Lobbying Effort Successful: Senate Increases Funding for NSF

The Senate Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations voted on September 18 to fund the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY 1987 at $1.695.7 billion which is $10 million over the President's request and $145.7 million over the House appropriated level. This would result in a 14% increase over the post-Gramm-Rudman-Hollings FY 1986 levels. Research and Related Activities received $1.479 billion, the amount requested by the administration. The Senate, agreeing with the House, increased funding for Science and Engineering Education by $10 million to $99 million.

This action follows intense lobbying of the members of the Senate Subcommittee by a coalition that included COSSA and other scientific societies. The battle is not over yet. Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-NV), who chaired the Subcommittee markup in the absence of Sen. Jake Garn (R-UT), announced that the bill was "on a very fast track" to clear the Senate. This is necessary in order to set up a conference with the House to negotiate the final spending levels that will go into a Continuing Resolution to fund...
the government since there is not time to pass all the appropriations bills by the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1. When that conference takes place it is hoped the House will accept the Senate numbers for NSF. In the next two weeks the coalition that succeeded so well with the Senate Subcommittee will need to convince the House members who will sit on that conference to accept the Senate numbers.

The following members of the House should hear from you urging them to accept full funding of NSF: Rep. Ed Boland (D-MA), Chairman of the appropriations subcommittee; Rep. William Green (R-NY), Ranking Member of the subcommittee; Rep. Bob Traxler (D-MI); Rep. Lindy Boggs (D-LA); Rep. Louis Stokes (D-OH); Rep. Laurence Coughlin (R-PA); Rep. Bill Boner (D-TN); Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV); Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA); and Rep. Silvio Conte (R-MA). The Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee are the key people.

Achieving a high FY 1987 appropriation for NSF will impact the decision on proposed funding levels for FY 1988. That process has begun with NSF proposing significant increases the Office of Management and Budget will judge on the basis of the congressional decision on the FY 1987 appropriation. This makes convincing the House conferees even more important.

Other Appropriations News:

The full House passed the HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations bill on September 12. The funding levels for NSF did not change from the amounts passed by the Committee and noted above.

The full Senate passed the Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies bill on September 10. The Senate passed an amendment sponsored by Sens. Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Lawton Chiles (D-FL) to reduce funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by $11 million in order to increase funding by $57 million for the math and science activities of the Department of Education. (For a detailed look at this appropriations bill as it emerged from the Senate committee see Update, August 22, 1986.) The bill now goes to a conference committee, although it too will probably end up as part of the continuing resolution.

MEESE PRAISES SOCIAL SCIENCE AT CAREER CRIMINALS CONFERENCE

Attorney General Edwin Meese praised the contributions of social science to the study of crime at a conference at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on "Criminal Careers and Career Criminals." The conference, co-sponsored by the National Research Council (NRC) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), was held on September 8-9, 1986, in conjunction with the
release of a report of the NRC Panel on Research on Criminal Careers chaired by Professor Alfred Blumstein, School of Urban and Public Affairs, Carnegie-Mellon University. Approximately 200 academic researchers, criminal justice practitioners, and policy makers attended.

Stating that the role of social science in making public policy "is to test and retest assumptions," Meese noted that the accumulation of research on criminal justice has identified "repeated findings that help us." Praising the work of James Q. Wilson of Harvard, Marvin Wolfgang of the University of Pennsylvania, and others in this policy arena, the Attorney General pledged that "despite fiscal stringency we will not neglect the role of research at the Department of Justice." Although he stressed the importance of research that is applicable and useful to practitioners, Meese did concede that "basic research is valuable," too.

He announced the establishment of a Criminal Justice Research and Development Board to better focus and coordinate research at the Department, to improve liaison with the academic and practitioner communities, and to make ongoing assessments of research needs. Stephen Trott, Deputy Attorney General, will chair the Board whose other members include the directors of NIJ, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Institute of Corrections.

The Academy report represented the culmination of work described by Blumstein in a COSSA Congressional seminar held August 1, 1984. The report recommended longer prison sentences for convicted career criminals, the greater use of juvenile offender records to identify career criminals, and greater attention to offender drug use in pretrial decision-making and in sentencing.

During discussion of the report, Norval Morris, Chair of the Committee on Research on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice of the NAS, asked the key question -- whether probability theory can be reconciled with decisions on individual behavior. Although seemingly expressing a minority view of those attending, Wolfgang eloquently argued that making sentencing decisions on individuals based on the predictive validity of aggregate data on career criminality was unethical. Wilson asserted that researchers should seize the opportunity to discern the causal linkages between the "correlates of crime" already identified. Pamela Swain, Research Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, announced awards to three groups of researchers who will conduct longitudinal studies on the development of criminal careers. James K. "Chips" Stewart, Director of the NIJ, closed the conference with a recitation of his agency's agenda for future research.

9/19/86
On September 9-10 the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs continued hearings begun on August 13 on the nomination of John T. Agresto to serve as Archivist of the United States. In the four months since the White House proposed Dr. Agresto, a growing number of scholarly and professional organizations have publicly opposed the nomination.

In 1984, Congress separated the Archives from the General Services Administration and established the National Archives and Records Administration as an independent agency. That legislation specifies that the Archivist be appointed "without regard to political affiliations and solely on the basis of professional qualifications." Agresto is the first nominee to undergo the confirmation process since enactment of the 1984 law.

The opposition to Agresto's nomination is based on several factors. Opponents argue that Agresto, who holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Cornell, does not possess either the complex administrative experience nor the technical/archival skills required by the position. Both Agresto and his supporters assert that during Agresto's tenure as acting (and currently Deputy) Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), he acquired valuable administrative experience and emphasized such Archives-related areas as preservation.

Opponents also charge that Agresto will not act independently on the important judgments required of the Archivist. The example most frequently cited is the upcoming decision on whether to continue to heed a Justice Department opinion which declares that ex-Presidents enjoy an executive privilege in opposing release of their papers by the Archives (e.g., release of the disputed Nixon tapes and papers). At the August 13 hearing, Agresto informed the Senators in writing that, unlike the acting Archivist who is complying with the controversial Justice opinion, he would treat it merely as advisory.

Agresto has defined his concept of the Archivist's role to include raising the public profile of the Archives and publicizing its important reservoir of knowledge. Supporters praise this vision and agree on the need for such an initiative. Detractors are attacking the concept, asserting that such an interpretive role is inappropriate.

There is also much debate about the selection process by which Agresto was nominated. Opponents charge that Agresto was nominated on the basis of political affiliations, thus violating at least the spirit of the 1984 legislation. First, the nominee has long-standing ties with Education Secretary William Bennett. Also, Agresto, as well as three other candidates interviewed for the Archivist position, testified that the White House had asked questions about their political affiliations and contributions.
Another source of contention is Agresto's record on affirmative action. During his tenure as acting Chairman of NEH, Agresto continued his predecessor's reliance on another Department of Justice opinion that NEH was not required to follow federal affirmative action procedures. After the Congress threatened to terminate NEH, Agresto brought the agency into compliance. Agresto has assured the Senate that although he continues to believe that the affirmative action procedures are inappropriate, he will fully comply with the provisions of the law.

As the Update goes to press, the hearing is recessed with the Chairman, William V. Roth (R-DE), considering a request that the director of Presidential personnel, Robert H. Tuttle, be called to testify on the selection process. Many observers speculate that the nomination will be withdrawn or die in Committee.

OERI REQUESTS EXAMPLES FOR POSSIBLE 'WHAT WORKS' II

Assistant Secretary of Education Chester Finn, who directs the Office for Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), recently contacted the Consortium, reporting that the Department of Education is considering a new publication on effective educational research. Earlier this year the Department issued a publication, What Works: Research About Teaching and Learning, which was promoted as a non-technical compilation of effective educational research arranged by topics (e.g., teaching writing, homework) intended to answer questions from the public. What Works has drawn much attention -- over 300,000 requests for copies have been received by the Department. Finn's recent communication reads in part: "We've had many requests for an additional publication that might incorporate some of the issues and topics that were not included in What Works...we are inviting education practitioners, scholars, and other interested parties to submit additional solid research findings to us. If a sufficient number of significant and valid findings are submitted, another booklet, similar to What Works, will be published by the Department, possibly as early as next spring."

OERI has set an October 20 deadline for receiving suggestions, and is requesting that interested parties utilize special guidelines which may be obtained by contacting the project director, Ann Swift, at 202/357-6560 or write to OERI, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Room 304E, Washington, DC 20208.

READERS COMMENTS NEEDED

In order to produce the most effective and useful publication possible, the COSSA staff would appreciate your taking a few minutes to complete the survey included in this issue of Update. The results of the survey will be used to assess the emphasis and direction of Update in the future.

9/19/86
PAPERS SOUGHT FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS

The third International Conference on AIDS will be held June 1-5, 1987, in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and coordinated by the Fogarty International Center, the conference will review all aspects of contemporary AIDS research. Program organizers are currently seeking abstracts for presentations in many areas, including epidemiology, public health, psychosocial implications, and prevention and control strategies. Participation by social and behavioral scientists is encouraged.

The deadline for submitting abstracts for consideration is February 1, 1987. For further information, contact the International Conference on Aids, 655 15th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005; 202/347-5900.

COSSA STAFF PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL MEETINGS

Executive Director David Jenness participated in two sessions of the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association on September 1 in New York. He gave the invited paper in a thematic session on Future Sources of Support for Sociology, for which discussants included Jack Elinson, School of Public Health, Columbia University (emeritus); Kenneth G. Lutterman, National Institute of Mental Health; Richard G. Stuby, Cooperative State Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Albert E. Gollin, Newspaper Advertising Bureau, New York. Jenness also took part in a panel, "Population, The Press and Policy: The Case of Child Support," organized by Wendy Baldwin, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Earlier in August, Jenness addressed a breakfast session of institutional members and department heads at the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in Chicago. The topic was "Advocating Research in Washington: Recent Trends and Prospects."

Howard Silver, Associate Director for Government Relations, delivered a paper to the annual convention of the American Political Science Association entitled: "Educating Congress: Thoughts and Tales From A Lobbyist for Social Science." The paper was based on interviews with Members of Congress, staff, and social scientists. In addition, Silver chaired a panel at which Dr. John Holmfeld, Staff Director of the House Science and Technology Committee's Task Force on U.S. Science Policy, and his associate Lynn Draper reported on the work of the Task Force and generated lively discussion about the role of the federal government in supporting social science research. Silver was also elected President of the new Section on Applied Political Science within APSA.
COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), one of the National Institutes of Health, supports research on the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart, blood vessel, lung, and blood diseases.

Two recent requests for applications (RFAs) issued by NHLBI are of particular interest for social and behavioral scientists. An RFA (86-HL-32-P) from the Prevention and Demonstration Branch concerns health care-seeking experience among Blacks related to coronary heart disease. This program will support research on the influence of individual and environmental factors on the care-seeking experience of Blacks that relate to patterns of coronary heart disease morbidity and mortality. Multidisciplinary approaches involving several specialties are appropriate. Applicants must demonstrate access to a Black population group and expertise within the proposed team to design and carry out research sensitive to sociocultural elements of a minority population.

A second RFA (86-HL-33-P) issued by the Behavioral Medicine Branch seeks applications for research on humans on the short- and long-term effects of smoking cessation and relapse. Studies may examine psychological, behavioral, environmental, social, and biological factors. In addition, researchers may consider socioeconomic, gender, and ethnic factors that differentially contribute to relapse. Studies that use multilevel assessment approaches (e.g., behavioral symptoms and taste preference changes, biobehavioral changes and socio-cultural differences) to examine important predictors of smoking relapse may be particularly valuable.

Application Process: Applications are submitted to the NIH Division of Research Grants.

Deadline: The deadline for both RFAs described above is December 8.

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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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Association for Social Sciences in Health
Eastern Sociological Society
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History of Science Society
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National Council for the Social Studies
North Central Sociological Association
Northeastern Anthropological Association
Operations Research Society of America
Population Association of America
Regional Science Association
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for the History of Technology
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
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The COSSA Washington Update is now in its 5th year of publication. Originally titled the COSSA Legislative Report and distributed weekly to approximately 200 individuals, the newsletter focused almost entirely on congressional actions concerning the National Science Foundation. Since 1982 the Update has increased its focus to include a broad range of research funding and management issues at many federal agencies, as well as general news and reports of COSSA activities. Circulation has increased to over 1,000.

We are asking all readers to take a few moments to complete the questionnaire below. Your candid comments will be invaluable in planning future issues of Update. All responses will be considered confidential.

1) How long have you received Update? _______

2) Do you keep back issues of Update: ___yes ___no

3) Do you share Update with your colleagues: ___regularly ___occasionally ___seldom/never

If shared, approximately how many others read your issues? _____

4) Do you read: ___every issue ___most issues ___few issues ___seldom/never read

5) When the Update arrives, do you read it: ___within a few days ___within 1-2 weeks ___more than 2 weeks later ___don't read

6) When you read Update do you: ___read the entire issue ___read most articles ___read only a few articles

7) Which categories of Update articles do you read regularly? (check all that apply)

___Congressional news ___Federal research management issues
___International news ___Sources of Research Support
___Research community news ___COSSA internal news

8) Which categories of Update articles do you seldom/never read? (check all that apply)

___Congressional news ___Federal research management issues
___International news ___Sources of Research Support
___Research community news ___COSSA internal news

(continued on back)
9) Which ___ category do you consider most useful?

___congressional news ___federal research management issues
___international news ___Sources of Research Support
___research community news ___COSSA internal news

10) How would you rate the annual administration budget analysis issue published in February?

___very useful ___somewhat useful ___not useful

11) How could Update be improved?

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____________________________________________________________________________________

12) Are there any aspects you would definitely not like to see changed?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

13) Other comments:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

14) Are you:

___academic professor/researcher ___independent scholar/researcher
___academic administrator ___student
___congressional/federal staff ___member of press
___other (please explain):

15) If you are associated with a university and away from campus during the summer, is the Update forwarded to you? ___yes ___no

If yes, do you read it: ___yes ___no

16) What other science/education news publications do you read regularly? (other than scholarly journals)

___Chronicle of Higher Education ___Science
___(London) Times Higher Ed Supplement ___Change
___New York Times ___Nature
___Other:

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Please send completed questionnaires to COSSA, Attn: UPDATE Editor, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20036. We thank you for your participation.