
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE: NEW NAME, NEW CHAIRMAN, NEW ZEST

The House Science and Technology Committee underwent a transformation as the 100th Congress began work in earnest this month. First, the Committee has a new name reflecting its major concern: it will henceforth be known as the Science, Space, and Technology Committee (SST). The Committee also has a new Chairman, Robert Roe (D-NJ). Roe, 63, came to the House in 1969 and has been an 'activist' Chairman of the Water Resources Subcommittee of the Public Works and Transportation Committee. Early indications are that he will continue his activist role in his new assignment. Reviews of his performance during the SST Committee's recent posture hearings with the President's Science Adviser, William Graham, used the term 'vigor.'

SST has also restructured its subcommittees. Roe will chair the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee. The Science, Research, and Technology Subcommittee remains in the capable hands of Doug Walgren (D-PA) as Chairman, with Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) as Ranking Republican. This duo has been quite supportive of the National Science Foundation and its social and behavioral science programs. Other subcommittee chairs are: Energy, Research, and Development -- Marilyn Lloyd (D-TN); the new subcommittee on International Scientific Cooperation -- Ralph Hall (D-TX); Space

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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*

Science and Applications -- Bill Nelson (D-FL); Natural Resources, Agricultural Research, and Environment -- James Scheuer (D-NY); and Transportation, Aviation, and Materials -- Dave McCurdy (D-OK).

A surprising turn of events for the Committee is its newly found popularity with the 100th Congress. For years, the Science Committee was a jumping off point for incumbents to leave for better assignments. However, this year only two returning members left the Committee. The SST roster grew from 41 to 45 members, with a number of senior Democrats, such as Lee Hamilton (D-IN) and Henry Nowak (D-NY), opting for a seat on the Committee. The SRT Subcommittee nearly doubled its membership from 11 to 21 (see list below). The renewed interest in this committee and subcommittee can be explained by their jurisdiction over two juicy issues for the 100th Congress: the science and research aspects of economic competitiveness, and what to do about NASA.

HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Democrats

Robert Roe (8-NJ), Chair
 George Brown* (36-CA)
 James Scheuer (8-NY)
 Marilyn Lloyd (3-TN)
 Doug Walgren* (18-PA)
 Dan Glickman (4-KS)
 Harold Volkmer (9-MO)
 Bill Nelson (11-FL)
 Ralph Hall (4-TX)
 Dave McCurdy (4-OK)
 Norman Mineta* (13-CA)
 Buddy MacKay* (6-FL)
 Tim Valentine* (2-NC)
 Robert Torricelli (9-NJ)
 Rick Boucher (9-VA)
 Terry Bruce* (19-IL)
 Richard Stallings (2-ID)
 James Traficant (17-OH)
 Jim Chapman* (1-TX)
 Lee Hamilton* (9-IN)
 Henry Nowak* (33-NY)
 Carl Perkins* (7-KY)
 Tom McMillen (4-MD)
 David Price* (4-NC)
 David Nagle* (3-IA)
 Jimmy Hayes* (7-LA)
 vacancy

Republicans

Manual Lujan (1-NM), Ranking Member
 Robert Walker (16-PA)
 F. James Sensenbrenner (9-WI)
 Claudine Schneider* (2-RI)
 Sherwood Boehlert* (25-NY)
 Tom Lewis (12-FL)
 Don Ritter* (15-PA)
 Sid Morrison* (4-WA)
 Ron Packard (43-CA)
 Robert Smith (1-NH)
 Paul Henry* (5-MI)
 Harris Fawell (13-IL)
 D. French Slaughter* (7-VA)
 Lamar Smith* (21-TX)
 Ernest Konnyu (12-CA)
 Jack Buechner* (2-MO)
 Joel Hefley (5-CO)
 Constance Morella (8-MD)

*Member, Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology

Note: The number in parentheses is the Members' congressional district.

NSF HEARINGS COMMENCE: FOCUS ON LARGE ISSUES

On February 19 and 25 the House Science, Research, and Technology Subcommittee heard from a number of witnesses concerning the authorization of the FY 1988 budget for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Scheduling problems prevented Director Erich Bloch and National Science Board (NSB) Chairman Roland Schmitt from appearing until March 11. The Subcommittee focused on four major areas: science and engineering education, super-computers, the university-industry research relationship, and the balance between research conducted by individual investigators and research conducted by multi-disciplinary, multi-investigator teams. The Subcommittee wanted to avoid the usual parade of witnesses on behalf of the various disciplines supported by NSF, although engineering did seem an exception through the four panels.

It became clear that this Subcommittee wants NSF to do more in science and engineering education. Despite a proposed 16% increase in the Science and Engineering Education Directorate, the witnesses, with sympathy from Subcommittee members, claimed this was not enough. Dr. Homer Neal, Chair of the NSB Committee which produced the report Undergraduate Science, Mathematics and Engineering Education, argued for more attention to undergraduate education: "There is broad unease, however, that the significant increase in the Foundation's research budget over the past decade -- mirrored against the decrease in support for undergraduate education programs over this period -- implies a collective lack of understanding of the importance of the NSF's role in education." Representatives from the National Science Teachers' Association argued for more NSF dollars for pre-college education. The Subcommittee's Chairman, Doug Walgren (D-PA), and Ranking Republican, Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), agreed that more needs to be done. Walgren questioned the placement of NSF's support for undergraduate science education in the research directorates, suggesting it belongs in an expanded Science and Engineering Directorate. Dr. Neal disagreed, although he argued for better coordination and oversight for these education programs. All the witnesses and members of the Subcommittee agreed NSF would do a better job of administering funds for science education than the Department of Education.

As NSF moves toward the establishment of science and technology centers based on the model of the engineering research centers, a number of Members of Congress, as well as those in the scientific community, have evinced concern over the 'balance' of the NSF portfolio. Dr. Harold Shapiro, President of the University of Michigan, told the Subcommittee that increasing the share of the NSF budget devoted to the support of these centers "is -- at the current time -- an appropriate strategy to pursue." Yet he also warned that the "rate of expansion of NSF funding for research centers should be cautious, retain its flexibility, and be the subject of ongoing evaluation." Thus, he noted research centers are "to be welcomed as a useful experiment." In response to questions from Boehlert and Buddy MacKay (D-FL), all the witnesses on this panel, including Dr. Sheila Widnall, incoming President of the American Association for the Advancement of

Science, and Dr. Joseph Goldstein, Vice-President for Research at Lehigh University, agreed that support for research centers should not come at the expense of the individual investigator program, which Shapiro called "the environment most likely to sustain the complex amalgam of competition, intellectual humility, open-mindedness and risk-taking that remain necessary for sustaining basic research."

The major question on the university-industry research relationship was posed by Rep. MacKay. He queried whether industry's paying for research would skew the scientific agenda towards investigations that would benefit industry. Dr. Paul Gray, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mr. Richard Case, Director for University Relations for IBM, assured the congressman that industry support for basic research did not mean industry domination of the research agenda.

RESEARCH ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING MAKES COMEBACK AT DOL

After suffering major cutbacks in funding for research and evaluation at the Department of Labor (DOL) in the early years of the Reagan administration, these activities have made significant budgetary gains in the past two years. Research in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) at DOL is funded under the National Activities section of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The inclusion of the research and evaluation provisions of JTPA was one of the early successes of COSSA. In 1984 COSSA testified in favor of increased funding for research at DOL before the House and Senate Labor appropriations subcommittees. At that time the Department was about to downgrade its research and evaluation office, and funding for research activities had been reduced by almost \$10 million. Large reductions-in-force were occurring throughout ETA. In addition, the National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experiences (NLS), which had been conducted since 1965, was in danger of extinction.

During the past two years, under Labor Secretary William Brock and Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Roger Semerad, the Department has requested significant increases for employment and training research. Congress has not appropriated the total requested level, but the budget has almost doubled. Also, the NLS has been saved and now has a new home in the Bureau of Labor Statistics (see separate story).

Most of the \$13.7 million available in program year 1986 (ETA operates on a July-June program year) will go to non-competitive awards for specific projects. The Hudson Institute has produced The Year 2000 which focuses on projected demographic analyses of the work force at the turn of the 21st century. A project to determine the real level of literacy among this nation's workers and potential workers is another emphasis of DOL research. Other research grants have gone to unions and private industry, as well as research institutes such as the Urban Institute and the Educational Testing Service.

A small amount of money is available for unsolicited research and evaluation projects conducted by university-based scholars. These are generally small grants for 'timely' research. Issues of current interest to the Department are unemployment insurance and its alternatives, and the plight of dislocated workers (why people refuse to move to look for new jobs, why older workers refuse to enroll in retraining programs). Those people interested in doing research in the areas mentioned above should contact William Delaney, Research Unit Chief, ETA, 202/533-0677.

The research unit is also attempting to improve its dissemination procedures. In mid-1987 a special bibliography will be available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) containing updated references to all DOL-sponsored research through 1985.

As economic competitiveness dominates the policy agenda in this country, research on America's workforce will continue to be viewed as an important source of information for decision-makers.

NLS MOVES TO BLS

Responsibility for the National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experiences (NLS), one of the key databases examining the nature of work in the United States, has moved from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The NLS was in danger of extinction three years ago, but survived after intensive lobbying in which COSSA played an important role. Since that battle it became clear that ETA was not very interested in continuing to support the surveys.

Janet Norwood, Commissioner of BLS, had expressed an interest in bringing the NLS under her agency's jurisdiction for some time. She argued that such an important statistical resource fit better within BLS. The stumbling block seemed to be the transfer of resources as well as the responsibility. The FY 1988 budget moves the \$5.7 million allocated in 1987 from ETA's budget to BLS.

Kenneth Wolpin, principal investigator for NLS and Director of the Center for Human Resources Research at Ohio State University, expressed "real excitement" over the move, noting that BLS has demonstrated "real enthusiasm in maintaining NLS." As an example, he cited the commitment to return to in-person interviews, rather than telephone surveys.

The most recent effort of the NLS, with key support from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, was a survey of the children of the women in the original youth cohort. The 9th survey of the youth cohort will occur in 1987. The 20th year surveys of the mature women and young women cohorts will occur in 1987 and 1988 respectively. Unfortunately, the older male cohort survey was the victim of budget cutting two years ago. Hundreds of articles and many books have been written utilizing NLS data. For more information about the NLS database, contact: Dr. Kenneth Wolpin, Center for Human Resources Research, 650 Ackerman Road, Suite A, Columbus, OH 43202; 614/263-1682.

2/27/87

COSSA OVERSEES INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE GRANT; ORGANIZES AAAS PANEL

Although the United States is no longer a member of UNESCO, the U.S. government is continuing to support some aspects of international cooperation in science undertaken by nongovernmental organizations in cooperation with UNESCO-related auspices. The National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council has received a grant from the State Department which represents a voluntary contribution to the activities of U.S. scientists in international linkages. To monitor U.S. interests in such cooperation and to advise the NAS/NRC on issues of quality, various U.S. national science organizations have been asked to accept the funds, and regrant them to appropriate international agencies.

The NAS/NRC has asked the Consortium to oversee the use of \$20,000 on behalf of the International Social Science Council, Paris. COSSA has agreed to act in this capacity, has an ad hoc multidisciplinary group of U.S. social scientists to advise it in this role, and has agreed to waive any overhead from the grant. The funds are for partial support of project activities of the ISSC in calendar 1987 in which U.S. scientists play a significant role.

The ISSC is a federation of 14 international disciplinary associations, and is the leading international nongovernmental structure in social science. Through two of its members, the International Union of Psychological Science and the International Geographical Union, it has cooperative links with the International Council of Scientific Unions, a Paris-based organization that serves a similar role for the physical, biological, and geophysical sciences. The recent NAS/NRC grant to COSSA will in part help develop that cooperation as it involves U.S. scientists.

Partly to mark the COSSA-ISSC relationship, the Consortium organized an international panel at the recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Chicago. The panel, which took place on February 16, 1987, was entitled "The Internationalization of Social Science: Views from Here and Abroad." Neil J. Smelser, University of California-Berkeley, was the lead-off speaker, drawing in part on the deliberations of the National Research Council committee that is preparing a report on a ten-year outlook for research opportunities in the behavioral and social sciences. Other speakers included A. J. Marsh, director of research, Economic and Social Research Council, U.K.; Laurence Ratier-Coutrot, social science attache, Embassy of France, Washington; Larissa Lomnitz, National Autonomous University of Mexico (and City University of New York Graduate Center), and Luis I. Ramallo, Secretary-General, ISSC. David Jenness of COSSA served as moderator.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSA for more information. A comprehensive list of federal funding sources is included in COSSA's Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists.

Fulbright Scholar Program

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) is the principal private agency administering the Fulbright scholar grants for advanced research and university teaching funded by the U.S. Information Agency. CIES is now accepting applications for 1988-1989 Fulbright Scholar awards, which will include more than 300 grants in research and 700 grants in university lecturing for periods ranging from three months to a full academic year. There are openings in over 100 countries and, in some instances, the opportunity for multi-country research is available. Fulbright awards are granted in virtually all social and behavioral science fields, and related areas such as architecture and urban planning, business administration, communications and journalism, education, environmental sciences, musicology, philosophy and theology, and social work. Scholars in all academic ranks are eligible to apply.

Eligibility requirements include U.S. citizenship, a Ph.D. or comparable professional qualifications, university or college teaching experience, and for some assignments, proficiency in a foreign language. Under a new policy, scholars are no longer limited to two Fulbright grants.

Application/Review Process: Applications undergo a 2-stage peer review by CIES advisory committees, first by subject matter specialists and then by an interdisciplinary group of geographic area specialists. After scholars are nominated by CIES for awards, their applications are sent for further review to the Board of Foreign Scholarships, to Fulbright binational commissions or U.S. embassies abroad, and to prospective host institutions.

Deadlines

June 15, 1987: Australasia, India, and Latin America

September 15, 1987: Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, and lecturing awards to Mexico, Venezuela, and the Caribbean

November 1: institutional proposals for the Scholar-in-Residence Program

January 1, 1988: NATO Research Fellowships and Spain Research Fellowships

February 1, 1988: France, Italy, and Germany Travel-Only Awards

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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
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
The Institute of Management Sciences

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