
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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CONGRESS RETURNS: LET THE BUDGET GAMES BEGIN

On September 9 Congress returned from its month-long recess. During the next month the debt ceiling will have to be raised again, Gramm-Rudman-Hollings may be fixed, a reconciliation bill needs to be passed, and appropriations bills need to be enacted. In addition, a trade bill compromise needs to be negotiated, a Supreme Court nominee will be scrutinized, a campaign finance law filibuster needs to be settled, and various other pieces of legislation may be debated. All of this suggests the first session of the 100th Congress will still be here when turkey is being eaten, and perhaps when Santa Claus arrives. Much remains to be done and the partisan sniping preceding a presidential election year will hover over attempts to accomplish anything.

The House has passed eight of the thirteen appropriations bills while the Senate has not passed any. In fact, the Senate appropriations subcommittees have not marked up a single bill. The Senate subcommittees are expected to begin markups the week of September 14. It is clear there is not enough time to finish the process before the new fiscal year begins on October 1.

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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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David Jenness, *Executive Director*

Thus, once again this year, the Congress will resort to using a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government. Two solutions are possible: to pass a short-term CR that would fund all programs at current levels, enabling the regular appropriations process to continue through October and November; or to combine all thirteen bills into what Congress hopes will be a veto-proof, full-year CR.

As noted in the two previous issues of Update, the NSF appropriation is in serious trouble in the Senate. Because the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee was not allocated sufficient funds, the subcommittee will probably be forced to freeze the FY 1988 NSF appropriation at the FY 1987 level. To overcome this disaster, the House level (at present a 14% increase) will have to be maintained on the House floor (a vote is expected the week of September 21) and in the conference with the Senate during consideration of the continuing resolution. This is not going to be an easy task. There is still the possibility of a significant reduction of NSF funding on the House floor. The doubling of the Foundation's funding in the next five years remains in danger.

By September 23 the debt limit must be raised. As part of the package to do that, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law (GRH) will probably be revamped. The automatic sequestration provision should be restored, with OMB getting most of the power--thus satisfying the Supreme Court's objections to the original sequestration provision. To achieve this, the budget targets would be increased from \$108 billion to \$144 billion in FY 1988 and an extra year (1992) added to reach a zero deficit.

In the meantime, the players in sequestration have played their parts. The OMB estimates next year's deficit at \$136.8 billion while the Congressional Budget Office estimates \$169.9 billion; averaging them out equals \$153 billion, which would be within the \$10 billion leeway necessary to meet the new FY 1988 target of \$144 billion. If there is no agreement on changing the FY 1988 target, which is always possible, sequestration procedures to meet the original GRH target of \$108 billion would necessitate cutting non-defense programs by 19% from FY 1987 levels and defense programs by 12.9%.

Some may remember that the budget resolution calls for \$19 billion in new revenues. The President remains adamant in his opposition to any new taxes. The Democrats in control of Congress remain wary of raising taxes without presidential support. The maneuvering to fix GRH appears to be an attempt to dodge this dilemma. In many ways the settlement of the macro questions of deficit targets, sequestration, and revenue raising will determine the answers to the micro questions of agency FY 1988 appropriations.

OMB PUBLICIZES ITS CRITICISMS OF THE 1990 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE

Following the stormy appearance of Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator Wendy Lee Gramm before the Joint Economic Committee on August 7 (see Update, August 14, 1987), OMB has published a notice "containing information on the status of the review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of the 1990 Census Dress Rehearsal." The Federal Register of August 25, 1987 (pp. 32114-32116) contains the questions OMB is raising with the Census Bureau about some of the items scheduled for inclusion in the dress rehearsal questionnaire. In addition, OMB states emphatically: "it has made no decisions or recommendations concerning the Dress Rehearsal, nor will any final decisions be made until mid-September." It welcomes comments from the public until September 15.

The questions OMB is raising about questionnaire content and design include: Are there substantial uses for all the data collected? Is the decennial census the best source of certain data? Is it necessary to ask so many questions of such large numbers of households (96 million for the short form, 16 million for the long form)? Is the response burden of the census fairly distributed? Is the length of the proposed questionnaires, particularly the long form, likely to have any adverse impact on the quality of response? The Census Bureau and the public have been responding and further clarifying their positions on these issues.

As a follow-up to the hearings held by the Joint Economic Committee on August 7, chairman Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) published in the August 20 Congressional Record some of the letters (including two by COSSA to Sen. Sarbanes and to OMB Director James C. Miller III) opposing OMB's attempt to tamper with the questionnaire. As of September 8, over 600 letters had been received, most of them opposing any attempt to reduce the number of items on the questionnaire. OMB is expected to inform the Census Bureau of its decisions about the items on September 15.

NSF HISTORY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION: PROPOSALS ENCOURAGED

One of the primary areas of concern at the National Science Foundation (NSF) is the the status and health of science education in the United States. In keeping with this concern, the NSF Directorate for Science and Engineering Education (SEE) plans to establish new programs in undergraduate faculty enhancement and curriculum development in the history and philosophy of science. These programs will be implemented in the near future; already in place are SEE programs for improving the

teaching of the history of science in elementary and secondary schools.

The existing precollegiate programs, which are outlined below, are actively encouraging the submission of proposals for improving the teaching and understanding of the history of science, mathematics, and technology. Proposed projects should facilitate the integration of the history of science into precollege history and social studies curricula. Proposals can range in scope from curricula reform projects to developing new texts. Workshops or other programs preparing teachers to integrate the history of science into their lectures are also eligible. All proposals will be evaluated by a panel of scientists and educators, including the program director of the History and Philosophy of Science Program.

The four programs to which history of science education proposals can be submitted are: Informal Science Education; Teacher Preparation; Teacher Enhancement; and Instructional Materials Development. Of these, the first funds the development of materials and programs outside traditional educational structures and environments. Such projects include media programs, museum exhibitions, and other forms of recreational learning. The other three programs are designed to fund projects for improving specific aspects of precollege education. The Teacher Preparation and Teacher Enhancement Programs support the development of approaches and materials for "preservice" (innovative teacher education) and "inservice" (continuing teacher education) programs respectively. The Instructional Materials Development Program funds the preparation or improvement of pedagogical materials and teaching strategies aimed at students in grades K through 12.

Detailed information about these programs and procedures for submitting proposals appears in the Program Announcements for the Division of Teacher Preparation and Enhancement (NSF 87-10) and the Division of Materials Development, Research, and Informal Science Education (NSF 87-12). Copies may be requested from the Forms and Publications Office, NSF, Washington, DC 20550. General inquiries about these programs and their relationship to the history of science should be directed to Dr. Florence Fasanelli at the Division of Teacher Preparation and Enhancement (202/357-7074). Information concerning college-level programs can be obtained from the Office of Undergraduate Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (202/357-9644). As reported in a previous Update (July 3, 1987), research in the history and philosophy of science is supported by the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences; more information can be obtained from the director of the History and Philosophy of Science Program, Dr. Ronald Overmann, at 202/357-9677.

SENATOR PROXMIRE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI), who gained notoriety among scientists with his 'Golden Fleece' awards, has announced his decision not to run for a sixth term in 1988. Proxmire, who was elected in 1957 to replace Sen. Joseph McCarthy, suggested that at 71 it was time to leave the playing field of the Senate to younger members.

Proxmire, the maverick whose independent style was glorified in political scientist Ralph Huitt's classic study, "The Outsider in the Senate: An Alternative Role," is currently the chairman of the Senate HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the funding of the National Science Foundation (NSF). During his 30-year career Proxmire lived up to his reputation, going his own way on numerous issues. For many years he rose every day on the Senate floor as a lonely voice urging ratification of the international genocide convention, an effort which finally succeeded. His awarding of the 'Golden Fleece' has subsided in recent years following an out-of-court settlement with a psychologist who sued for libel after receiving the award.

Proxmire has run his last three campaigns on very little money and old-fashioned, press-the-flesh techniques. The prospect of raising significant funds for pollsters, consultants, and media in order to run a 'modern' campaign in 1988 may also have influenced the Senator's decision. Nevertheless, he will remain a key player in NSF appropriations decisions both this year and next. Reducing the deficit is Proxmire's major priority, thus making increases for NSF a hard sell to the maverick from Wisconsin.

COSSA STAFF CHANGES

We regret to announce the departure of COSSA's longest serving staff member, but are pleased to welcome a new member of the staff. Susan Quarles, formerly executive associate and editor of this newsletter, has joined the staff of Foresight Science and Technology, Inc., a Washington, DC, consulting firm specializing in science policy and high technology issues. Ms. Quarles had been with COSSA since 1982; her new position is Director of Management Services.

COSSA recently hired Brian Daly as Executive Associate with responsibility for Affiliate and Contributor relations and database management. Mr. Daly holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he served as managing editor of the Diamondback newspaper. Before joining COSSA he worked as a research assistant and consultant at the Legal Services Corporation.

RANKING OF FEDERAL R&D FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

COSSA has prepared a ranking of universities receiving federal social and behavioral science R&D grants. This ranking develops data published by the National Science Foundation for FY 1985, the latest year for which figures are available, and covers the top 77 U.S. universities. Please contact COSSA if you wish to receive a copy.

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SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COSSA provides this information as a service, and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for further information and applications. A comprehensive listing of federal funding sources is contained in COSSA's Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists.

Selected Programs of the Department of Education

In this issue we focus on the programs of three offices of the Department of Education with deadlines in the near future.

● Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

The Research in Education of the Handicapped Program is inviting applications for grants in three project areas, Field-Initiated Research (\$2 million available for 20 awards of between \$30,000 and \$130,000), Home and School Cooperation in Social and Motivational Development (\$1.05 million available for 7 awards of between \$140,000 and \$160,000), and Student-Initiated Research (\$150,000 available for 20 awards of between \$3,000 and \$12,000 to college or university students). Proposals will be reviewed by field readers.

Deadlines: October 9, 1987 (field-initiated research); October 30, 1987 (home and school cooperation); and February 16, 1988 (student-initiated research).

Contact: Linda Glidewell
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Room 3094-M/S 2313
Washington, DC 20202
202/732-1099

● Office of Educational Research and Improvement

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is currently being redesigned. Five-year contracts are available for the existing 16 ERIC clearinghouses and support facilities plus two of three new system components. The new components are: "ACCESS ERIC," which will disseminate information about ERIC to generate increased use of the system; "Adjunct Clearinghouses," to supply information in areas not adequately covered by the 16 extant clearinghouses; and "ERIC Partners," organizations or institutions interested in the ERIC system wishing to disseminate ERIC-developed materials to specific constituencies or members. (ERIC Partners are not eligible for five-year contract funding.) Since user fees cover much of the cost of ERIC, the usual requirement of cost-sharing is waived.

Deadlines: January 1, 1988 (Clearinghouses), and the other facilities shortly thereafter.

Contact: Joyce Calloway or Paula Williams-Bauvil
U.S. Department of Education
Grants and Contracts Services
GSA Building, Room 3633
7th and D Streets, SW
Washington, DC 20202
202/732-4235 (information)
202/732-2498 (applications)

● Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA)

OBEMLA is inviting applications for grants in three FY 1988 programs, Training Development and Improvement (\$200,000 for 2 awards), Special Populations (\$1.3 million for 12 awards of between \$25,000 and \$200,000), and Transitional Bilingual Education (\$22 million for 160 awards of between \$40,000 and \$500,000). All proposals will be subject to review by a panel of experts consisting of scholars and/or federal employees. All funding is contingent on passage of the FY 1988 appropriations bills; the funding amounts are those requested by the administration. Eligible applicants include local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and (for the Special Populations Program only) private non-profit organizations.

Deadlines: October 14, 1987 (Training Development and Improvement Program; contact Cynthia Ryan, 202/732-1842), November 16, 1987 (Special Populations Program; contact Barbara Wells, 202/732-1840), and December 1, 1987 (Transitional Bilingual Education Program; contact Rudy Munis, 202/245-2599).

Contact: The Program Officers whose names and telephone numbers are given above can be contacted by mail at:
U.S. Department of Education
OBEMLA
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

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Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
The Institute of Management Sciences

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