

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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NSF DIRECTOR BLOCH DELIVERS APPROPRIATIONS SWAN SONG *HS*

On March 29, Erich Bloch made what was probably his final congressional defense of the National Science Foundation (NSF) budget. Facing the Senate Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Bloch made the usual case for doubling the foundation's budget in the next five years, starting with the 14 percent increase proposed for FY 1991. The hearing lasted less than two hours and was less specific than the House scrutiny in February.

Mikulski offered general support for the NSF. "In order to be ready for a 21st century economy, we need all the science we can get," she said. Also offering kind words was Ranking Republican Sen. Jake Garn (R-UT). Garn noted that "[Budget] function 250 [which includes NSF and NASA] was the key to the future development our the country."

Mikulski was quite happy to hear that the balance between civilian and military research was moving in the direction of civilian spending. She went on to ask Bloch whether the administration has developed a strategic plan for a "conversion economy" that would shift more defense research funding into the civilian sector. Bloch responded that such a plan is the responsibility of Allan Bromley's Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Like most NSF appropriators, Mikulski voiced concern with the state of American science education. Putting great faith in an Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) study, "Science and Engineering Education: From Grade School to Graduate School," Mikulski vowed to fight for the implementation of its recommendations.

One of the report's recommendations challenges Bloch's view that science education efforts should be distributed throughout NSF's programs, including

the research directorates. Many members of Congress have argued during the past six years, and OTA agrees, that these programs should be centralized in the Science and Engineering Education Directorate.

Sen. Wyche Fowler (D-GA) contended that the proposed NSF budget "underestimates the needs" of the country in science education. He expressed particular concern with the retention of women and minorities who drop out of science and engineering courses during the freshman and sophomore years of college.

The hearing's major confrontation came when an angry Sen. Robert Kerrey (D-NE) charged the administration with a lack of leadership in achieving its avowed goal of making the United States number one in math and science by the year 2000. Calling the situation a crisis necessitating radical change in education, Kerrey lashed out at what he perceives as a lack of response in NSF education programs.

Bloch responded that "more is being done than you acknowledge" and that "no overnight massive changes" will occur. Instead, Bloch argued "persistence and patience" will pay off. Kerrey, however, was not convinced.

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CABINET LEVEL EPA BILL INCLUDES STATISTICS BUREAU, NAS STUDY

The Environmental Protection Agency took another step toward Cabinet status when the House of Representatives approved a bill elevating the agency's rank. Passed March 28 by a vote of 371-55, the bill contains two provisions that could affect social and behavioral scientists, one of which has led to a threatened presidential veto.

The White House is unhappy with the bill's creation of a Bureau of Environmental Statistics. The administration claims the legislation would make the bureau's director too independent of the department secretary. According to the legislation, the director would be a career civil servant, appointed by the secretary for a four year term with the possibility of reappointment. The director could only be removed, according to the bill, for "malfeasance in office, maladministration, or neglect of duty." The secretary would delegate to the director all functions "which relate to gathering, analysis and dissemination of environmental quality and related public health information."

A second provision affecting the social and behavioral sciences, offered by Rep. Robert Roe (D-NJ), asks the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to study the possible establishment of a National Environmental Research Institute (NERI). Such an agency would support long-range fundamental and applied research through competitive grants to interdisciplinary research teams and individual

investigators. The NAS study would examine the structure and functions of a potential NERI, the relationship of the institute to other research entities, and the appropriate levels and sources of funding.

The bill's provision grows out of a proposal by Professors Stephen Hubbell of Princeton and Henry Howe of the University of Illinois for a National Institutes for the Environment. Modelled on the National Institutes of Health, the environment institutes' would study, among other things, a variety of social and behavioral science issues. Research topics might include: the economics of environmental degradation and restoration, population growth in relation to resources, and conflict resolution over scarce resources. Cultural survival, environmental data management, the social and economic hazards of environmental change, and environmental law and policies, would also be part of the institutes' research agenda.

NSF DIVISIONS PROPOSE NEW INITIATIVES FOR FY 1992

As part of FY 1992 planning already underway, divisions of the National Science Foundation (NSF) are busy developing a variety of new initiatives. Foundation Director Erich Bloch has always maintained that significant funding increases will not be granted for continuing programs, making so-called "special initiatives" the best vehicle for efforts to raise division support.

At the Biological, Behavioral and Social Science (BBS) Directorate Advisory Committee meeting on March 19 and 20, a number of new initiatives surfaced. (Two of these - global change and cognitive science - are discussed below. The others will be discussed in a later UPDATE.) The fate of these initiatives hinges on budget discussions within the foundation, which are likely to occur during the next several months. The NSF FY 1992 submission to the administration's Office of Management and Budget is due in September.

Global Change

The Division of Social and Economic Science, under Director Roberta Miller, has convinced NSF

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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, \$90. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, DC 20005.

and the inter-agency Committee on Earth Sciences that the human dimensions of global environmental change are worthy of research support. In FY 1989, the division spent approximately \$800,000 for research topics on this subject, and in FY 1990 the division expects to spend \$1.2 million. In the administration's FY 1991 budget, Human Interactions is one of seven priority science elements in the U.S. Global Change Research Plan.

Yet, as the proposal outlined by Miller at the BBS Advisory Committee notes: "If we continue to mandate that relevant social science research that contributes to our understanding of global environmental change concentrate only on those issues where the environment is directly involved, we may fail to understand major trends and factors that will be just as important for our basic understandings and for the formation of effective policies."

Given recent events in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Latin America, it is become necessary to expand the initiative in human dimensions of global change to include all relevant processes of social and economic change. These include: the growing internationalization of finance and production, the rise of transnational ethnic movements, population and labor flows across national boundaries, global religious fundamentalism, multinational corporations, and the internationalization of popular culture. As an example of the direction the proposal would take the research agenda, a workshop to be held in the summer of 1990 will focus on the socio-legal aspects of global change in commercial and economic transactions, population, crime and conflict, governance, and the environment.

For FY 1992, the proposal would support basic research on social and economic aspects of the increasing internationalization of social and economic patterns of behavior, research on mitigation and adaptation to global environmental change interventions by humans and institutions, and efforts to strengthen the infrastructure through research training and capacity building.

Cognitive Science

A multi-year, multi-division plan to enhance the interdisciplinary study of intelligent systems that

see, hear, understand and produce speech, remember, solve problems, make decisions, design innovative products, and lead companies and countries, would be led by the Division of Behavioral and Neural Science (BNS). Joseph Young, director of the Language, Cognition, and Social Behavior program, described this initiative in his presentation to the BBS Advisory Committee. Noting that the 1990s are the "Decade of the Brain," Young maintained that NSF should tackle the issue of cognitive science involving all the relevant disciplines. Cognitive science embraces cognitive psychology, linguistics, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, engineering, risk assessment and decision science, law and social science, geography, cultural anthropology, and other disciplines.

The initiative would include specific arrangements to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Cooperative efforts could include behavioral scientists collaborating with neuroscientists to understand more fully how people perform tasks. Interdisciplinary efforts might also involve behavioral scientists collaborating with computer scientists in the design of models that can account for human behavior and allow a computer to perform in ways similar to a human. "Mini-centers" designed to bring together in one place all the capabilities required for the flowering of cognitive science would be established through competitive peer review.

The proposed activities would, along with the mini-centers, include support for collaboration among individual scientists of different constituent disciplines. The proposal also includes the establishment of a cognitive neuroscience element in BNS and enhanced support for multi-disciplinary research training groups and disciplinary programs.

COSSA TESTIMONY CALLS FOR LARGER SHARE OF HHS FUNDS

Gerald Klonglan, chairman of the department of sociology and anthropology at Iowa State University, testified March 29 in support of increased social and behavioral science funding throughout the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Appearing on behalf of COSSA and the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences,

Klonglan testified before the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA).

Klonglan's statement articulated COSSA's specific recommendations regarding appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA), and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR). With less than three minutes to present his views to the subcommittee, his oral presentation concentrated on NIH programs.

Using rural concerns as an example, Klonglan stressed the social and behavioral aspects of health research. "Scientific research and common logic make it increasingly clear that health is not solely a medical issue," he told the panel. "If, as a nation, we wish to promote good health and improve treatment of illness and disability, we must gain a better understanding of how personal and societal factors affect health-related concerns and influence the course of human development and aging."

Klonglan's testimony called for doubling NIH's expenditures for health and behavior research over the next three years. He also advocated a significant increase in support for the social and behavioral sciences at the National Institute on Aging for research on long-term care, work and retirement, and cognitive and behavioral functioning. Finally, he asked the committee to provide increased funding for all programs of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, including those related to infant day care and injury prevention.

Klonglan urged Congress to direct ADAMHA "to increase its support for the social and behavioral sciences by \$80 million annually," a recommendation drawn from the National Academy of Sciences's report, *The Behavioral and Social Sciences: Achievements and Opportunities*. Similarly, the statement requested that "AHCPR be directed to allocate some of its resources to the study of social and behavioral factors affecting medical effectiveness."

Harkin, the only member present for the testimony, noted the subcommittee's past support of

social and behavioral science research. Recognizing, however, that this rhetorical support has not resulted in more funds, Harkin asked Klonglan, "Why do you think we [the federal government] do so poorly in this area?" Klonglan explained that the research tradition at HHS grew out of biological and medical models while the social sciences came along later. He argued that with increased support "we think we can contribute significantly more."

COSSA TESTIFIES ON RURAL SOCIAL SCIENCE AGENDA; HOUSE PASSES RURAL DEVELOPMENT BILL

Glenn Nelson, professor of agricultural and applied economics at the University of Minnesota, presented testimony March 28 strongly supporting the funding of the "Markets, Trade and Rural Revitalization" portion of the National Initiative for Research in Agriculture, Food and the Environment. Speaking before the House Rural Development, Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-MS), Nelson called for appropriations of \$5 million for markets and trade research and \$5 million for rural revitalization research.

Noting that the "opportunities and problems of rural America are national issues," Nelson cited the impact of the deregulation of transportation and communication on rural areas, the impact of foreign competition on the agriculture, forestry, mining, and manufacturing sectors of the U.S. economy, and the impact of research-developed improved management techniques on farming and agribusiness. The social science research agenda for rural areas, he said, should include: better knowledge of individual experiences, community characteristics, and public policies that foster creative entrepreneurial activities; more accurate demographic methods to project the size, regional distribution, and human capital endowment of the rural work force; and improved explanations, encompassing investments in people and institutions, of why some rural regions prosper while others decline.

On the same day that Nelson delivered his testimony, the House of Representatives passed the Rural Economic Development Act of 1990, which

includes a section authorizing rural development research competitive grants. The purpose of these grants is to encourage "research and analysis of the social, economic, and other factors influencing the economic vitality of rural areas." Another provision of the act provides funds "to carry out research to evaluate the impact of Federal and State economic development policies and programs designed to improve economic competitiveness and diversification, support strategic planning for economic investments, improve human resources, and improve the data base for rural development decision making in rural areas." The Senate bill, which was passed last year, includes similar provisions with differences in language that will have to be worked out in a conference committee.

TESTIMONY CONTINUES ON QUALITY OF FEDERAL STATISTICS

Gross national product, unemployment figures, the trade deficit – these numbers scatter our newspapers and guide public policy, but how accurate are they? Not very, according to some critics. Witnesses testifying on Capitol Hill last week joined the chorus of support for Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Michael Boskin's effort to improve the quality of federal statistics. (See UPDATE, March 23, 1990)

The Joint Economic Committee heard testimony on March 29 from Sar A. Levitan of the Center for Social Policy Studies at George Washington University; Joel Popkin, president of the economic consulting firm, Joel Popkin and Company; and James F. Smith, professor of finance at the University of North Carolina Business School and president of the National Association of Business Economists. These witnesses underscored the necessity of accurate and inclusive economic indicators and praised recent efforts to improve government statistical programs.

The witnesses identified several areas in need of reform. Among these were measurements of specific sectors of the workforce, including discouraged workers, small businesses, and the service sector. In addition, witnesses urged more accurate use and coordination of national statistical efforts. Testimony also stressed the need for the United States

to bring its economic data into concordance with international norms. All those appearing before the committee acknowledged the substantial cost of improved statistical efforts and advocated increased funding for statistical agencies.

The hearings were a follow-up to Boskin's recent testimony on the progress of his working group to improve federal economic statistics. Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) urged greater collaboration between Boskin's group and the business community. James Smith and others had words of praise for the group but also stressed the need for greater time and resources.

Sarbanes and Rep. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the committee, probed the speakers on the weaknesses of specific indicators. Members and witnesses also discussed better government-wide coordination of statistical efforts. Levitan proposed a Canadian model in which all statistical gathering is administered within one agency. Popkin cautioned, however, that the immediate necessity for statistical improvement should not be tied to the larger issue of structural reform.

NIA SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH AND RETIREMENT SURVEY

After years of lobbying by COSSA, the Population Association of America, and other groups, the National Institute on Aging (NIA) finally has the resources to invite applications for a cooperative agreement to design and conduct the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS). Conduct of this survey, previously supported by other agencies, was allowed to lapse in the early 1980s. Scientists studying issues related to the health and economics of aging urged NIA to bring it back.

The survey will be longitudinal, designed to follow a nationally representative household sample throughout pre- and post-retirement years. HRS will track patterns of activity, financial status, and health to assess determinants and dynamics of current retirement processes.

Congress appropriated \$500,000 in FY 1990 to initiate the survey. An additional \$1.5 million will be required in FY 1991 to fully implement the

program. COSSA has already begun efforts to marshal support for full funding of the project.

Letters of intent are due at NIA by April 10, with applications due by May 23. For further information about the terms of the cooperative agreement, interested scientists should contact Richard Suzman, chief of demography and population epidemiology within NIA's Behavioral and Social Research Program (Tel: 301/496-3136).

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON 21st CENTURY UNITED STATES

Demographic changes could make the term "minority" an obsolete political label by the middle of the next century. That prediction was one of a host served up at a recent conference sponsored by the Population Resource Center and the Population Reference Bureau. Held March 29 in Washington, DC, the conference focused on the nature and ramifications of profound demographic changes already at work shaping 21st century America.

The conference, which was organized around a series of reports on various demographic topics, focused on seven major trends that promise to play crucial roles during the next century:

- the aging of the U.S population;
- changes in household and family structures;
- changes in racial and ethnic composition;
- changes in residential patterns;
- changes in income and wealth distribution;
- changes in labor force needs; and
- changes in the global demographic picture.

While noting that "demography is not destiny," conference speakers stressed the importance of demographic trends in shaping national politics, priorities, and policies. Speakers also emphasized the need to grasp and respond to these trends. The 1990s offer a "window of opportunity," they argued, during which policymakers can prepare for the dramatic changes that lie ahead.

The changing composition of America's electorate was one of the conference's recurring themes. "A new racial and ethnic mosaic is emerging within the U.S. population," according to a short report on

the political ramifications of current demographic trends. "In 1980, one in five Americans was a member of a minority group," the report continues. "By 2030, one in three will be from minority backgrounds."

While minority population increases do not guarantee commensurate increases in political strength, the report notes, they do demand an increasingly "sophisticated understanding of voter behavior and demographic trends."

Former San Antonio mayor Henry Cisneros was a featured speaker during the morning session. The morning also included a panel discussion with various public and private sector leaders. Among the featured participants were: Richard P. Nathan, provost of the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the State University of New York, Albany (and speaker at a recent COSSA Congressional Seminar); Marta Tienda, professor of sociology at the Population Research Center, University of Chicago; and John B. Anderson, former Illinois congressman and independent presidential candidate. The featured luncheon speaker was Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN FRANCE

The French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) is seeking American fellowship applicants who wish to spend three months or more in a CNRS Research Laboratory. Interested applicants must procure a letter of invitation from the relevant research laboratory before applying. The application deadline is June 1, 1990 for 1991 grants. For further information, contact:

Nicole de Montricher
 Embassy of France
 4101 Reservoir Road, NW
 Washington, DC 20007-2176
 Tel: (202) 944-6215
 Fax: (202) 944-6244

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:
COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS**

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.

Fulbright Scholar Program

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars is accepting applications for the 1991-1992 Fulbright grants in research and university lecturing abroad. Approximately 1,000 grants will be awarded for periods ranging from three months to a full academic year. Openings exist in over 100 countries and there are opportunities for multi-country research. Faculty and independent scholars from all academic areas are encouraged to apply.

Budget: Grants include airfare, stipends, and additional allowances; actual amounts vary by country.

Deadlines: June 15: Australia, India, the Soviet Union and Latin America;

August 1: Africa, Asia, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and lecturing awards to Mexico, Venezuela, and the Caribbean;

November 1: Institutional proposals for Scholar-in-Residence Program; International Education Administrators Program in Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, and Japan; and the Fulbright German Studies Seminar;

January 1: NATO Research Fellowships and Spain Research Fellowships.

Contact: Application forms and further information are available from:

Council for International Exchange of Scholars
3400 International Drive, NW
Suite M-500
Washington, DC 20008-3097
Tel: (202) 686-7866

Advanced Research Fellowships in India

The Indo-U.S. Subcommittee on Education and Culture is offering nine short-term (two to three month) and twelve extended (six to 10 month) awards in 1991-1992 for research in India. The purpose of these grants is to encourage research activity and open new channels of communication between academic and professional groups in the two countries. The grants are available in all academic disciplines, except clinical medicine. Applicants must be U.S. citizens at the postdoctoral or equivalent professional level.

Budget: Grantees will receive \$1,500 per month, as well as study, travel and book allowances. Long-term fellows will also receive international travel for dependents, a dependent allowance, and a supplemental research allowance.

Deadlines: June 15, 1990.

Contact: Application forms and further information are available from:

Council for International Exchange of Scholars
Attn: Indo-American Fellowship Program
3400 International Drive, NW, Suite M-500
Washington, DC 20008-3097
Tel. (202) 686-4013

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