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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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This Week . . .

- 100th Congress Clears Desk Before Leaving ... *HS*
- ... And in its Wake ... *HS*
- Committee Questions Education Department's Review Process *BD*
- VISA-Revision Legislation Gets Two-Year Extension *BD*
- Meeting Focuses on Public Understanding of Science *HS*
- Sources of Research Support: Department of Justice *BD*

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## 100th CONGRESS CLEARS DESK BEFORE LEAVING ...

Early in the morning of October 23, the 100th Congress called it quits. Before leaving, in the dawn of that new day, agreement was reached on the two major pieces of legislation delaying adjournment: the Omnibus Anti-Drug Abuse Act and the Technical Corrections to the 1986 Tax Reform Act. The former has a myriad of provisions where research, evaluation, and data collection are highlighted. The latter has provisions impacting employee education benefits and the tax status of graduate research and teaching assistantships.

Buried in the massive anti-drug bill are the reauthorizations of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). All three agencies are given expanded responsibilities, some of which are connected to the drug 'war.' NIJ will conduct research and evaluations of state and local narcotics control programs. BJS is charged with collection of specific data on drug-related criminal offenses and the establishment of a clearinghouse to maintain a data base on all criminal justice aspects of the drug crisis. It will also collect information on the condition and progress of drug-control activities at all levels of government and help develop

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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*

Howard J. Silver, *Executive Director*

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standardized data reporting relating to drug abuse statistics. BJS is also given explicit authority to conduct research to improve the accuracy and inclusiveness of its criminal justice record information. OJJDP will now be required to develop and publish annually for public comment a proposed program plan for its activities in areas including research. Within OJJDP, the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is specifically charged with supporting research relating to reducing the excessive proportion of juveniles in detention facilities "who are members of minority groups."

There are many other parts of the anti-drug abuse legislation which could affect social and behavioral science researchers. The Attorney General is authorized to study the feasibility of prosecuting drug-related federal offenses in a manner alternative or supplemental to the current criminal justice system. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to develop and conduct, through grants and contracts, a structured evaluation of the different approaches for drug abuse education and prevention efforts. The Department of Defense and the Department of State are authorized to provide foreign language training to special agents of federal civilian agencies involved in drug law enforcement.

The Act also calls for federal grant recipients to certify to the granting agency that they will provide a drug-free workplace. This provision, a part of every appropriation bill this year, requires establishing a drug-free workplace awareness program and providing employees with a statement describing such a program and the penalties for violation of the program. Also included in the legislation are the extension of certain programs of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration and technical amendments to the Omnibus Health Extensions Act of 1988.<<

... AND IN ITS WAKE ...

The social and behavioral sciences received mixed blessings from the 100th Congress. Numerous social and behavioral scientists testified at congressional hearings this year, ensuring that their research has an impact on public policy discussions. The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health received significant (not as much as hoped for) increases, though for the most part, the social and behavioral sciences will not receive their fair share of these increases. NSF was reauthorized for five years (the President signed the bill on October 31) with a commitment to doubling its resources. Congress did, to some degree, recognize the role of the social and behavioral sciences in responding to the AIDS crisis. It revitalized the education statistics system, but did little to revive funding for education research not conducted at national laboratories and centers. Most of the other agencies supporting social and behavioral science research received modest

increases, and in some cases continued their survival in the face of Reagan administration attempts to eliminate them.

The adjournment of the 100th Congress saw the retirement of Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI) and Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA), the congressional guardians of NSF's purse. Also, Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) is stepping down as Majority Leader to assume the chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Rep. Trent Lott (R-MS) is running for the Senate in Mississippi, creating a vacancy for the Republican Whip position in the House.

The 101st Congress will convene formally on January 3, 1989, but not really commence business until after the inauguration of the new president on January 20. According to Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, a presidentially proposed budget is due on January 9. We shall see.<<

#### COMMITTEE QUESTIONS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW PROCESS

The Education Department's peer review process came under attack at a hearing convened October 19 by the House Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY). At issue was the Department's refusal to fund a school history program that focuses on the Holocaust. Some have alleged that the program, "Facing History and Ourselves," has repeatedly been denied funding because of right-wing ideological objections to the program's content.

Even more disturbing have been allegations that the Department's dislike for "Facing History" led to the elimination of the entire academic subject category under which "Facing History" fell. Max McConkey, director of the National Dissemination Study Group, testified that the Department dropped the entire history, geography, and civics category in order to assure the denial of funding for "Facing History." McConkey charged that this was the first time an entire category has been eliminated despite high-scoring projects within it. By eliminating the category, the Department, in effect, denied its funding this year to all the applicants within that category's jurisdiction.

In a statement presented for the record in his absence, new Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos said he was "reviewing the process" that led to the decision not to fund any of the projects in the history, geography, and civics category. "I intend to take all possible steps to ensure that future peer reviews are conducted in accordance with congressional intent," Cavazos said in the statement.

Despite its repeated failures to garner federal funding, "Facing History" was accepted into the Department's National Diffusion Network (NDN) in 1980. NDN, which is located in the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), provides information to school systems about education programs judged to

be effective. As a part of the network, "Facing History" has already been used in more than 200 public schools. Its supporters claim that with federal funding, "Facing History" would enjoy much wider use.

With some assistance from Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), Weiss grilled star witness Shirley Curry, the Department official who, as director of the Recognition Division in OERI's Programs for Improvement of Practice, oversaw funding for education programs like "Facing History." Curry was responsible for choosing reviewers, including one who gave a negative and highly controversial critique of "Facing History" when it applied for and was denied funding in 1986. Weiss noted that in the critique, the reviewer assailed the program for neglecting to present the "Nazi point of view." Weiss added that the following year, when "Facing History" again applied for and was denied funding, reviewer complaints included the belief that the program had an anti-Christian bias.

Curry, who was transferred to the Department's Office of Management five days before the hearing, said the Department was "not responsible for the comments of (its) peer reviewers." She added that "Facing History" was denied funding in 1987 because its scores were low. Finding irony in these back-to-back statements, Weiss suggested that since the reviewers are the people who hand out the scores, the Department should be concerned when they make comments that most people would consider outrageous.

This year, "Facing History" again applied for funding and received better scores. However, the program was still turned down, while the Department awarded funds to other programs with lower scores, according to Weiss. This summer, it became apparent that the Department had enough resources to fund some additional programs. Curry's own staff put "Facing History" at the top of the list, a recommendation that Curry chose to ignore, Weiss said.

Curry conceded that she was against funding "Facing History," even after it was realized that more funds were available. She said that while she strongly backs education on the Holocaust, she found "Facing History" to be inappropriate for students at the junior high-school level.<<

#### VISA-REVISION LEGISLATION GETS TWO-YEAR EXTENSION

Congress adopted and the White House approved a two-year, weakened extension of Section 901 of the State Department Authorization Act, an amendment passed last year that prohibits the denial of visas and the deportation of foreigners on the basis of political beliefs, statements, or associations. Signed into law on October 1, the extension took effect immediately. However, unlike its predecessor legislation, the extension does not apply to immigrant visas.

Section 901, which was in effect until the new extension was signed into law, fundamentally revised the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 (see Update, January 22, 1988). That Act permitted the exclusion of foreigners on political grounds, and has been used against luminaries in various careers and disciplines. For the past two years, Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) has sponsored legislation to permanently repeal the ideological exclusion provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act (see Update, September 23, 1988). However, that bill failed to reach the floor before Congress adjourned. Frank intends to introduce similar legislation when Congress convenes next year, according to a member of his staff.

Before its passage in the Senate, the extension of Section 901 was weakened by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY), who insisted that it cover only two years and that it no longer pertain to immigrant visas. The Senate then approved the extension by voice vote and the House agreed to the Senate language soon thereafter.<<

#### MEETING FOCUSES ON PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE

Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), examined the public understanding of science and technology at a meeting in Orlando on October 29-30. Thomas Malone, president of Sigma Xi and a member of the COSSA Board of Directors, noted that public understanding "is central to the advance of the science and technology that undergird economic growth and promote social well-being and stability."

The majority of the speakers at the meeting noted the most recent study of scientific understanding in the United States, conducted by Jon Miller, director of the Public Opinion Laboratory at Northern Illinois University. That study once again demonstrates the vast degree of scientific illiteracy among the U.S. populace. Yet, as was suggested by Sir George Porter, president of the Royal Society, the public increasingly wants to play a role in science policy decision-making, while at the same time it is fearful of the consequences of scientific advances. William Raub, deputy director of the National Institutes of Health, noted two examples of Porter's point: animal research and randomized, controlled clinical trials.

David Perlman, science writer for the San Francisco Chronicle, reminded the audience that in President Eisenhower's farewell address, he warned against public policy becoming a captive of the scientific-technical elite. (Most people remember Eisenhower's warning against the military-industrial complex, a statement which, Perlman noted, was delivered in the same address.) Also, many speakers voiced their belief that public understanding is very much affected by the scientific community's internal dilemmas, from disagreements on scientific public policy

(e.g., the Space Defense Initiative, the Superconducting Super Collider, and the Space Station) to finding solutions to the problem of scientific misconduct.

The meeting also served as a forum for discussion of some possible solutions to improve the public's understanding of science. Among them was the call for an overhaul of the science curriculum in elementary and secondary schools, urged by George Tressel, director of the National Science Foundation's Division of Materials Development, and James Rutherford, of AAAS. At the meeting, Rutherford described AAAS' Project 2061, which is examining a new science curriculum for the next century.

Many speakers described various public outreach programs, such as working directly with community-based organizations to improve minority youth participation in science, increasing the use and number of programs at the rapidly growing array of science centers and museums, and creating opportunities for scientists to interact with young students through direct participation in classroom activities and through a scientist pen-pal program. In addition, Alan McGowan, president of the Scientists' Institute for Public Information, stressed the need to further the training and nurturing of the media in matters regarding science.

Sigma Xi has 115,000 members in 519 chapters and clubs around the world. Only about 7% of its members are social and behavioral scientists, most of them psychologists. Thus, it was heartening that the meeting featured calls for increased cooperation with social and behavioral scientists to promote greater public understanding of science. William D'Antonio, who serves as executive officer of the American Sociological Association and who attended the meeting, noted that he was highly encouraged by this development.<<

\* \* \* CORRECTION \* \* \*

On page 6 of the October 7 issue of Update, we misattributed Alfred Kahn, professor at Columbia University's School of Social Work, as being chief architect of deregulation policies during the Carter administration. Another Alfred Kahn, currently of Cornell University's department of economics, was the Carter administration's chief deregulation architect. We regret the error.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

National Institute of Justice

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the principle federal agency supporting research, development, evaluation, and dissemination programs to improve and strengthen the criminal justice system. NIJ has announced the publication of its FY 1989 program plan, which contains 13 research program solicitations. These include programs for visiting fellows, graduate research and summer research fellows. February 17, 1989, is the deadline for the first two types of fellowships; the deadline for summer research fellows is February 3, 1989. The following programs are also included in the program plan. Deadlines (all in 1989) are in parentheses; some programs have two cycles.

- apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of criminal offenders (February 3 and June 2)
- public safety and security (January 27 and May 26)
- punishment and control of offenders (January 13 and May 12)
- victims of crime (January 20 and May 19)
- white-collar and organized crime (January 6 and May 5)
- criminal careers and the control of crime (February 24)
- drugs, alcohol, and crime (January 25 and May 3)
- forensic science and criminal justice technology (March 15)
- offender classification and prediction of criminal behavior (January 18 and April 19)
- violent criminal behavior (February 1 and April 25)

Application Procedure: Interested parties should contact NIJ at the address and phone number below to obtain a copy of the program plan. They should also contact the manager of the program to which they plan to apply. Managers' names and numbers can be obtained by contacting the address below.

Budget: Research programs have budgets tentatively set between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Each program typically supports three to six awards. Actual funding allocations among programs are based on the quality of the proposals received. Budgets for fellowship programs are considerably smaller.

Review Process: Peer review.

Contact: Richard L. Linster, Assistant Director  
Office of Crime Prevention and  
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633 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
202/724-7040 <<

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