. Over the next five years, EDD's research program will give priority to increasing public understanding of changes in rural population and employment.

BRAJUHA CASE TO GO TO COURT OF APPEALS: DEFENSE FUNDS SOUGHT

The case of Mario Brajuha, a graduate student in sociology at the State University of New York, will soon go to the United States Court of Appeals. Mr. Brajuha refused to turn over his dissertation notes to a federal grand jury investigating a suspicious fire in the restaurant where Mr. Brajuha was doing his fieldwork research. In April, Judge Jack Weinstein of the District Court of New York quashed a subpoena that would have required Mr. Brajuha to release his notes to the grand jury.

In the decision, Judge Weinstein declared that, like journalists, serious scholars are entitled to a "qualified privilege not to reveal documents or confidential sources." However, the right of the researcher to protect the confidentiality of field notes is limited and must be decided on a case-by-case basis that balances "societal interests in fostering scholarly research" with "the public interest in obtaining information about possible criminal activities through the grand jury process." In this case, since Mr. Brajuha testified in person before the grand jury, the subpoena for his notes is "unnecessarily intrusive" on First Amendment rights and academic freedom.

The government has decided to appeal this decision. The American legal system presents a participant with enormous burdens, the least of which is its enormous cost. The Center for Research on Institutions and Social Policy, Inc. has established a fund to help Mr. Brajuha defray the expenses of this legal battle to protect scholarly sources and research. Tax deductible contributions made out to the Center for Research may be sent to 225 Lafayette Street, Suite 108, New York, NY 10012. Contributors should mention the Update: as with all public-interest initiatives, it is useful to identify the source of information and the response network. (For further background on this case see COSSA Washington Update, April 20, 1984.)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY BECOMES COSSA CONTRIBUTOR

COSSA is pleased to welcome the Pennsylvania State University as a COSSA Contributor. The addition of Penn State brings the total number of Contributors to 37.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

NATO Postdoctoral Fellowships in Science

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) offers a postdoctoral fellowship program to promote the progress of science and closer collaboration among the scientists of various nations. The NATO Postdoctoral Fellowships in Science program is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and supports research and/or study by young scholars in the sciences at institutions located in NATO member nations or other countries that cooperate with NATO. NATO Fellows devote full time to scientific research or scientific study at the postdoctoral level during the period of the fellowship. Applicants must have a Ph.D in a field of science supported by the program (see below) awarded no earlier than January 1, 1980. Applications are evaluated on the basis of scientific competence, the potential for continued professional growth, and the potential for furthering international collaboration in science.

FY 1985 Funds Available: NSF expects to offer 50 awards for the 1984-1985 program.

Funding Mechanisms: Fellowships

Review Process: Peer review panel

Disciplines Funded: Any area in the social sciences, mathematics, physics, biology, engineering, or the history and philosophy of science. Awards will not be made in clinical, education or business fields, nor in history, social work or public health.

Restrictions on Awards: Fellows receive a stipend of \$1500 per month for up to twelve months plus dependency allowances, some travel costs and research related expenses.

Success Ratio: For the 1983-1984 program, 50 of 300 applicants were offered fellowships.

Deadlines: Applications for 1984-1985 awards must be submitted by November 2, 1984.

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