

CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors, and Friends

FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

May 14, 1982

This Week ...

Two Congressional Seminars
Reviewers for NIE Proposals: New Selection Criteria?
NIE Director Resigning
NSF Authorization: Summary to Date

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Two Congressional Seminars Planned

In addition to budget lobbying, an important aspect of COSSA's work this year has involved educating the Congress and the Executive Branch about the substance of social science research. The immediate crisis facing and the social and behavioral science community last spring was, of course, the budget cuts. The longer term problem, however, was that social and behavioral science research was unfamiliar to many members of Congress and poorly understood by others. Because of this, social and behavioral science was frequently overlooked in budget discussions or, when it became the focus of discussion, it was subject to badly informed criticism.

A great deal of educating has taken place over the past year. Since the Reagan budget proposals were first announced in early 1981, nearly every member of Congress has been contacted by social and behavioral scientists with cogent and persuasive reasons for restoring federal support for social and behavioral science research. Every time there is a budget mark up or a floor vote on a research budget, more Congressmen are contacted. In addition to these constituent efforts, COSSA is trying to bring information about specific

Two Congressional Seminars Planned (continued)

areas of social science research to members of Congress who have legislative responsibilities in these areas. To this end, COSSA has sponsored a number of Congressional seminars.

The purpose of the seminars is to inform Congressmen and members of their staffs about recent research in the social and behavioral sciences. Social scientists come to Washington to discuss advances in research at luncheons held in Congressional office buildings. Each seminar provides an opportunity for questions and discussion from the audience as well as presentations by the speakers. Earlier COSSA seminars, co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, have focused on industrial productivity and corporate management and on work and retirement issues in the middle and later years.

COSSA is holding two additional seminars this month. On May 25, COSSA and the Medical Sociology Section of the American Sociology Association will co-sponsor a seminar on the topic "Health and Human Behavior." Among the subjects to be considered by the speakers are the relationships between individual behavior patterns and physical health and the extent to which social and cultural factors influence health. Dr. Frederick Robbins, President of the National Institute of Medicine, has agreed to participate in the seminar. Other speakers are C. David Jenkins (University of Texas) who will speak on social and behavioral factors in heart disease and cancer; Ralph Hingson (Boston University) who will discuss research on alcoholism, and Marshall Becker (University of Michigan) who will discuss the individual's role in health care and health education.

"The Economic Crisis and the Federal Statistical System" is the title of the second seminar, which will be co-sponsored by COSSA and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) on May 26. This seminar was organized in response to the concern in the business and research communities with the effects of current budget reductions on the federal statistical system and with the effects of changes in U.S. statistical capability on economic decision making. Speakers at the seminar include Stephen E. Fienberg (Carnegie-Mellon University and Chairman, Committee on National Statistics, National Academy of Sciences), John J. Casson (Vice-President for Corporate Strategy and Chief Economist, American Express Company), and Courtenay Slater (former Chief Economist for the Department of Commerce).

COSSA is currently discussing other seminars and briefings with Congressional staff.

Reviewers for NIE Proposals: New Selection Criteria?

The Director of the National Institute of Education has given NIE program staff lists of individuals to be used in the review of research proposals submitted to the agency. In the past, reviewers were selected by program staff according to the suitability of the reviewer's research experience to the proposal being reviewed. However, NIE staff have been ordered to use these general reviewers in place of roughly half the reviewers already selected for specific proposals submitted to NIE this year.

The new reviewers were obtained as part of the Department of Education's Field Reader Outreach Program, an attempt within the Department to expand the pool of professionals qualified to review research proposals. Although a number of the required reviewers on the lists sent down by the Director of NIE are judged by program staff to be fully qualified to review research proposals, many are not. Some appear to qualify by virtue of their previous political activities or by their interest -- rather than their research background -- in such topics as values in textbooks. None were selected for their ability to evaluate specific research proposals, the major criterion used in selecting NIE reviewers in the past.

NIE Director Resigning

Edward Curran, Director of NIE, has resigned to become Deputy Undersecretary for Planning and Budget in the Department of Education. Until a replacement is appointed, Robert Sweet will be Acting Director. Sweet has little background in research. He is a former textbook salesman and businessman from New Hampshire.

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NSF Authorization: Summary to Date

At this point, three authorizations for the National Science Foundation have been reported out of committee. They include the House authorization, which is expected to go to the floor in the next several days for debate and vote by the House, and two Senate authorizations. Both the Hatch Committee on Labor and Human Resources and the Senate Commerce Committee, through its Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space, have completed authorizations for NSF. The two committees, as mentioned in earlier Legislative Reports, are engaged in a jurisdictional dispute over responsibility for the NSF authorization. (See attachment for a summary of NSF budget actions to date.)

In view of previous Congressional attitudes and Reagan administration actions, it is significant that all three committees approved bills that would increase the authorization for social and behavioral science research in the Foundation. Equally important, these increases were passed in all three committees with both Republican and Democratic support.

The House and Senate bills are somewhat different. The House authorization redirects funds within the requested overall NSF budget to add \$17.6 million for the social and behavioral science programs in the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS). The two Senate authorizations both added \$5 million to the total NSF authorization, earmarking this add-on for social and behavioral science research within BBS.

Last year, there was no authorization for NSF. The jurisdictional dispute prevented Senate consideration of the authorization until it was superceded by the NSF appropriation. This year, the two Senate committees are attempting to avoid a similar situation. If they are able to do so, and the Senate passes an authorization, it will be very important to maintain the gains for social and behavioral science research in the authorization in the House and Senate Conference Committee. Because the House redirected funds into social science research and the Senate added funds in that area, a compromise between the two may be difficult and may involve a combination of both reallocation and an add-on. Future issues of the COSSA Legislative Report will carry additional information on this issue.

STATUS OF FY 1983 NSF BUDGET REQUEST
(In Millions)

	FY 81 Actual	FY 82 Current Plan	Admin. Request	House Auth. Action A/	Senate Auth. Action B/	Senate Auth. Action C/	Final Sen.Auth. Action	Conf. Action	House Approp. Action	Senate Approp. Action	Conf. Approp. Action
MPS	256.5	272.9	298.7	288.3	298.7	298.7					
ENG	86.3	92.0	99.7	98.6 <u>D/</u>	99.7 <u>D/</u>	99.7					
BBS	185.6	176.0	186.7	201.0 <u>F/</u>	191.7 <u>F/</u>	191.7 <u>F/</u>					
AAEO	236.3	240.0	259.7	250.8	259.7	259.7					
OSOD	22.0	20.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0					
USAP	67.5	66.0	86.4	86.4	86.4	86.4					
STIA	53.8	40.3	44.0	50.1 <u>E,G/</u>	44.0	54.0					
MISIP <u>H/</u>	(5.0)	(4.8)	(3.3)	(3.3)	(3.3)	(3.3)					
PD&M	59.2	63.5	63.1	63.1	63.1	63.1					
TOTAL RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES	967.1	970.7	1052.3	1052.3	1057.3	1057.3					
SEE	70.7	20.9	15.0	45.0	25.0	20.0					
SFC	5.0	4.6	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2					
TOTAL NSF	1,022.4	996.2	1,069.5	1,099.5	1,084.5	1089.5					

A/ Bill reported by House Science and Technology Committee on April 1, 1982 (H.R. 5842).

B/ Bill reported by Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on April 27, 1982 (S. 2349).

C/ Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee scheduled to mark up for May 11, 1982.

D/ Handicapped: \$2 million set-aside for research to aid the handicapped.

E/ NROG: \$3 million set-aside for National Research Opportunity Grant.

F/ BBS: The increase in BBS is targeted to behavioral and social sciences.

G/ IIASA: Funds for IIASA prohibited pending Presidential determination of national security interests.

H/ MISIP: Funds for MISIP dependent upon disestablishment of the Department of Education.

