

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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COSSA TO MOVE TO NEW OFFICES

COSSA will move to new offices in downtown Washington on October 7. Our new address, phone number, and fax will be:

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CONGRESS RETURNS TO CONFRONT APPROPRIATIONS DECISIONS

Congress returned from its August recess on September 6 and began its annual appropriations frenzy. Hoping to complete action on all appropriations bills before the October 1 beginning of the new fiscal year, legislators have a busy month ahead of them. Meanwhile, a number of larger substantive issues continue to compete for attention from a Congress that has spent much of the year sidetracked over leadership changes, ethics and sex scandals, salary unhappiness, and two judicial impeachments. New House Speaker Thomas Foley (D-WA) is hoping the first session of the 101st Congress can adjourn by November 10, but the packed agenda suggests he may not get his wish; congressional staff members aren't making many late November or early December vacation plans.

Before leaving in early August, the House of Representatives passed

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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.

all thirteen appropriations bills (for details on funding for programs of interest to social and behavioral scientists see Update August 11 and July 28, 1989). The Senate has passed only four bills (Agriculture, Energy and Water Development, Interior and Related Agencies (NEH), and Treasury/Postal Service) but is under marching orders from appropriations committee chairman Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) to move as quickly as possible on the other nine. Appropriations subcommittee markups for many of the bills are scheduled for the end of Labor Day week and the beginning of the week of September 11.

Further complicating decisions already made by the House are the proposals for increased spending included in the anti-drug package announced by President Bush on September 5. The White House has proposed a number of budget cuts to help pay for the new initiative, including reductions in the programs of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the elimination of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Congress, however, may have other ideas.

Among the key decisions facing appropriators is the funding increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The House gave NSF an eight percent increase for research, a 23 percent increase for science education programs, and an overall boost of six percent. The Senate subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies, chaired by Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), faces a situation where the impact of the HUD scandal and decisions on the NASA space station will affect the NSF allocation.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), must decide whether to ignore or overturn the House decision that directed the Public Health Service not to conduct the study of AIDS related sexual risk behavior. Assistant Secretary of Health James Mason has indicated in a medical publication that he wants the survey to go forward. Whether his opinion will affect the Senate's decision will soon be known. In addition, this Subcommittee faces innumerable funding decisions on programs of education research and statistics, international education, graduate student support, health research and statistics, and labor research and statistics.

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, chaired by Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-SC), must make decisions on State Department programs and Justice research and statistics. The panel must also decide whether to restore funds eliminated by the House for the 1990 Census. Meanwhile, a House-Senate conference committee must determine what to do about the amendment sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) to the Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill to restrict federal support for "offensive" art and literature. (See following story.)

The spending bills' September 30 deadline has already led to Washington talk of a continuing resolution to keep the government

operating should Congress fail to finish appropriating before the new fiscal year begins. In addition, Gramm-Rudman-Hollings is still operative. On August 28, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued its snapshot of the FY 1990 deficit: \$116.2 billion. This would be \$6.2 billion above the target (with the \$10 billion leeway). If automatic reductions (sequestration) are necessary, defense agencies will be reduced by 4.3 percent and nondefense agencies by 5.3 percent from their FY 1989 spending levels plus inflation. For example, under a sequestration, the NSF would receive about the same level of funding in FY 1990 as it did in FY 1989. All involved hope to avoid the GRH automatic reductions, but with the reconciliation bill stalled over how to raise the revenue assumed in the budget, the specter of sequestration continues to haunt allocation decisions.

Compounding all this will be the necessity to raise the debt limit again by the end of October. This bill usually attracts all sorts of mischievous legislative activity.

Substantive legislation Congress hopes to deal with includes: various proposals to increase science literacy and attract the nation's students into science, mathematics and engineering; a child care bill; an expanded earned income tax credit; the reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act (see Update June 30, 1989); an overhaul of the Job Training Partnership Act; the defense authorization bill; and a variety of measures designed to outlaw flag desecration.<<

ARTS FRACAS THREATENS SOCIAL SCIENCE FUNDING

Among the hot topics in Washington over the past few months has been the controversy surrounding the provocative photography of Robert Mapplethorpe and Andres Serrano. Federally-funded exhibits of the two artists' work so offended some members of Congress that a move arose to prohibit the use of federal money to support so-called "obscene or indecent" art. In fact, an amendment sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and approved by the Senate would bar the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) from supporting work deemed to be morally or socially offensive. In particular, proposals considered offensive to any individual, group, or class would be ineligible for federal funding.

Helms apparently intended to target the NEA since it had financially supported the Mapplethorpe and Serrano exhibits. But the amendment, which was attached to the Interior Department and Related Agencies FY 1990 appropriations bill, applies to all agencies in the legislation, according to John Hammer of the National Humanities Alliance. Among the affected agencies of particular concern to social scientists are the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Since the House version of the Interior appropriations bill does not contain similar language, the fight now shifts to the

conference committee appointed to reconcile the two versions of the legislation. COSSA joined in a letter writing campaign urging conferees to reject the Helms provision. Hammer, a former COSSA staffer, voiced cautious optimism that the amendment will die in conference, but he was less cheerful about the future. The notion that Congress should curtail the independence of peer review panels charged with making funding decisions has gained currency, Hammer said. "I think we've got an issue we're going to hear about for a long time," he predicted.<<

NSF RELEASES DATA ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released the latest edition of its annual International Science and Technology Data Update, which provides comparative information on international research and development (R&D) activities, with a primary focus on the five leading industrialized nations (the United States, France, West Germany, Japan, and Great Britain).

A compilation of tables, graphs, and charts interspersed with information in narrative form, the report covers a wide range of categories, from R&D expenditures as a percent of gross national product to shares (by country) of the world's scientific literature. While many tables break international data down by scientific fields, the social and behavioral sciences are seldom listed independently.

Among other things, the report observes that the five leading industrialized nations spend similar proportions of their GNP on R&D - around 2.5 percent. Although in the 1960s the U.S. R&D/GNP ratio was significantly higher than those of France, West Germany, and Japan, there has been some convergence over the last decade or so. To receive a copy of the NSF report (NSF89-307), contact NSF, Division of Science Resources Studies, 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20550; 202/634-4634.<<

NEXT YEAR'S 'HISTORY DAY' TO SHOWCASE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"Science and Technology in History" has been chosen as the National History Day theme for the 1989-90 academic year. Noting that science and technology have been "sadly neglected" in the teaching of history in secondary schools, and that today's history textbooks virtually ignore these topics, a staff member for National History Day said the time has come to highlight their importance.

Next year's "Science and Technology in History" event culminates in a national student competition June 17-21, 1990. National History Day staff also plan to encourage the coordination of workshops designed to show teachers ways of incorporating science and technology into their history and social studies curricula. Two COSSA Affiliates --the Society for the History of Technology and the History of Science Society -- have been "very helpful" in developing bibliographies for next year's events,

according to a History Day staff member. For more information, contact: National History Day, 11201 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106; 216/421-8803.<<

GEOGRAPHERS NAME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Ronald F. Abler has been appointed executive director of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). A professor of geography at Pennsylvania State University, where he served as head of the department from 1976 to 1982, Abler directed the Geography and Regional Science Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington from 1984 to 1988. While at NSF he was instrumental in expanding funding for physical geography and establishing the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, according to an AAG news release. Abler, who was president of AAG from 1985 to 1986, received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota, with his Ph.D. awarded in 1968.

Abler succeeds outgoing executive director Robert T. Aangeenbrug, who resigned his post to assume the chairmanship of the Department of Geography at the University of South Florida in Tampa.<<

COSSA DIRECTOR ATTENDS MEMBERS' CONFERENCES

COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver spent a busy August participating in the annual conferences of the American Sociological Association, the American Political Science Association, and the American Statistical Association. At the gathering of sociologists in San Francisco, he appeared on a panel entitled "Getting Research Funded" with Sociology's Executive Officer William D'Antonio, National Science Foundation Sociology Program Officer Phyllis Moen, and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Bureau Chief Wendy Baldwin.

At the political science meeting in Atlanta, Silver co-chaired a panel with Thomas Cronin of Colorado College on "Teaching Kids About Politics: Pre-College Education and Political Science" and moderated a roundtable discussion on "Political Science Contributes to Policymaking or When Will They Stop Taking Us For Granted." Silver was also re-elected president of the Section on Applied Political Science and named to the program committee for the 1990 convention.

During the conference of statisticians in Washington DC, Silver attended the speeches of Michael Boskin, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, and former Senator William Proxmire (D-WI), who frequently ridiculed social and behavioral science research during his tenure in the Senate. Following Proxmire's speech, he and Silver discussed various issues on a pleasant subway ride back to their respective offices.<<

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**International Education Programs**

The Department of Education (DOE) is seeking applications for research support through the following three international education programs:

Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL):

The UISFL provides grants to institutions of higher education, combinations of those institutions, and public and private non-profit agencies and organizations to improve undergraduate instruction in international studies and foreign languages. DOE has \$1.2 million available under this program and expects to grant 25 awards for projects of two to three years. Application receipt deadline: November 6, 1989.

International Research and Studies Program (IRSP): The IRSP provides grants to public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals to conduct research and studies to improve and strengthen instruction in modern foreign languages, area studies, and related fields. For FY 1990 applications, preference will be given to proposals for research on more effective methods of providing competency-based instruction and evaluating proficiency in the languages of the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Inner Asia, East Asia, and languages indigenous to Africa and Latin America. DOE has \$1.09 million available under this program and expects to grant 18 awards for projects of one to three years. Application receipt deadline: October 30, 1989.

Business and International Education Program (BIEP): The BIEP provides grants to institutions of higher education to enhance international business education programs and to expand the capacity of the business community to engage in international economic activities. DOE has \$755,000 available under this program and expects to grant 10 awards for projects of two years. Application receipt deadline: November 8, 1989.

Contacts: (All are located at the Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5331.)

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Susanna C. Easton
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SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

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.

Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences

The NSF's Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS) is seeking applicants for Research Training Group (RTG) awards. Designed to encourage multidisciplinary training and increased diversity in the next generation of scientists, the program will provide groups of investigators with funds for multidisciplinary, research-based training and education.

RTG proposals should focus on a major research theme for which multidisciplinary efforts hold promise. An important component of the effort must include education and training in areas of research funded by BBS. All RTGs must (1) be based at U.S. academic institutions that grant the Ph.D., (2) create new or enhanced multidisciplinary educational and research opportunities at the institution, (3) be directed by a principal investigator assisted by an appropriate number of other faculty contributing to management and educational and research programs of the RTG, (4) have secured resource commitments and financial contributions from the home institution and any institutional collaborators, and (5) have well-formulated plans for recruitment of students and fellows, with provisions that will increase participation by members of groups underrepresented in science.

Application Procedure: A two-stage submission process will be used, requiring both a preproposal and a formal proposal.

Budget: BBS expects that \$4 million of FY 1990 funds will be available for the first year of the program.

Funding Mechanism: Awards will be made for five years and are expected to average \$250,000. Additionally, up to \$250,000 may be requested for specific items of special purpose research materials and equipment. Depending upon funds availability, requests for renewal of an RTG will be considered.

Deadlines: Preproposal: November 3, 1989
Formal proposal: March 1, 1990

Contact: Division of Instrumentation and Resources
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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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American Anthropological Association
American Economic Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Linguistic Society of America

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American Agricultural Economics
Association
American Assembly of Collegiate Schools
of Business
American Association for Public Opinion
Research
American Educational Research
Association
American Psychological Society
American Society of Criminology
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Social Sciences in Health
Eastern Sociological Society
Federation of State Humanities Councils
Gerontological Society of America
History of Science Society
International Studies Association
Law and Society Association
Midwest Sociological Society
National Council on Family Relations
National Council for the Social Studies
North Central Sociological Association
Northeastern Anthropological Association

Operations Research Society of America
Population Association of America
Regional Science Association
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for the History of Technology
Society for Research on Adolescence
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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