

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume IX, Number 21

November 16, 1990

## 1990 ELECTIONS BRING MINIMAL CHANGE WITH ONE KEY LOSS; NEW FACES INCLUDE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS<sup>YS</sup>

The 1990 congressional elections produced little change in the partisan makeup of Capitol Hill. Democrats gained one seat in the Senate, giving them a 56-44 edge, and picked up eight seats in the House, for a total of 268. (Bernard Sanders, the socialist elected from Vermont, is expected to join the Democratic caucus). Republican House members now number 167.

Despite the anti-incumbent trend, voters defeated only 15 current House members (nine Republicans and six Democrats) and one incumbent senator. Two of the House races, however, were shockers. Rep. Doug Walgren (D-PA), former chairman of the House Science, Research, and Technology Subcommittee, was upset by lawyer Rick Santorum. Walgren, who has been a strong supporter of social and behavioral science research, succumbed to attacks that he was out-of-touch with his district. Although Walgren had won more than 60 percent of the vote in each of the last three elections, his suburban Pittsburgh district has voted Republican in the last four presidential contests.

The other stunner was the defeat of 16-term veteran Robert Kastenmeier of Madison, Wisconsin. Kastenmeier, chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Administration of Justice, was defeated by former newscaster Scott Klug, who rode the time-for-a-change anti-incumbent mood into the House chamber.

New House members include Democrat Tim Roemer, who beat five-term Republican John Hiler for the House seat centered in South Bend, Indiana. In addition to being Sen. J. Bennett Johnston's (D-LA) son-in-law and a former staff member for Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), Roemer holds a Ph.D. in political science from Notre Dame.

Minnesota voters offered the only real surprise for Senate-watchers with the improbable election of political scientist Paul Wellstone. The senator-elect, who received his Ph.D. from the University of North

Carolina-Chapel Hill, beat incumbent Republican Rudy Boschwitz. Wellstone ran a classic, under-financed, underdog campaign to beat a complacent incumbent. The Carleton College professor has long been an activist for various liberal causes.

### Senate Staying Power

The only other surprise in the Senate was the staying power of its incumbents. Victors included several Democrats who faced what were thought to be strong challenges from Republican House members. Senators Paul Simon (D-IL), Carl Levin (D-MI), Tom Harkin (D-IA), Daniel Akaka (D-HI), and Claiborne Pell (D-RI) all managed to survive, most by much-larger-than-anticipated margins. Senators Mark Hatfield (R-OR) and John Kerry (D-MA) woke up early enough to repulse strong challenges that in October appeared to be genuine threats. And one more time, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) dashed the hopes of those looking for his defeat, beating back Harvey Gantt's strong challenge.

What does it all mean? The Democrats in the Senate are one vote closer to the 60 they need for overriding President Bush's vetoes. On the other

### INSIDE UPDATE . . .

- White House Creates Panel on Brain and Behavioral Sciences *SB*
- Congress Funds Study on Environmental Institutes *JT*
- COSSA Seminar Hits the Road for Election Analysis in Kansas City *HS*
- OERI Chief Announces Winners of Four More Research Centers *JT*
- Bush Awards Science Medals to Behavioral and Social Scientists *JT*
- Sources of Research Support: National Science Foundation *JT*
- NEWSBRIEFS: AAAS Seeks Minority Scholars for Workshop on Ethical Issues; COSSA and APA Meet with NIH Health and Behavior Working Group *SB*
- Sources of Research Support: National Science Foundation *RC*

hand, the Senate has generally been the more bipartisan body in recent years.

The November 13 election of conservatives Thad Cochran (R-MS), Bob Kasten (R-WI), and Phil Gramm (R-TX) to Senate leadership posts under Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-KS) and Minority Whip Alan Simpson (R-WY) could signal a more partisan tone in the Senate. This trend could be exacerbated by Democrats seeking to develop themes for the 1992 presidential campaign.

In the House, the Republican minority will probably continue its guerilla warfare tactics, although its general, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA), was somewhat chastened by his slim margin of victory. Jockeying will intensify over future leadership of this small band with the expected retirement of Minority Leader Rep. Bob Michel (R-IL) in 1992.

#### A Cautious Congress?

The most important development, however, will be the upcoming redistricting of the House, with 17 seats expected to shift among states and numerous district boundaries waiting to be redrawn. Another factor certain to affect the next two years is the retirement of many of the House's senior members; veteran legislators are expected to take advantage of a loophole that allows them to turn excess campaign receipts into personal funds.

Some observers expect the combination of redistricting and retirements to leave more than one hundred seats open in the 1992 elections. Thus, some are predicting a cautious, caretaker 102nd Congress.

#### CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Howard J. Silver ..... Executive Director  
 Stacey E. Beckhardt ..... Government Liaison  
 Joe Thorndike ..... Staff Associate  
 Karen E. Carrion ..... Office Manager

Raymond E. Wolfinger ..... President

The Consortium of Social Science Associations 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. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$50; institutional subscriptions, \$90; overseas mail, \$100. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525; Fax: (202) 842-2788.

One committee shift known already, however, occurs on a panel unlikely to see cautious attitudes. Rep. William Ford (D-MI) will take the reins of the House Education and Labor Committee, replacing the retiring Augustus Hawkins (D-CA). Ford will take charge of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, a projected two-year drama that could significantly alter federal student aid programs.

Other potential committee shifts in the House may rest on members' willingness to challenge incumbent chairs. One possible challenge shaping up is to Public Works and Transportation Chairman Glenn Anderson (D-CA); if successful, current House Science, Space, and Technology Chairman Robert Roe (D-NJ) could be Anderson's replacement. The Science Committee chair might then go to Rep. George Brown (D-CA), who survived another tough re-election contest in his increasingly Republican district. These machinations will have to wait until December or perhaps into the new year. Much sought-after vacancies on the Appropriations Committee also need to be filled, as do slots on the Energy and Commerce panel.

In the Senate, the major committee drama hinges on Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM). Currently the ranking Republican on the Budget Committee, Domenici may remain in that position or take over retiring Sen. James McClure's ranking spot on the Energy and Natural Resources committee. If Domenici leaves budget, a much more conservative Sen. Steve Symms (R-ID) would replace him. If Domenici stays on budget, Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) would move into the energy slot.

There may be some switching among Democrats, but with all of them returning, the major task will be finding committee slots for new Sen. Wellstone.

Three new Republicans join the Senate: Hank Brown of Colorado, Larry Craig of Idaho, and Robert Smith of New Hampshire. The former House members assume the seats of retiring Republicans William Armstrong, James McClure, and Gordon Humphrey.

#### WHITE HOUSE CREATES PANEL ON BRAIN AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Prompted by Congress, President Bush proclaimed July 17 that the 1990s are to be the Decade of the Brain. Bush's move reflects a larger congress-

sional effort to boost research in neuroscience and related disciplines. This fall, the White House again took its lead from Congress and established an advisory panel on the brain and behavioral sciences.

Organized as part of the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET), the new panel is a subcommittee of FCCSET's Life Sciences and Health Committee. FCCSET is staffed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy and headed by White House science advisor Allan Bromley.

### Just Starting Up

The new subcommittee, which is charged with overseeing Decade of the Brain activities, is just getting off the ground, according to chairman Roger Porter of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Speaking at a November 6 meeting sponsored by the National Foundation for Brain Research, Porter said the subcommittee will issue a report within the next three to six months on the cross-cutting nature of brain-related research throughout the federal government. The committee likely will use NINDS' current programs as a conceptual model, placing emphasis on the developing brain, the injured brain, the failing brain, and the feeling brain.

Psychologists Alan Leshner of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and Steve Zornetzer of the Office of Naval Research serve as co-vice chairs of the subcommittee. According to Leshner, NIMH is using the Decade of the Brain "phenomenon" as a "flag to rally behind" when promoting its proposed budgets. Currently, one-half of the NIMH budget goes to neuroscience research, Leshner said.

Zornetzer stressed that the Department of Defense is interested in using brain research to develop new technologies to extend human capabilities. Opportunities related to technology development, he predicted, will serve as a new "driver" of neuroscience research. Zornetzer also contended that health issues will no longer be the main focus of the brain sciences.

## CONGRESS FUNDS STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTES

Congress has approved funding for a feasibility study on the proposed National Institutes of Environmental Research. Legislators provided

\$400,000 for a National Academy of Sciences study on the establishment of such an agency.

For more than a year, supporters have pushed Congress to consider the need for an environmental research agency. The Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment has prepared a detailed proposal outlining the mission, structure, and funding of such an agency.

"We need an agency that will quickly inform policy-makers and the public about new scientific discoveries and technological breakthroughs," the committee states in its brochure. "The NIE [National Institutes for the Environment] would establish a highly credible applied environmental science agency."

According to the proposal, the NIE would have four main functions: (1) to sponsor environmental research via grants to universities and other qualifying research organizations; (2) to increase the U.S. production of environmental scientists; (3) to develop a global environmental data base and national environmental library; and (4) to promote public environmental education.

### Research Institutes

The proposed agency would include five "problem-oriented" institutes to fund extramural research and four intramural centers to provide information and management support for the institutes.

The Institute for Human Environments would sponsor research on the interactions of human societies with their environment; research topics might include pollution, waste disposal, the economics of environmental degradation and restoration, population growth in relation to resources, conflict resolution over resources and environment, and cultural survival.

Economic development and policy issues would have a home on the research agenda of the Institute of Climate Change, and the Institute for Biotic Resources would support studies on "the economic valuation of biodiversity."

According to the committee, the proposed NIE would cost about \$100 million per year during its start-up phase; half of that figure would be devoted to research.

## COSSA SEMINAR HITS THE ROAD FOR ELECTION ANALYSIS IN KANSAS CITY

The 1990 elections were the focus of a November 12 COSSA seminar held in Kansas City. Gary Jacobson, professor of political science at the University of California-San Diego and currently a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, offered an election analysis at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). COSSA Executive Director Howard J. Silver moderated the session.

The 1990 congressional elections, Jacobson contended, reflect a clear anti-incumbent trend and a slight anti-Republican trend. Although few congressional incumbents lost (their re-election rate was 96 percent), margins of victory were considerably reduced. Moreover, Republican victors received slimmer margins than their Democratic counterparts.

### Weak Challengers

Why didn't more incumbents lose? Most House races, Jacobson argued, are settled not during the campaign but during the candidate recruitment period - usually beginning about a year before the election. Jacobson maintained that this year's House challengers were the weakest class in the post-war era, with only 10 percent having any experience in elective office.

Weak challengers emerged because seemingly-safe incumbents discouraged many potential candidates. President Bush's popularity and the soundness of the economy seemed to indicate little likelihood of change. Recent dips in Bush's approval ratings, growing recession fears, and the strong anti-incumbent mood were not evident during candidate recruitment efforts, Jacobson said.

Jacobson derided Republican claims that the GOP has defied the historical loss of 26 House seats during a first off-year election. He pointed out that Republicans have the same number of House seats now as they did after the 1982 elections (167). GOP gains in party identification and White House victories have not translated into the election of more Republicans in the House. He also dismissed the Republican contention that gerrymandered districts account for their poor showing.

Turning to the Senate, Jacobson noted that 1990 was not a good year for GOP attempts to win

control of the upper chamber. In contrast to the House, Republicans ran very strong candidates in several major Senate contests, Jacobson said. Most GOP challengers were visible members of the House, yet all lost. Jacobson suggested that Republicans might have done better with "outsider" candidates.

In examining the policy implications of the election, Jacobson contended that the American people are getting the government they appear to want. By sending seemingly contradictory messages (i.e. supporting continued government programs but bristling at higher taxes to pay for them), the public forces members of Congress to act irresponsibly. Given the reduction in incumbents' margins in 1990, as well as the impending redistricting for the 1992 elections, Congress seems likely to continue to give the public what it wants - even though it may be poor public policy.

## OERI CHIEF ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FOUR MORE RESEARCH CENTERS

The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) has announced four more recipients for its research and development center awards. Assistant Secretary of Education Christopher Cross, who heads OERI, made the announcement while visiting California this week. OERI has now announced 11 of its 17 center awards.

The recently-announced awards (each of which spans five years) are as follows:

- Center on Assessment, Evaluation, and Testing - University of California, Los Angeles (\$14.3 million);
- Center on Cultural Diversity and Second Language Learning - University of California, Santa Cruz (\$6.4 million);
- Center on Writing and Literacy - University of California, Berkeley (\$4.9 million);
- Center on Education Finance and Productivity - University of Southern California (\$6.0 million).

The cultural diversity and education finance centers are both new, while the other two awards are continuations of earlier centers. The missions of the continuing centers, however, have been somewhat redefined by the recent awards.

## BUSH AWARDS SCIENCE MEDALS TO BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

President Bush last week awarded the National Medal of Science to 20 U.S. scientists, including an economist, a psychologist, and a mathematician with strong ties to psychology.

Leonid Hurwicz, an economics professor at the University of Minnesota, was cited for his "pioneering work" on the theory of modern decentralized allocation mechanisms, according to a White House statement.

Bush recognized Patrick Suppes, a philosophy professor at Stanford University, for work in four areas: "the measurement of subjective probability and utility in uncertain situations; the development and testing of general learning theory; the semantics and syntax of natural language; and the use of interactive computer programs for instruction."

John McCarthy, a Stanford computer science professor, was cited, according to the White House, for his "fundamental contributions to computer science and artificial intelligence." McCarthy has been a fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

### SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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.

#### Law and Social Science Program

The Law and Social Science Program has announced a special competition for research on global perspectives of sociological studies. The program seeks to support research on law and law-related processes and behaviors in light of growing global interdependence.

The competition is meant to encourage examination of *both* global dimensions of sociological phenomena (e.g. disputing, law and social change, legal pluralism, social control, crime causation) *and* sociological dimensions of global phenomena (e.g. economic transactions, immigration and population shifts, social and ethnic conflict, environmental regulation, public and private governance).

Proposed research should advance knowledge about legal interactions, processes, relations, and diffusions, and projects should extend beyond any single nation. The program also seeks proposals on ways in which local and national legal institutions, systems, and cultures affect or are affected by transnational or international phenomena. Proposals may locate research within a single nation or across legal systems as long as the project illuminates or is informed by global perspectives.

#### Application

**Procedure:** Proposals must meet the same standards as other proposals supported by the Law and Social Science Program. Proposals should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines in *Grants for Research and Education in Science and Engineering*.

**Deadlines:** March 15, 1991

**Contact:** Felice J. Levine, Program Director  
Law and Social Science  
National Science Foundation  
1800 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20550  
Phone: (202) 357-9567  
Fax: (202) 357-0357

## NEWS BRIEFS

### AAAS Seeks Minority Scholars for Workshop on Ethical Issues

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is planning a workshop for minority scholars to focus on ethical issues associated with science and technology. The workshop will be held from July 28 to August 4, 1991 at The Woods, a residential conference center about 90 miles from Washington, DC.

According to AAAS, the study of ethical issues raised by science and technology has not adequately integrated minority views and experiences. As a means of remedying that failure, workshop participants will study various minority perspectives and their implications for scholarship and public policy. The workshop will include a series of panels, lectures, and small group sessions.

While applicants of any ethnic minority group may apply, preference will be given to applicants from the following groups: Asian/Pacific Islander, Black/African-American, Hispanic/Chicano, Puerto Rican/Latino, or Native American/American Indian.

Applicants - who should have an advanced degree in any field of science, engineering, medicine, law, or the humanities - will be selected with special attention to the breadth and diversity of the entire group.

The application deadline is February 8, 1991. For information, contact Amy Crumpton, Directorate for Science and Policy Programs, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; phone (202)326-6798.

### COSSA and APA Meet With NIH Health and Behavior Working Group

At its November 14 meeting, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Working Group on Health and Behavior invited COSSA and the American Psychological Association (APA) to discuss ways in which advocacy groups can help advance the group's agenda.

COSSA and APA described past and upcoming activities geared toward promoting health and behavior research, and both organization encouraged group members to share ideas and information.

Working group members expressed concern about congressional "earmarking" of funds for particular research areas. Mem-

bers argued that Congress was restricting their ability to make professional judgments about research priorities.

Stacey Beckhardt, COSSA government liaison, suggested that earmarking is unlikely to stop. Agency staff, she said, should work more closely with advocacy groups to ensure that the message taken to Capitol Hill more closely reflects institute priorities, scientific need, and NIH capabilities.

### Rhode Island Signs on as Newest Contributor

COSSA is pleased to announce that the University of Rhode Island has joined the Consortium as a Contributor.

### Editor's Note

The next issue of UPDATE (and the last for 1990) will be published December 10.

### COSSA STAFF CHANGES

COSSA is sorry to announce that Government Liaison Stacey Beckhardt will leave the Consortium early next month. Ms. Beckhardt, who joined COSSA in December 1988, departs for her new position as director of government relations at the American Society of Clinical Oncology. We at COSSA are sorry to lose her considerable talents, but we look forward to working with her as she continues her efforts in the science policy arena.

On a happier note, COSSA also announces the arrival of Judy Auerbach as our new government liaison. Set to join the staff on November 26, Dr. Auerbach, a sociologist, is a former congressional fellow of the Society for Research on Child Development. During her stint on Capitol Hill, she worked in the office of Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO).

## SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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.

### Decision, Risk, and Management Science Program

The Decision, Risk, and Management Science (DRMS) Program is sponsoring a Joint National Science Foundation (NSF)/Private Sector Research Opportunities Initiative. The initiative is designed to support research which is grounded in theory but which also integrates an operational component. The program is intended to encourage theory building through applied studies in private sector settings. The private sector offers appropriate settings for modeling operational and managerial processes, risk management, and organizational decision-making.

Areas for study include operational control, management systems, and strategic planning. Topics can range from production, manufacturing, and marketing problems facing industrial and service organizations, to the role of decision analysis and decision support systems in improving the way individuals and groups make choices under conditions of risk and uncertainty. The topic should be of general interest to the research community, but still relate to a specific problem facing the cooperating organization.

Sources of eligible private sector funds include: industrial corporations, privately-owned businesses, and publicly-held corporations. Cooperating organizations cannot be affiliated with the principal investigator's academic institution. The determination of eligibility will be made by NSF program officers on a case-by-case basis.

Research supported by DRMS should address social, behavioral, or organizational aspects of operational processes and decision making. Research should: (a) have relevance to an operational context, (b) be grounded in theory, (c) be based on empirical observation or be subject to empirical validation, and (d) be generalizable. Even though a single project may not satisfy all these characteristics, its contribution toward these ends must be clear.

#### Application

**Procedure:** The project description for proposals submitted under this initiative may not exceed 15 single spaced pages and should follow the format specified in *Grants for Research and Education in Science and Engineering*. Eighteen copies of the proposal should be sent to: Proposal Processing Unit, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, N.W., Room 223, Washington, DC 20550; phone: (202) 357-7923.

**Budget:** DRMS will match private sector support for qualifying research projects for one or two years up to \$75,000 per year.

**Deadlines:** Target dates for proposal submission are January 15 and August 15, 1991.

**Contact:** Dr. Robert Bordley or Dr. L. Robin Keller  
Decision, Risk, and Management Science Program  
National Science Foundation  
Division of Social and Economic Science  
1800 G Street, N.W., Room 336  
Washington, DC 20550.  
Phone: (202) 357-7417 [Dr. Shanteau]  
(202) 357-7569 [Dr. Keller]

---

MEMBERS

---

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

---

AFFILIATES

---

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  
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 American Regional Science Council  
North Central Sociological Association  
Northeastern Anthropological Association  
Operations Research Society of America  
Population Association of America

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 for Management Sciences

---

CONTRIBUTORS

---

American Council of Learned Societies  
American University  
Arizona State University  
Boston University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Carnegie-Mellon University  
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado  
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Florida State University  
University of Georgia  
Harvard University  
Howard University

University of Illinois  
Indiana University  
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan  
University of Iowa  
Johns Hopkins University  
University of Maryland  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
National Opinion Research Center  
University of Nebraska  
New York University  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University  
University of Oregon  
Pennsylvania State University

University of Pittsburgh  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
University of Rhode Island  
Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, State University of New York at Albany  
Rutgers University  
Social Science Research Council  
University of Southern California  
Stanford University  
State University of New York, Stony Brook  
University of Tennessee  
Texas A & M University  
Tulane University  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
Yale University

---

**Consortium of Social Science Associations**

1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, DC 20005

---