
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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This Week . . .

Bloch Reverses Decision on Terminating EVIST
Appropriations News: NSF, Labor, HHS, Education
NEH Nominee Faces Tough Confirmation Hearing
COSSA Convenes AID Exploratory Meeting
New Publication Available from COSSA
Sources of Research Support: Department of Commerce

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BLOCH REVERSES DECISION ON TERMINATING EVIST

In a surprising move, Erich Bloch, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), has reversed his decision to terminate the program on Ethics and Values in Science and Technology (EVIST) (see Update, May 31, 1985). He announced his plans for retaining the program at the October 11 meeting of the EVIST Advisory Committee.

In March of this year, Mr. Bloch responded to inquiries from the House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, saying that he did intend to terminate EVIST as a distinct program, but would spend an amount equal to its FY 1985 budget, \$1 million, on research on ethics and values through the various NSF research programs. Because Congress disagreed with the plan and both the House and Senate authorization bills include \$1 million for EVIST, and because Mr. Bloch had received some 150 letters of protest from the research community, he decided to revise his original plan.

EVIST will be retained as a distinct program located in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences in the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS). Mr. Bloch reasoned that BBS would be the logical home for EVIST since it is closely related to aspects of biotechnology, the social sciences, and to the History and Philosophy of Science program in particular.

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Risa I. Palm, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

At the October 11 meeting, Mr. Bloch first announced that half of the authorized funds would be administered through the EVIST program office directly, and the other half would be distributed among the various research directorates. In this way, Bloch hoped that other disciplinary programs would be encouraged to incorporate ethics and values research questions in their portfolios.

The Advisory Committee expressed strong reservations about the distributed funding plan, questioning whether that would really carry out the intent of Congress. It was conceivable that some disciplinary programs would use EVIST-targeted money to fund proposals that would have been funded anyway, and call them 'ethics'. Advisors also strongly suggested that all proposals be received and reviewed by the EVIST review panel to ensure that those funded were of uniform quality.

Since the meeting, Mr. Bloch has further modified his plan, deciding that the majority of EVIST's \$1 million budget would be centrally administered through the EVIST program office.

When asked what was beyond 1986, Bloch said he would be open to discussion, and could not predict 10 years down the road. He added that a one-year trial would probably not be long enough to make a decision as to EVIST's future, however.

APPROPRIATIONS NEWS: NSF, LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION

NSF: The review by the full Senate Appropriations Committee of the HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill for FY 1986 (see Update, October 4, 1985) has led to a reduction of \$17 million for the National Science Foundation (NSF) appropriation. Of the \$17 million, \$5 million will come from the Research and Related Activities allocation, \$2 million from the Antarctica program, and \$10 million from the Science and Engineering Education program. These were rather modest cuts compared to what happened to other agencies. The full Senate is expected to consider the bill this week. If no changes are made a conference committee with the House will be necessary, since the Senate bill is \$11 million larger for research than the House bill, while the House bill includes \$10 million more for Science and Engineering Education. Social and behavioral scientists may wish to write conferees, Sen. Jake Garn (R-UT), Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA), and Rep. Bill Green (R-NY) asking them to support the higher Senate numbers for research and the higher House number for Science and Engineering Education.

The huge Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill passed the House on October 2. It was reported by the Senate appropriations committee on October 4, and is expected to reach the Senate floor sometime in the next two weeks. What follows is a comparison of the House (H) and Senate (S) committee numbers for various agencies of concern to social and behavioral scientists. Most agencies were level-funded -- receiving the same funding for FY 1986 as they received in FY 1985.

LABOR: Both the H and S provided a \$3 million increase for research, evaluation and demonstrations in the Employment and Training Administration. The National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experiences receives funds from this allocation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics received a \$7 million increase over the budget request and \$5 million over the FY 1985 appropriation from both the H and S. Most of the increase will support continued revision of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Both Houses also rejected an administration attempt to reduce the Monthly Labor Review to quarterly status and again stressed the need for improved data collection on the service sector of the economy.

HHS: Total funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from the S is \$5.46 billion, sufficient to fund 6,200 new and competing grants in FY 1986 and including programs not yet reauthorized. The H did not specify grant numbers and appropriated \$5.25 billion without the non-authorized programs. The non-authorized programs, mostly training, are funded at \$235 million in the Senate bill and are usually included in the final bill that emerges from the conference committee.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) received an additional \$13 million above FY 1985 from the S for research and training and a \$10 million increase from the H for research. The National Institute on Aging (NIA) received an additional \$9 million from the S for research and training and an additional \$9 million from the H for research. Both NIA and NICHD were asked to report to the Senate committee on their fund allocation decision processes by January 1, 1986. This reflects the unhappiness of Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI) and others with some of the grants these agencies have funded in recent years (see Update, September 6, 1985). Both the H and S report language include statements supporting more concern by NIH for research on Health and Behavior, although neither statement asks NIH to do anything beyond what it is already doing.

The Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) received substantial increases, \$74 million over FY 1985 appropriations from the S and \$91 million (this includes deferred training funds) from the H. Research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) was increased by \$23 million by the S and \$16.5 million by the H over FY 1985 funding. The S Committee took a swipe at OMB's attempt to "substitute its judgment for that of ADAMHA scientific staff with respect to the timing and duration of ADAMHA grants." OMB was instructing ADAMHA, and NIH as well, to award a certain number of grants for limited time periods in order to reduce the number of future noncompeting grants. The Committee reminded OMB that these agencies' policy decisions should reflect scientific judgments.

Programs at the Office of Human Development Services received slight increases over FY 1985, \$2.7 million in the H and only \$71,000 from the S. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation (ASPE), which conducts the broad policy

research that cuts across agency lines at HHS, received the administration-requested \$6 million from the S and \$6.5 million from the H. This action reduces ASPE's funding by over one-third from the FY 1985 level.

EDUCATION: As part of the Office of Education Research and Improvement, the National Institute of Education (NIE) and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) received the same amount in FY 1986 as they did in FY 1985 from both the H and S. NIE will receive \$51.2 million, while NCES gets \$8.75 million. The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) will also be level-funded by both the H and S in FY 1986 at \$12.7 million. Both Houses evinced concern over the independence and autonomy of FIPSE. This concern will surely increase since the firing, announced October 11, of FIPSE Director Sven Groennings by Education Secretary William Bennett and the naming of one of Bennett's key assistants, Charles Karalis, as his replacement.

Programs in International Education and Foreign Language Studies funded under Title VI of the Higher Education Act will also receive the same funding in FY 1986 as they did last year, \$32 million. Thus, for the third straight year Congress rejected the administration's attempt to zero-fund these programs.

In Graduate Education the H level-funded all programs -- Graduate and Professional Opportunities, Public Service Fellowships, Legal Training for the Disadvantaged, Law School Clinical Experience, and the National Graduate Fellowships. The S did the same except for the last program, which they increased by \$500,000. Riders added to other pending legislation instruct the Department of Education to spend the appropriated money for the National Graduate Fellows program in the year it is appropriated, which did not occur in FY 1985.

NEH NOMINEE FACES TOUGH CONFIRMATION HEARING

On October 2, after a delay of many months, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), held hearings on the nomination of Edward Curran to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

The hearings demonstrated the doubts raised by many as to the fitness of Mr. Curran for the position. This was explicitly raised by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) who stated that Curran "was the wrong man for the wrong job." Pell stressed the notion that the chair of the NEH should have significant experience as a professional scholar and have gained the respect of the national humanities community. Curran, Pell noted, had not published his views on the humanities in any scholarly publication or anywhere for that matter. The testimony of two outside witnesses, Theodore Ziolkowski, President of the Modern Language Association, from Princeton, and William Schaefer, Executive Vice-Chancellor of UCLA, indicated that Curran did not meet

Pell's second criteria either. Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) also questioned Curran's qualifications to lead an agency whose main function is to evaluate, award, and administer research grants. Curran admitted to Kerry that he had never drafted a research grant proposal, nor had he ever worked under a grant.

Connecticut's two Senators, Republican Lowell Weicker and Democrat Christopher Dodd, both focused on Curran's credibility as a witness at the confirmation hearings. Both noted that Curran had come before the same committee in 1981 as the President's nominee to head the National Institute of Education (NIE). At that time Curran claimed a strong commitment to education research and NIE. Within two months of his confirmation, Curran was agreeing to recommendations to abolish NIE and later wrote a letter to the President advocating such policy. The letter, written according to Curran as a response to a television speech by the President asking for help in reducing the deficit, led to his being fired as NIE Director by then-Education Secretary Terrell Bell. Weicker was also concerned with the possible politicization of NEH, since in Curran's letter to the President recommending abolition of NIE he talked of excessive funding for the research agenda "of the left." Although Curran assured the Senators that he had no intention of abolishing or politicizing NEH, Dodd and Weicker were reluctant to accept Curran's word. As Weicker noted: "Once fooled, shame on you, twice fooled, shame on me."

Senators Hatch and fellow committee member Charles Grassley (R-IA) defended Curran's nomination because they view NEH's major role as the revival of the humanities at the elementary and secondary school level. They both pointed to Curran's experience as Headmaster of the National Cathedral School for Girls in Washington, DC as evidence of his qualifications for the Chairmanship. Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY), whose daughter attended the school, appeared as a supporter of the nomination.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) asked Curran to commit himself to enforcement of the guidelines of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) concerning hiring practices at NEH. This was a source of congressional discontent with the previous Chairman, now Secretary of Education William Bennett, who refused to comply with the EEOC guidelines. Much to Kennedy's consternation, Curran refused to answer yes or no to the compliance question.

It appears the 7 Democrats on the Committee are committed to opposing this nomination. There are 7 Republicans who are probably committed to confirmation of Mr. Curran. This leaves (as is often the case on this committee) Senators Weicker and Robert Stafford (R-VT) as the determining votes. As of this writing, it is unclear whether Weicker's sharp questioning at the hearing will translate into a "no" vote, and the intentions of Stafford are not known. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the nomination on Wednesday, October 23.

COSSA CONVENES AID EXPLORATORY MEETING

On September 25, the Consortium acted as convener of an ad hoc, one-day meeting, sponsored by the Human Resources Directorate of the Agency for International Development (AID), which explored current thinking in the social science community on socio-economic development in lesser-developed countries. The scholars participating in the workshop were selected to provide a wide range of disciplinary and areal background.

The meeting was chaired by Ruth Zagorin, AID Director for Human Resources, and involved four others of her staff. The scholars invited by COSSA included: Edward Azar, Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland; Larry Brown, Department of Geography, Ohio State University; Frank Cancian, Department of Anthropology, University of California at Irvine; Gary Gereffi, Department of Sociology, Duke University; Richard Nelson, Institute for Social & Policy Studies, Yale University; and David Szanton, Social Science Research Council, New York.

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FROM COSSA

COSSA now has available copies of Policy Implications of an Aging Population, the edited transcript of a congressional seminar presented on June 21, 1985. The seminar was sponsored by the Consortium and the House Science and Technology Committee. The papers are:

"Children In an Aging Population" by Samuel H. Preston, Director of the Center for Population Studies, University of Pennsylvania;

"The Politics and Policy Implications of Population Aging" by Robert H. Binstock, Professor of Aging, Health, and Society at Case Western Reserve University; and

"Productive Behavior Through the Life Course" by Robert L. Kahn, Research Scientist at the Survey Research Center, University of Michigan.

Single copies of the publication are available from COSSA upon request.

CORRECTION: Total funding for the National Science Foundation in the Senate authorization bill is \$1.517 billion, not \$1.501 billion as reported in the Update, October 4, 1985.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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

Minority Business Development Agency

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is the only federal agency designed specifically to assist in the creation and expansion of businesses owned by American minorities. The MBDA defines 'minority business' as one which is at least 51% owned, controlled, and operated by a member of an economically and socially disadvantaged group (including Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, and Asian-Indian Americans).

The research program of the MBDA, begun in 1981, supports research which can be used to improve national minority business development policies and programs. Projects concerning business formation, expansion, and failure, or the potential contribution of minority-owned firms to socio-economic development are encouraged. Specific topics funded in 1985 included equity capital formation and use, governmental regulatory barriers to minority business development, and attitudes of minority youth toward entrepreneurship.

Though past projects have concentrated on economic and business development, an attempt is being made to strengthen the link between economics and sociology through the research program. Socio-economic analysis of not only specific business problems, but also investigation of the impact of those problems on the community (e.g., projects exploring the sociological, demographic, institutional, and other variables affecting minority business development) are encouraged.

Budget: In FY 1985 approximately \$600,000 was available for extramural projects. The FY 1986 budget was expected to remain about the same.

Funding Mechanisms: Research support is available to individuals, businesses, universities, non-profit and other organizations. All support is through contracts. The average amount of a contract is \$75,000, with a limit of \$250,000. Most contracts are for one year, although extensions are possible.

Review Process: Peer review panels

Deadlines: The annual competition for contracts is announced in the Commerce Business Daily, generally in December.

Contact: Richard Stevens, Chief, Research Division
Office of Advocacy, Research, and Information
Minority Business Development Agency
Room 5709, Main Commerce Building
Washington, DC 20230
202/377-4671

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CONTRIBUTORS

University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
Carnegie-Mellon University
Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences
Center for International Studies,
Duke University
University of Chicago
University of Colorado
Columbia University
Cornell Institute for Social and
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Cornell University
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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

1200 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N.W., SUITE 520, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
