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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## COSSA CONVENES ANNUAL MEETING

The Consortium held its fifth annual meeting in Washington on November 10 with representatives of the ten Member associations and 16 Affiliates. The meeting serves as a forum for discussion of priorities, problems, and future directions for the Consortium.

Executive Director David Jenness, in his report on 1986 activities, summarized COSSA's largely successful advocacy efforts to maintain or increase federal research budgets for social and behavioral science. These programs did relatively well in the aftermath of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. The Consortium staff worked effectively to achieve a 14% increase in FY 1987 for the social and behavioral science programs at the National Science Foundation; the re-introduction of competitive, field-initiated research at the Department of Education; and an increased emphasis on federal AIDS research utilizing social science expertise. Those efforts were successful, due in part to a pro-science administration and a supportive Congress, and also to COSSA's sustained 6-year effort to increase the visibility and appreciation of the social and behavioral sciences in Washington.

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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.

Risa I. Palm, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

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Other significant activities in 1986 included working with the National Council for the Social Studies in its planning for a National Commission on the Social Studies, and the release of COSSA's Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists, which is the first detailed, comprehensive guide covering the behavioral and social science fields generally.

Two invited guests addressed the morning session. Stanley R. Katz, President of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), described new directions for the organization. They included: 1) more activity in international areas (e.g., ACLS has assumed the administration of the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars); 2) more outreach to the public; 3) more advocacy for scholarly work; and 4) more effective communication. Katz also announced that a new edition of the Dictionary of American Biography would be produced for publication by 1995.

William E. Taylor, Jr., President of the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, described the structure and functions of his organization. His group is mandated by law to encourage research and training in the social sciences and humanities. Although funded by the government, it is an 'arms length' agency, which means that governmental interference is minimal.

The Council, one of three for research and training in Canada, has a budget of \$50 million (U.S.). It receives approximately 9,000 applications per year, nearly all unsolicited. Within the past year, a Strategic Research Initiative has commenced, involving targeted research solicitations on aging and socialization issues, among others.

According to Taylor, a \$34 billion national debt has led the Canadian government to move toward what he called "technological determinism." A national election in 1988 may bring more attention to research agenda.

#### Cheney Speaks on Role of the Social Sciences at NEH

This year's luncheon speaker was Lynne V. Cheney, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Cheney opened her remarks by offering a "deliberately exaggerated hypothesis" that "the rise of the social sciences has caused a crisis in the humanities...Many of the finest humanists have felt a need to imitate the social sciences and have become quantitative." Contending that this intellectual influence by social science methodologies has caused the humanities to move away from the 'big questions' (e.g., What is Man?), Cheney suggested that humanists had thereby diminished young people's interest in studying the humanities. Cheney conceded that this hypothesis was inadequate to account fully for the crisis in the humanities, but cited a number of recent titles of NEH proposals as evidence for her hypothesis.

Plans for the Center for Education Statistics (CES) were hit hardest by the reduction of requested funds. The revised elementary and secondary school data collection will not move beyond the trial stage in FY 1987, nor will there be funds for further development and improvement of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The Center will commence a longitudinal study of eighth graders with particular emphasis on dropouts.

OERI plans to eliminate its support of the National Research Council's annual survey of earned doctorates. Finn, in response to a plea for the restoration of these funds, noted that OERI was like "a turnip squeezed to the last drop." When asked if the administration will once again support an increase for OERI in FY 1988, Finn stated that "The Secretary [of Education] is aware of our needs," but refused to elaborate further.

#### UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE AWARDS FIRST ROUND OF GRANTS

On December 4 the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) released a list of the first awards under the Institute's grants program. After a rather leisurely organizational beginning (i.e., a 17-month lag between its legislative establishment in 1984 and the first meeting of the USIP Board in February 1986), interim guidelines were issued in August for submission of proposals for research, symposia, publications, and other information activities (see Update 8/1/86 and 8/22/86).

The initial grants totaled \$337,300, more than half of which was awarded to three organizations to support symposia and resulting publications: \$91,400 to the James Madison Foundation (Washington, DC) "for scholars and foreign policy practitioners and commentators reconsidering the basic religious and ethical questions regarding war and peace and a survey of related curricula employed in U.S. theological seminaries"; \$56,000 to the Center for the Study of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Department of State "on various major instances of ethnic, religious, racial, and other sectarian strife as they bear on issues of international peace"; and \$25,500 to the Lehrman Institute (New York) for partial support of cooperative projects with the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in recognition of the latter's 25th anniversary on "a) nuclear-arms reductions and transition to nonnuclear defense, b) resolving Third World conflicts, c) advancing the cause of liberty, and d) fulfilling arms control agreements."

The other seven awards went to individual scholars or groups of scholars for support of research, study, and writing for publication. Only three grants, totaling \$20,700, were awarded to scholars at universities and colleges. The ten grants were selected from among 29 proposals received since August requesting a total of \$3,385,753. USIP is operating under a FY 1987 budget of \$4,125,000. \$1.682 million is available for the grants program during the current fiscal year.

In addition to the grants program, USIP funds may go to USIP resident scholars or members of the Board of Directors. An example of the latter is a \$160,000 project headed by W. Scott Thompson, professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a founder of the Committee for the Present Danger. Thompson's project is a study to produce an 'intellectual map' of the peace field. The preliminary taxonomy breaks into nine intellectual 'strands': 1) deterrence and collective security alliance theory, 2) building institutions of peaceful settlement, 3) functionalism, 4) world federalism/regionalism, 5) arms control, 6) negotiation theory and conflict management, 7) psychological studies -- alternatives to conflict, 8) non-state actors ('second track diplomacy'), and 9) 'world order' theories. Dr. Kenneth Jensen, Director of the Grants Program at USIP told Update that Thompson's project is not intended to be directly related to the grant awarding process.

In commenting on the Institute's proposal review process, which does not employ traditional peer review, Jensen said that while external reviewers had not been used to date, their use is a possibility in the future. Jensen doubts that external review will become a requirement. On the other hand, a 6-month estimated timetable for the complete review process included in the August applications guidelines has proven to have been unduly conservative. In practice, the turnaround has been much more rapid. He mentioned that, in general, proposals received before the 15th of the month are sent to the Board for action at their monthly meeting. The full 14-member Board of Directors acts on proposals following internal staff review. Jensen went on to note that a modification of the interim grant procedures will be announced shortly in the Federal Register. Up to now, each Director has received complete copies of each proposal. In the future, a smaller committee will review full proposals and the full Board will receive only the 6-page grant application form.

For more information on the grants program, contact Dr. Jensen at USIP, 730 Jackson Place, Washington, DC 20503; 202/789-5700.

To those readers who have ordered COSSA's Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists, we apologize for the long delay in receiving the books. The distributor for the Guide, Basic Books, has experienced extreme difficulties in fulfilling prepublication orders. Books ordered before October 1 should arrive in the next 10 days; those ordered since October 1 should arrive in 2-3 weeks. We appreciate your patience.

READERS' RESPONSE TO UPDATE SURVEY

In September a survey was included in the Update as a means of assessing the newsletter's strengths and weaknesses. We received 140 responses, representing all segments of the Consortium's constituency.

Uniformly, the comments received ranged from good to excellent. Findings from the survey include:

- Of the categories of articles readers felt were most useful, 46% chose congressional news; 25% chose sources of research support; and 16% chose federal research management.
- 82% read every issue of the newsletter.
- 82% read either the entire issue or most articles.
- 93% read the Update within a few days of receiving it.
- 52% consider the annual budget analysis issue "very useful."
- 62% keep back issues of the newsletter.
- The 140 respondents indicated that they regularly share the Update with another 587 colleagues, or an average of 4.2 per person. Only 16% of the respondents indicated that they seldom/never shared the Update.

Because of the large number of readers who keep back issues of the newsletter, we will begin compiling a topical index of all articles that appear during the year and make it available to readers. An index for 1986 may be requested from the COSSA office in early January, 1987.

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This is the 22nd and final issue of the Update for 1986. We will resume our biweekly publication schedule on January 9, 1987.

# CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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American Economic Association  
American Historical Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Geographers  
Association of American Law Schools  
Linguistic Society of America

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Research  
American Educational Research  
Association  
American Evaluation Association  
American Society of Criminology  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Social Sciences in Health  
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Economic History Association  
Gerontological Society of America  
History of Science Society  
International Studies Association  
Law and Society Association  
Midwest Sociological Society  
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North Central Sociological Association  
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Operations Research Society of America

Population Association of America  
Regional Science Association  
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Social Science History Association  
Society for the History of Technology  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association  
Speech Communication Association  
The Institute of Management Sciences

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