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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## TESTIMONY SEASON: COSSA PRESENTS ITS VIEWS

### National Science Foundation

Alfred Blumstein, Dean of the School of Urban and Public Affairs at Carnegie Mellon University, testified on behalf of COSSA before the House HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA), on April 28. He strongly endorsed the administration's proposed 16.5% increase in FY 1988 for the National Science Foundation.

Blumstein's remarks to the Subcommittee focused on major advances during the past five years in the conduct of social and behavioral science research. Referring to his work on career criminals, Blumstein pointed out that longitudinal studies utilizing new and better data sources will allow researchers to discuss cause and effect relationships in a more sophisticated manner. This should provide better insights into public policy questions.

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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*

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As the incoming president of The Institute of Management Sciences, Blumstein also discussed NSF's initiative in the FY 1988 budget for multidisciplinary research in the Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences (DRMS) program. He suggested further studies of decision-making would help organizations cope with routine occurrences as well as disasters such as the space shuttle Challenger, Three Mile Island, and Chernobyl incidents. More research in the management sciences would certainly impact economic competitiveness, especially in the area of international marketing where systematic knowledge is lacking. The government should support studies of risk, Blumstein noted, because "blame [for disasters] almost always comes back to the government."

Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV), presiding in the absence of the Chairman, noted the tough choices facing the Subcommittee regarding the funding of programs under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee staff have suggested the markup of its bill may occur before Memorial Day.

#### Department of Labor

Katherine Abraham, professor at the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a research associate at the Brookings Institution, represented COSSA before the House Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee chaired by Rep. William Natcher (D-KY) on April 30. Abraham asked the Subcommittee to appropriate \$25.2 million, \$6 million above the President's request, to expand the research and evaluation agenda at the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) in the Department of Labor (DOL).

Noting that ETA "has moved from the dark days of 1984 when its research program came close to being completely dismantled," Abraham called for ETA research to make "a more significant contribution to understanding the needs of the workplace and workforce." The expanded research agenda would include more efforts toward discerning labor market influences on productivity, the organization of work, the impact of structural change, and the problems of displaced workers. Special attention, Abraham argued, should be given to research on the unemployment problem of minorities and the underemployment of women. She made a special plea for the resumption of the ETA doctoral dissertation grant program under which more than 500 Ph.D. candidates produced dissertations on various aspects of labor market performance and policy.

Testifying on the day when Senator Natcher cast his 15,000th consecutive roll call vote and former HEW Secretary and author of the Social Security Act, Wilbur Cohen, testified for the 52nd straight year before the Subcommittee, Dr. Abraham's remarks were accepted graciously by the Chairman.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

COSSA's associate director for government relations, Howard Silver, testified before the Senate Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Lawton Chiles (D-FL), on May 5. He called for the Subcommittee to support the President's request of \$70.2 million for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). In addition he argued for continued funding for international education and graduate education programs at the Department of Education. The administration has requested zero funding for these programs.

Silver strongly supported the increase to \$1 million proposed for field-initiated studies. Last year only 10 out of 346 proposals for this program received awards. Arguing the need to continue assessing the education reform movement in the states and localities, and the need to generate new knowledge to address the educational problems that will confront the nation in the future, Silver cited language in the Higher Education Amendments of 1986 -- "a growing need for independent research and through this new emphasis, it is hoped that important new avenues of inquiry and contributions to the field of educational research will be provided."

Noting that a government that believes education to be a key to the future economic health and security of the country currently funds education data collection, analysis and dissemination at 1/14th of its labor statistics activity and 1/5 of its health statistics activity, Silver strongly endorsed the proposed increase to \$21.2 million in FY 1988 for the Center for Education Statistics (CES). As former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander recently noted: "Decision-makers need to see the facts clearly. They must make sense of a storm of confusing data and help lead the way to better schools." In order to achieve this, Silver claimed, the nation's education database is in desperate need of repair and the CES must be given the funds to fix it.

Subcommittee Chairman Chiles, preoccupied with his other role as Chairman of the Budget Committee (the budget resolution was on the Senate floor at the same time as the hearing), did not give any indication of his position on support for OERI. In the past, proposed increases for the research and statistics programs have not been granted since the Subcommittee has restored the cuts in other education programs that the administration requested.

FY 1987 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS: SOME GOODIES MAYBE?

When Congress passes appropriations bills for a fiscal year, they sometimes do it knowing full well certain programs are going to run out of money before that fiscal year ends. Or certain emergency situations arise where immediate appropriations are necessary. Or a pressing issue (this year the plight of the homeless) reaches the point where legislators are ready to fund programs to deal with it. Thus the need for a supplemental appropriations bill.

This year's version (ofttimes there are more than one) passed the House on April 23. The Senate bill has emerged from the appropriations committee and should pass next week. The House bill includes a number of provisions adding funds to programs of interest to social and behavioral scientists. These funds would have been greater except for an amendment by Rep. Buddy MacKay (D-FL) reducing each appropriation by 21%. MacKay was trying to make the bill somewhat more palatable to the administration which has threatened to veto it.

The House version contains \$1.027 million for the Javits Fellowships in the Department of Education. These fellowships support graduate students in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The extra funds will allow the program to continue funding the present class of fellows and to conduct another competition for a new set of fellows. The Senate committee's bill does not include this money. In addition, the House appropriated \$790,000 for domestic programs related to international education and foreign language studies. This money is also missing from the Senate committee's bill.

The National Institute on Aging receives \$1.42 million from the House for further research on Alzheimer's disease. The Senate committee bill appropriates \$750,000 for a clinical trial of a specific drug related to Alzheimer's. The Senate committee recommends \$20 million for the Centers for Disease Control for AIDS information and education activities, a sum not included in the House legislation. The House, but not the Senate, appropriates \$750,000 for clinical training at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Both the House and Senate committee bills include \$475,000 for the National Archives and Records Administration to help them prepare to receive the records of the U.S. Army's activities during the Vietnam War -- what the House and Senate Appropriations Committees' reports call "the central documentary record on the war in Southeast Asia."

The supplemental legislation needs to survive the Senate floor, a House-Senate conference committee, and the administration's veto threat. Most of the time, and this bill is no exception, supplementals include politically popular programs about to run out of money, making them difficult to veto. Stay tuned!

SENATE BUDGET RESOLUTION PASSES: SCIENCE FUNCTION AT REQUEST

Early in the morning of May 7, the Senate, by a vote of 56-42, passed the FY 1988 budget resolution. The resolution sets parameters for the authorization and appropriations committees' funding decisions.

The Science Function (#250), which includes the National Science Foundation, received \$11.5 billion in new budget authority. This was the same amount requested by the administration. It was \$1.25 billion more than the \$10.25 billion in the House Budget Resolution (see Update, April 10, 1987). The Senate Committee report states: "The Committee assumes additional funding for the general science and basic research programs of the National Science Foundation, sufficient to allow the NSF budget to double within 5 years."

The budget resolution now goes to a House-Senate conference committee to settle the differences between the two versions. The President, who disagrees with the resolutions' higher taxes and lower defense spending provisions, cannot veto the budget resolution. He will get that chance when the authorization and appropriations committees act on the guidelines set by the budget resolution.

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AT NIA

A well-known health economist and statistician has been appointed to the National Advisory Council on Aging, the oversight group for the National Institute on Aging. She is Dorothy P. Rice, professor of social and behavioral sciences, School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco. Ms. Rice is former director of the National Center for Health Statistics. She recently served on the Institute of Medicine Committee to plan a major study of national long-term health care policies, and on the Panel on Statistics for an Aging Population of the Committee on National Statistics.

Other social scientists currently serving on the NIA Council include Daniel Gallego, professor of sociology, Weber State College, Ogden, Utah; Alice S. Rossi, professor of sociology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and Martha Storandt, professor of psychology, Washington University, St. Louis.

Another recent appointment of interest to the Council is Caleb Finch, professor of biological science at the University of Southern California. Dr. Finch, together with George M. Martin, an M.D. geneticist/pathologist at the University of Washington, serves on the Social Science Research Council's research committee on Life Course Perspectives on Human Development.

## LIST OF COSSA PARTICIPANTS CONTINUES TO EXPAND

We are pleased to announce that the list of participants in the Consortium has expanded. Howard University (Washington, D.C.) and the University of Maryland both became COSSA Contributors in April. The American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business joined as an Affiliate. The AACSB is headquartered in St. Louis. The Consortium now has 28 Affiliates and 50 Contributors, in addition to the 10 founding Members.

For information on how your society or institution can participate in the Consortium, contact the COSSA office, 1625 I Street, NW, Suite 911, Washington, DC 20006; 202/887-6166.

## COSSA STAFF ACTIVITIES

In recent weeks, COSSA staff have participated in several meetings of professional societies. On April 16, executive director David Jenness gave an invited paper, "Basic and applied research: the view from the Hill," at a session of the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago. Discussants for his presentation included Susan E. Cozzens, Illinois Institute of Technology; Robert F. Rich, University of Illinois, Urbana; and Richard Taub, University of Chicago. Earlier the same day, Jenness participated in a panel on research funding, organized by James Bennett, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Howard J. Silver, COSSA's associate director for government relations, spoke at the annual meeting of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business in New Orleans on April 14. AACSB, a new COSSA Affiliate, was interested in "Federal Funding for Business Schools: Prelude to Opportunity." Robert Trumble, dean of the business school at Kent State University, chaired the session.

Also in April, executive associate Susan D. Quarles took part in a panel on the funding of applied research at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta. Her topic was "The federal agenda for applied research: prospects for the social sciences." The panel was organized by Duncan MacRae, Jr., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

\* \* \* NOTE TO READERS \* \* \*

The COSSA offices moved on May 1, 1987. The new address is 1625 I Street, NW, Suite 911, Washington, DC 20006. The phone number remains the same, 202/887-6166.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

Office of Family Planning

The Office of Family Planning (OFP) is located in the Office of Population Affairs. OFP administers the federal Title X program, which provides funds to over 4,000 community family planning clinics across the country. A small portion of the budget is retained to support applied research on the improvement of family planning services delivery for low-income women, adolescents, and others in need of such services.

Current priorities for OFP include family planning client behavior; adolescent family planning clients; male involvement in family planning; targeting of services to special populations; clinic personnel behavior; organization and management of family planning services; natural family planning; infertility services; and counseling services. This program has a special interest in male family planning clients, and also in the broad topic of family planning services, public health, and the control of AIDS.

OFP is unique among federal agencies in that it is not receiving enough research proposals. Of the topics listed above, few have been received in the area of clinic personnel behavior, infertility, natural family planning, and the organization and management of family planning services.

Budget: About \$1 million for new projects each year

Application Process: Proposals are submitted to the Division of Research Grants at NIH for processing and review.

Funding Mechanisms: Research project grants, New Investigator Research Awards

Deadlines: February 1, June 1, October 1

Contact: Patricia Thompson, Director of Research  
Office of Family Planning  
731-E HHH Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201  
202/245-1181

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