
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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ELECTION '86: RESULTS, CHANGES, AND EXPLANATIONS

The midterm elections of 1986 will probably not lead to any dramatic changes in how Congress treats the social and behavioral sciences. Even with a new chair of the House Science and Technology Committee and new leadership of key Senate authorization and appropriations committees, support for the social and behavioral sciences will most likely be tied to increases in support for research, education, and training as the important elements for enhancing the economic competitiveness of the United States.

Results

The Senate: the Democrats take control as membership goes from 53-47 Republican to 55-45 Democrat. There will be 13 new Senators. They include 9 former House members, 3 former governors, one former university president, one former Cabinet member, and a former state tax commissioner. These are not inexperienced politicians, as some of the Senators elected in 1980 and defeated this year were, but, as one Senator-elect noted, "seasoned, pragmatic politicians." Six contests were decided by less than a 2% margin. In 1980 and 1982 the Republicans won most of the close contests, in 1986 the Democrats did. Incumbents won 75% of their races.

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The Consortium represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community.

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The House: There will be 50 new members of the House. Incumbency was by far the most important factor in House races -- 98.4% of incumbents who ran in the general election were re-elected. Incumbent House members had five times as much money as their challengers. Six incumbents were defeated, five Republicans and one Democrat. (Rep. Robert Young (D-MO) will forever be the answer to the political trivia question of 1986.) The new party lineup in the House will be 258 Democrats and 177 Republicans. Friends of social and behavioral science thought to be in some trouble, Doug Walgren (D-PA), George Brown (D-CA), and William Green (R-NY), were all re-elected by substantial margins. One of the new members will be political science professor, David Price, a Democrat who taught at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Republicans increased their share of governorships from 16 to 24 of 50. Democrats, however, thwarted a large Republican effort at the state legislative level, and increased their numbers by approximately 190. The Republicans hoped to use gains at the state legislative level to control the redistricting process after the 1990 census. Many in the Republican party believe that the only possible way to create a Republican majority in the House of Representatives is by redrawing congressional district boundaries.

Changes

Senate: Robert Byrd (D-WV) will be the new Majority Leader; Robert Dole (R-KS) will be the new Minority Leader. One of the more obscure comments on election night was Dole's glee at the election of a Republican governor of Kansas since Dole could now be replaced by a Republican if he decided to resign to run for president. Byrd will be the majority leader the Democrats in the Senate want: one who will allow each of them the opportunity to carve out a policy arena and become the spokesperson, especially on television, for the party in that area.

Committee chairs switch from Republicans to Democrats. The most significant for the social and behavioral sciences occur at Labor and Human Resources, where Edward Kennedy (D-MA) replaces Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Commerce, where Ernest Hollings (D-SC) replaces John Danforth (R-MO). These are the authorizing committees for the National Science Foundation and, in Labor's case, the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Mental Health. At the Budget Committee, Lawton Chiles (D-FL) moves in for Pete Domenici (R-NM). The full Appropriations Committee will be led by John Stennis (D-MS) instead of Mark Hatfield (R-OR). However, since most of the important appropriations work is done in the 13 subcommittees, it is these chairs who are most significant. The musical chairs game for these slots is at the rumor stage. William Proxmire (D-WI) may choose the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee (which appropriates for NSF) or the Labor, HHS, ED Subcommittee. If he chooses the first, the Labor Subcommittee could go to Chiles, Hollings, or Daniel Inouye (D-HI). If Proxmire chooses the

second, the HUD Subcommittee will probably go to Patrick Leahy (D-VT). In either case, Senator Proxmire will be in position to play a considerable role in the funding of social and behavioral science by the federal government. The Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee chair where the defeated Slade Gorton (R-WA) once ruled could go to either Donald Riegle (D-MI), who sponsored an amendment in 1984 to increase funding for social and behavioral science at NSF, or Albert Gore (D-TN), who has a major concern for the deletion of the ozone layer of the atmosphere. Changes in chairs also mean substantial changes in staff members -- the key people in most of COSSA's advocacy efforts.

House: With so many incumbents returning (385) there will not be many changes. Jim Wright (D-TX) will be the new Speaker, Tom Foley (D-WA) will be the new Majority Leader, and either Tony Coelho (D-CA) or Charles Rangel (D-NY) will be the new Majority Whip. The Republican leadership will remain the same.

The House Science and Technology Committee will have a new Chair, Robert Roe (D-NJ) replaces the retired Don Fuqua (D-FL). As happens almost every two years, there is talk about restructuring the subcommittees. Roe is interested in a Task Force on Technology to follow up the Committee's Task Force on Science Policy which is completing its work. Science and Technology is a committee generally assigned to new members and a committee where old members leave, so turnover should be high. Appropriations is a committee where old members stay and new members are rare. The key appropriations subcommittee members for social and behavioral science funding will remain the same -- Ed Boland (D-MA) and William Green (R-NY) for NSF, and William Natcher (D-KY) and Silvio Conte (R-MA) for NIH, NIMH, HHS, Education, and Labor.

What's It All About?

The last time the Democrats controlled both Houses of Congress and faced a lame duck President with very high popularity ratings was in 1959-60. In those two years, the Democrats created the conditions for retaking the White House in 1960 and planted the seeds for many of the programs that were passed during the Kennedy-Johnson administrations. Will those opportunities present themselves to the Democrats in the next two years? Will the Republicans face the post-Reagan era the same way they faced the post-Eisenhower era by nominating the sitting Vice-President? Will a President currently wounded by a foreign policy problem face an increasingly confrontational legislative branch or will he succeed in working out policies with bipartisan support? These are the large macro-level questions that will be answered in the next two years.

For social and behavioral science the impact of the new political lineup creates opportunities to continue the successes of the past few years. Most of the new members, both in the House and Senate, committed themselves to improving the nation's

competitiveness during their campaigns. This should translate into support for education, training and scientific research. Although most candidates did not speak of social and behavioral science in their campaigns, we will benefit if there is general increased support for research. COSSA will also do its best to bring social and behavioral science into the calculus of their commitment.

CONGRESS CONTINUES TO EXPLORE IMPROVED AGING-RELATED STATISTICS

Following up on earlier efforts, Congress and federal agencies continue to encourage better data collection the aging population in the United States. On November 14, an all-day "1990 Census Data Products Workshop on Aging-Related Statistics" was jointly sponsored by the Subcommittee on Aging of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources and the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Government Processes of the the Senate Committee on Government Affairs. The workshop was convened by Senators Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) and Thad Cochran (R-MS), chairmen of the sponsoring subcommittees, to explore further ideas generated at hearings held in June (see Update, June 20, 1986).

Senior staff from the Census Bureau provided an overview of the background and current state of preparation for the 1990 census. The workshop also included an exhibit of media in use or under consideration for making the data available to researchers and others.

At a panel on "Perspectives on Policy and Census Data," John Cornman, director of the Gerontological Society of America spoke of the rapidly growing and changing aged population in the U.S. and offered a series of recommendations from the viewpoint of gerontological research. He asserted: 1) age-detailed data should be tabulated in five year intervals rather than the current 65-74 and 75-and-older; 2) time-related tabulations (e.g., hours worked/labor-force data) should provide finer tuned data (i.e., fully retired versus partially retired); 3) refinements should, rather than producing new categories, build on trends in existent data to increase comparability; and 4) data should be ordered to link characteristics of health and institutionalization. Cornman also called upon the Census Bureau to issue special reports on the older population as is currently done with other population groups; to produce a Census which is econometrically useful; and to offer data in a low-cost computer useable format.

On other fronts, the Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics held its inaugural meeting October 24 with 27 agency representatives in attendance, and the National Center for Aging-Related Statistics is being established with linked offices at the National Center for Health Statistics and the Bureau of the Census.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The 40th anniversary of the Fulbright Program was celebrated at an international conference held in Washington on November 16 through 19 and sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), the Board of Foreign Scholarships, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Smithsonian Institution. USIA provides U.S. funding for the Fulbright program, and exercises general administrative responsibility. The various exchange programs are governed or administered by private organizations under policies set by the presidentially-appointed Board of Foreign Scholarships. Foreign governments and institutions also contribute funds and in-kind resources to the academic exchange programs, and share responsibility through binational commissions for the selection of fellows. Altogether, about 5000 fellowships are active in the various Fulbright programs in a given year.

All these institutions were represented at the conference, together with Fulbright program staff persons, foreign scholars from several of the binational commissions, Fulbright alumni, and a number of guests and observers. J. William Fulbright, the former Senator from Arkansas who created and won Congressional approval for the program in 1946, was the honored guest at and participant in the conference. The keynote address was given by Prof. William H. McNeill, scholar of world history from the University of Chicago (and a COSSA director). McNeill, himself a former Fulbright scholar, pointed out that the realization that "historical and cultural diversity are enduring and valuable things" is a modern conception dating from the 19th century, and in a sense not yet entirely incorporated into the American ethos. But today, and even more important in the next century, he said, solving "the data problem" in international understanding and "learning to decipher other people's meanings" should be the goal of any wise government.

While there were other invited addresses, most of the work of the conference was conducted in panels and workshops, focusing on such topics as religion and history, the definition of 'American studies,' and new communications technology. Repeated themes were the need to readjust the particulars of the various programs to continue to meet the over-all goal of increased understanding among peoples by accommodating the new political, social, and technological realities; the balance between older and younger fellows, longer- and short-term fellowships, and teaching and research; and the role of nonacademic fellows, especially from professions such as law and journalism.

Considerable attention was given to the longrange and indirect consequences of exchanges: the effect on higher educational structures and the teaching of the young; the role of Fulbright experience in later careers, including the careers of national and international leaders; the ways in which

individually gained knowledge and experience are, or are not, gathered into general conceptions -- "ideas in the air," as one speaker put it --, theoretical constructs, and cultural images. Several speakers pointed out that there are infinitely more forms of transnational exchanges today than when the Fulbright program was created, that the Fulbright program must define its own niche in a diverse world of intellectual and personal communications, and that the various national public involved in the programs must also understand the goals and benefits of Fulbright programs. Stanley N. Katz, president of the American Council of Learned Societies (the sponsoring organization for the 'senior Fulbright' program) pointed out that U.S. support for area and language study had diminished in recent years, and that "we have missed a generation" in terms both of funding and understanding.

As the Fulbright program prepares for its future course, the Board of Foreign Scholarships and the USIA would be interested in receiving comments and suggestions from U.S. and foreign scholars.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT

COSSA has received a number of announcements of research opportunities from federal agencies particularly interested in reaching the social and behavioral science community. A summary of those opportunities is listed below.

● OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (OJJDP)

OJJDP is in the process of identifying appropriate non-profit organizations to conduct a National Study of the Incidence of Missing Children as mandated by the 1984 Missing Children's Assistance Act. A request for applications will be announced in early 1987. The study, to be conducted through telephone interviews, should produce reliable national estimates of the numbers of missing children occurring in a given year, as well as critical information on the context of the incident, including kidnapping by parents, abduction by strangers, as well as voluntary missing cases such as runaways. Interested organizations should contact Barbara Allen-Hagen, OJJDP, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20531.

● NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE (NIJ)

NIJ and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) have announced a jointly-sponsored program to add supplemental questions to the National Crime Survey (NCS). The NCS provides information about crime through the interview of 60,000 households. NIJ and BJS would like to increase the potential research value of the survey by adding new components proposed by the research community.

Potential topics include self protection, police response, and victimization dynamics. Funding for several awards is available. Each applicant selected will receive a data tape containing his/her survey results plus grant funds to perform the analyses. The deadline for applications is March 27, 1987. Contact Lauresa A. Stillwell, NIJ, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 870, Washington, DC 20531; 202/724-2962.

● UNIVERSITY AFFILIATIONS PROGRAM, U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA)

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of USIA is soliciting applications for support for institutional partnerships between U.S. and non-U.S. institutions of higher education through faculty and staff exchanges. One-time grants are available for a period of 2-3 years. Although thematic priorities are established for different geographic regions, the social sciences are eligible in most areas. Separate competitions will be held on the topic of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution and for exchanges with the People's Republic of China. The deadline is January 29, 1987. Contact William Dant, Coordinator, University Affiliations Program, Office of Academic Programs, USIA, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547; 202/485-8489.

● NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING (NIA)

NIA seeks proposals for research conferences on Nutrition, Health, and Aging. Social and behavioral research topics of interest include, but are not limited to: ethnic and socioeconomic factors in food preferences and consumption; interventions to influence and sustain recommended food practices in middle-aged and older persons; and biopsychological antecedents of age-related changes in eating behaviors. The deadline is March 15, 1986. Contact Behavioral Sciences Research Program, NIA, Building 31, Room 4C-32, Bethesda, MD 20892; 301/496-3136.

● NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (NICHD)

NICHD has issued a request for applications for research on "Strength of Motivation and Fertility-Related Behavior." Although the motivation for fertility-related behavior has been studied for some time, little research has been done emphasizing strength rather than type of motivation. Fertility-related behavior refers to sexual, proceptive, childbearing, and contraceptive activities. The factors which account for the particular strength of motivation (e.g., economic constraints, social/family pressures, psychological needs, etc.) are of interest, as well as the behavior which ensues from varying degrees of strength of motivation to avoid pregnancy. The deadline for applications is March 31, 1987. Contact Gloria Kamenske, Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch, NICHD, Room 7C25 Landow Building, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892; 301/496-1174.

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