
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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This Week . . .

- ✓ ● **Appropriations News -- Supplemental, Commerce, Justice, and State**
- ✓ ● **Facilities for Science: Congress Takes Heed**
 - **Senate Rules Committee Hears Testimony on Librarian of Congress**
- ✓ ● **Proposals Sought for Geographic Information Center**
 - **Sources of Research Support: National Science Foundation**

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APPROPRIATIONS NEWS -- SUPPLEMENTAL, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE

While the NSF appropriations bill awaits markup in the Senate and floor action in the House, other bills appropriating funds for research in FY 1988 are making their way through the Congressional process. In addition, the Supplemental Appropriations bill for FY 1987 was finally passed and signed by the President. The following highlights some of the spending decisions tentatively made; all are subject to modification. Congress is trying to write a new, constitutional Gramm-Rudman-Hollings sequestration provision that will force the President to choose between tax increases or deeper cuts in defense spending. In addition, expectations remain that the appropriations bills will be packaged in one omnibus appropriations bill in October.

FY 1987 Supplemental

On July 11 the President signed the FY 1987 Supplemental Appropriations bill. The bill contains additional funding for agencies supporting social and behavioral science.

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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.

Victor G. Rosenblum, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

The Javits Fellowship program, which supports graduate students in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, received \$1.3 million. This will allow the program to continue funding the present class of fellows and to conduct another competition for new fellows. The international education and foreign language programs in the Department of Education received \$1 million. In both these programs the Conference Committee returned to the numbers proposed by the House Appropriations Committee, negating the 21% reduction voted on the House floor and the absence of funds in the Senate version of the bill.

The bill also appropriates \$20 million "to finance a mass mailing of information about AIDS to every household in the Nation." The National Institute on Aging received \$750,000 for clinical trials of a specific drug related to Alzheimer's disease. The National Center for Nursing Research received \$1 million for studies, to be done jointly with the Health Resources and Services Administration, related to the nurse shortage and nurse retention issue. Additional funding provided by the Senate for NIH to cover increased pay costs was deleted by the conference committee. Funds provided by the House for mental health clinical training were deleted.

Commerce, Justice, State

On July 1 the House passed the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary appropriations bill by a vote of 292-102. This bill included an amendment to reduce all appropriations in the bill by 2.45%, with the exception of the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Census Bureau received a total of \$460 million for FY 1988, \$18.3 million less than the budget request for both regular programs and periodic censuses. Funds are included to complete the revision of the Standard Industrial Classification code. The National Sea Grant program, which awards funds to approximately 30 institutions for research and education activities, received \$39 million, the House once again refusing the administration's request to eliminate it.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention survived another attempt by the administration to zero fund it and received \$68.9 million from the House. The National Institute of Justice received \$21 million, a 13% increase over last year's appropriation, but \$1.1 million less than the request. The Bureau of Justice Statistics received \$19.6 million, a 3% increase over last year but \$700,000 short of the request.

The bill provides \$143.3 million for the Educational and Cultural Exchange programs of the United States Information Agency. This is \$9.2 million less than the request and \$1.7 million below last year's appropriations. Soviet-East European research and training received \$4.48 million, slightly less than the FY 1987 level.

The State Justice Institute is a private nonprofit corporation which awards grants for research and other activities to improve the administration and operation of the courts of the states. The House voted an increase of \$5.4 million over the FY 1987 appropriation to \$12.4 million.

Housing

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) in the Department of Housing and Urban Development is funded in the HUD-Independent Agencies bill. The House Appropriations Committee allocated \$17 million for FY 1988 which equals last year's funding level but is \$1.9 million below the request. This action is a repetition of the action taken by the Congress in the past few years. The Committee directed PD&R to pay more attention to housing-related health problems, including radon, asbestos, formaldehyde, lead-based paint, and other indoor pollution problems.

The House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its bill on July 14. This Subcommittee embargoes its actions until the full committee acts. Update will report the funding levels when they become available.

FACILITIES FOR SCIENCE: CONGRESS TAKES HEED

The issue of science and engineering research facilities has captured the attention of Congress and the higher education community in the past few years. Since the demise of funding for facilities construction under various federal programs, colleges and universities have tried to obtain federal funds in various other guises. The issue of special grants in appropriations bills has created fissures in the higher education community between the so-called 'haves' (the major research universities) and the 'have-nots'. This fissure has carried over into the debate on legislation introduced to establish a facilities program at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

"Science and Engineering Research Facilities at Doctorate Granting Institutions," an NSF report based on two quick response surveys conducted in spring 1986, indicates the need for new programs of support for research facilities in the engineering, medical, life, and physical sciences. The general conclusion of the report omits some specific findings of the study, which notes that 59% of the facilities in the social sciences and 50% of the facilities in psychology were rated "fair or poor." Also, "more than in any other area, deans representing psychology described the conditions of facilities as poor," and "the condition of social science facilities is relatively poor." In addition, "facilities in the social sciences are generally older than those in all other areas." Yet social science deans did not consider facilities as "the most important problem facing

research" (emphasis in the report). The need for more space was listed as the major concern of the social sciences.

Legislation that would create a new facilities programs for NSF comes in two forms. The NSF authorization bill that emerged from the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on June 2 includes an amendment to establish a program that would be funded at \$47 million in FY 1989, \$95 million in FY 1990, and such sums as necessary in later years (for further details see Update, June 5, 1987). The second form is a bill, H.R.1905, introduced by House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Rep. Robert Roe (D-NJ). The Roe bill would provide \$250 million a year for ten years for facilities construction and rehabilitation. Awards would be made under NSF merit review guidelines.

Hearings were held on H.R.1905 on June 25 before the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Erich Bloch, Director of NSF, offered positive comments about the goal of the proposed program, but said the administration opposed the bill on budgetary grounds. Witnesses from higher education associations and institutions supported the idea of such a program, but disagreed over specific provisions which again divided along 'have' and 'have-not' lines. The question of how much of the funding should be set aside for those colleges and universities receiving less than \$10 million in federal research funds was debated. The Roe bill, like the Senate amendment, has a 15% set aside for those colleges and universities. A number of witnesses, led by John Silber, President of Boston University, argued for a larger percentage, up to a 50-50 split. The Roe bill differs from the the Senate amendment in that it does not have a set-aside for historically black colleges and universities.

The Senate Commerce Committee is also interested in facilities legislation as part of its role in the NSF authorization process. Trade legislation passed by the House, but threatened by a presidential veto, contains funding for research facilities and equipment. The Labor and Human Resources Committee has delayed writing its report on the NSF authorization bill to take another look at the facilities amendment. On the House side, Chairman Roe favors a separate facilities bill, fearing that to include one as part of the NSF authorization bill would set up a situation where facilities funding would become part of a zero-sum game with research funding -- something no one in the research or higher education community wants. Thus a complicated issue with some momentum may get bogged down over details and House-Senate differences. On the other hand, new research facilities at campuses make attractive opportunities for congressional credit-claiming, and may provide the necessary incentive to push through the legislation.

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

On July 14, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration heard testimony on the nomination of James H. Billington to be the next Librarian of Congress. The hearing was held on the same floor of the Russell Senate Office Building as the hearings into the Iran-Contra affair, although the turn-out was somewhat smaller and the press coverage minuscule by comparison.

Testimony was heard from Dr. Billington himself, two professional librarian's organizations, and representatives of Library of Congress employees. Because the chairman of the Rules Committee, Wendell Ford (D-KY), was unable to remain at the hearing, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI), chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library and second-ranking Democrat on the Rules Committee, presided.

The first witness was Billington, who testified that if his nomination is approved he will seek to ensure that the library remains a "living link between yesterday's experience and tomorrow's possibilities." As Librarian, Billington promised to maintain and enhance the Library's basic collections and, applying an extended musical metaphor to the institution and its functions, noted that he would be a conductor who both listened to and led the staff and scholars who worked at and used this "living encyclopedia of democracy." He also cited the need for the Library to provide national leadership in efforts to preserve resources printed on acidic paper, which includes almost all books printed in the last 150 years.

In questioning Billington, Pell stated he was happy to hear preservation cited as a high priority and asked the witness to elaborate on that and on issues relating to the application of new technologies to such library functions as bibliographies. In response, Billington applied his own experience as a researcher to the situation of the Library of Congress. He called for an expansion of the Library's role as a "beachhead" for the "immigration of new ideas" and mentioned the potential for the Library to become part of a national attack on illiteracy.

Two library groups presented testimony in favor of the nomination. Margaret Chisholm, president of the American Library Association (ALA), acknowledged that while the ALA would prefer to see a professional librarian appointed to the position, it had no specific objections to Billington. Chisholm also outlined the agenda the ALA hoped the new Librarian would adopt, touching on many of the issues raised by Pell. Emily Mobley, president of the Special Libraries Association, likewise offered her organization's support for the nominee and laid out a set of priorities for the Library of Congress.

COSSA was one of four organizations to submit statements of support for Billington's nomination. The others were the Association of Research Libraries, the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, and the National Humanities Alliance. These statements were included in the official hearing record.

Given the overall tenor of the hearing it is highly unlikely that Billington will be rejected. He proved to be an informed, sympathetic witness whose experience as a professor of history and, for the past fourteen years, director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars would serve him well in the position of Librarian of Congress. He also received strong endorsements from Senators Hatfield (R-OR), Moynihan (D-NY), Stevens (R-AK), and Warner (R-VA) during the course of the hearing. The Committee will vote on the nomination July 23.

PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER

The National Science Foundation is seeking proposals for a National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA). Plans to establish such a center were announced in the FY 1988 budget submitted to the Congress. COSSA testimony to the Senate on the NSF appropriation focused on the need for the Center (see Update, May 22, 1987).

The facility will be initiated in mid-1988. Support from the Foundation will be \$1.25 million per year for up to eight years. The goals of the NCGIA are to advance the theory, methods, and techniques of geographical analysis based on geographical information systems (GIS) in the many disciplines involved in GIS research. It will also provide a central clearinghouse and conduit for dissemination of GIS information. The Center's research programs should be multidisciplinary, and they should actively involve scientists from outside the academic world. In addition, the Center should involve both graduate and undergraduate students in its research activities. Finally, the Center should promote scholarly and technical communication, including the sharing of data bases, among those engaged in GIS research.

Proposals are invited from U.S. academic institutions with research and instructional programs in GIS-based analysis. The deadline is January 29, 1988. Further information may be obtained from the Geography and Regional Science Program, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550; 202/357-7326.

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. A comprehensive listing of federal funding sources is contained in COSSA's Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists.

Ethics and Values Studies

Ethics and Values Studies (EVS) supports research and related activities examining ethical or value issues of significance to U.S. science and engineering. These studies are also of general interest for professional ethics and to policy-makers concerned about the appropriate uses of science and engineering in public arenas.

Projects should contribute to:

- empirical, methodological, or theoretical knowledge about ethical or value issues;
- improved abilities to formulate policies or practices for science or engineering; and
- discussion and understanding among concerned individuals and groups.

EVS research usually involves several disciplinary perspectives. Quantitative, historical, and empirical methods are often useful in examining the value dimensions associated with developments in research and their uses. Philosophical and analytical methods are useful in identifying, delineating, and assessing their ethical implications.

Budget: EVS will award approximately \$1 million for 23 projects in FY 1987. This includes 14 new awards.

Eligible activities: EVS will fund proposals for research projects and cross-disciplinary studies, dissertation support, national conferences, symposia, and research workshops. International activities may also be eligible.

Deadlines: Preliminary proposals (3-5 pages) are due November 1 and May 1. Formal proposals are due February 1 and August 1.

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