

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## YOGI BERRA STRIKES AGAIN: NSF RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDS *HS*

One of former New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra's oft-quoted adages is that "It ain't over, til it's over." For the National Science Foundation's (NSF) FY 1994 appropriation the saying certainly fits.

In the last edition of *Update* we noted that following the agreement reached in the House-Senate conference committee, the NSF appropriation was final. However, in the world of congressional funding decision-making there are sometimes last minute surprises. Going into the conference there was a disagreement between the House and the Senate on further funding for the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor (ASRM), a NASA project funded in the district of former House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-MS). The House had voted to end the project. The Senate voted to continue its funding. The conference committee agreed with the Senate.

Similar to its action that led to the demise of the Superconducting Supercollider, rather than acceding to the conference decision, the House refused and insisted on having its way. Clearly the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations bill would not become law if it included funds to continue work on the ASRM.

### NSF an Appropriations Winner

A compromise was reached to close down the ASRM and distribute the funds originally allocated to it among the agencies in the bill. The NSF received \$22.5 million. Of those funds, \$12.5 million would go to the Research and Related appropriation bringing its total to \$1.999 billion or 8 percent over last year. The Academic Infrastructure program which had received a 100 percent increase in the original "final" bill, got \$10 million more, for a total of \$110 million. The overall total for NSF's FY 1994 appropriation is \$3.028 billion, an 11 percent increase over FY 1993.

For NSF, the 1994 appropriations process brought a double digit overall increase compared to

FY 1993. Although, perhaps not as much as the President asked for in his budget, or as much as advocates for NSF research would have liked, given the constraints on domestic discretionary spending, NSF emerged as one of this year's appropriation winners.

### Lane Confirmed as NSF Director

On October 7 the Senate confirmed, by voice vote, Neal Lane as NSF Director. No confirmation hearing was held. On October 15 Vice President Al Gore administered the oath of office to Lane in a White House ceremony.

## FINAL FUNDING FOR COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE APPROVED; CENSUS FUNDING SLASHED *MB*

On October 19 the House adopted the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations conference report by a 303-100 vote. The Senate approved the legislation two days later by a 90-10 tally.

At the **Census Bureau**, research and design efforts to plan the 2000 Census were funded at \$8.1 million, a two-thirds reduction in the Administration's request. Overall funding for Periodic Censuses and Programs was set at \$110 million, nearly \$21 million below the budget

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proposal. \$600,000 of these funds were designated for intercensal poverty estimates.

The setbacks dealt to the Census Bureau are an outgrowth of widespread criticism over the cost and quality of the 1990 Census, a perceived lack of responsiveness to congressional concerns, and a lack of confidence in the Bureau on the part of key appropriators on Capitol Hill.

The conference report language expresses frustration that the Bureau has "not adequately addressed the concerns expressed by the Congress regarding the cost and the scope of the next decennial census," referring to calls for the next census to collect only statutorily required data, with the report using the phrase "absolute data requirements of the federal departments and agencies." In what could be perceived as a lack of confidence in the Census Bureau, which has been without a permanent director since January, the appropriations report calls on both the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of Management and Budget to take a greater role in planning the next census.

At a recent congressional hearing (see *Update*, October 11), Acting Census Bureau Director Harry Scarr said that a drastic reduction in FY94 funding would force him to eliminate testing of "prominent building blocks for fundamental change," including targeting undercounted groups, new technologies for responding to the census and processing the data, and the use of administrative records to improve accuracy.

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The Economic and Statistics Administration at the Commerce Department, which includes the Bureau of Economic Analysis, was appropriated \$45.2 million, \$4.5 million less than the President's request, but \$5.9 million over current funding.

For the Justice Department, conferees voted \$22.5 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), a reduction of \$495,000 from current funding. The conference report urges NIJ to take over funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) the three projects of the Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency -- the Denver Youth Survey, Pittsburgh Youth Study, and Rochester Youth Development Study. Referring to NIJ plans for a major study on the origins of criminal behavior, the conferees stated the three city study could supply much of the needed data, and called upon NIJ to fund the ongoing study out of funds allocated for the larger project.

The conference report awarded \$20.9 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics, an amount that is \$430,000 below both current funding and the House amount. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention received an increase from \$77.0 million in FY 1993, to \$107.0 million for 1994, with the bulk of the increase supporting new delinquency prevention training and technical assistance programs.

Voting \$242.0 million for educational and cultural exchanges supported by the United States Information Agency (USIA), the conferees increased current appropriations by \$18.6 million. The majority of the increase is not targeted toward any specific program, rather it is for general expansion of USIA exchange programs. The report calls on USIA to submit a reprogramming statement outlining how the agency will spend these funds.

#### NEH, SMITHSONIAN FUNDING PASSES HOUSE, PENDING IN SENATE *MB*

On October 20 the House passed, by voice vote, the conference report for Fiscal Year 1994 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations. Senate action is being held up by a filibuster over increased grazing fees included in the bill.

Included in the legislation was \$177.5 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The figure is identical to the FY93 level and the President's request.

The bill increases total funding for the **Smithsonian Institution** from \$295.6 million in FY93 to \$302.3 million, an allocation that is \$266,000 above the House figure. The **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** at the Smithsonian was funded at \$6.4 million, \$100,000 above current funding and the Administration's request.

### LEFTOVER WINE: SOME FINAL APPROPRIATIONS NOTES *HS*

Most of the agencies funded by the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill, which cleared Congress on October 21, were not considered by the conference committee since the House and Senate agreed on FY 1994 funding. The outcomes for those agencies where differences occurred are reported below:

The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** received the higher Senate figure of slightly over \$282 million, rather than the House figure of slightly under \$282 million. In the end the increase was only 2.5 percent over FY 1993.

The **Agency for Health Care Policy and Research** received \$135 million, a 17 percent increase over FY 1993.

**Education Research** was funded at the higher Senate level of \$78 million, a 5 percent increase over FY 1993. The national research and development centers received \$31 million. The conferees did not appropriate separately for Field Initiated Studies.

For **International Education** programs the conferees did an unusual thing. They appropriated, without explanation, \$52.3 million for the Title VI programs, \$1 million more than either the House or Senate had originally provided, and a \$3 million or a 6 percent increase over last year. The new Institute for International Public Policy created to train minority students for careers in international studies and the foreign service obtained \$1 million.

### HUMANITIES BILL PASSES HOUSE

*MB*

On October 14 the House passed H.R. 2351, legislation to reauthorize the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995, by a 304-119 vote.

Known as a simple reauthorization, the bill continues the life of NEH, along with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute for Museum Services, without making any programmatic changes. Sponsors of the bill said this was done to give Congress and the new administration an opportunity to assess the future directions of these agencies. The legislation now moves on to the Senate.

### HUMAN DIMENSIONS CONTINUES AS KEY PART OF U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM *HS*

The FY 1994 U.S. Global Change Research Plan (USGCRP) issued by the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences of the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering and Technology "places increased emphasis on understanding the human dimensions and economics of global change."

The administration has proposed spending \$1.47 billion for the total program, and \$22.1 million (up 15 percent) on "economics and human influences" research. About \$13 million of these funds will go to the National Science Foundation, with the rest scattered among the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Interior, and Health and Human Services.

According to the plan, the Clinton-Gore administration hopes to significantly broaden the scope of research and technology development required to respond more fully to global change challenges. One key emphasis for FY 1994 is to assess the current state of knowledge about the implications of global change for national and international policymaking activities. Building on this assessment component, the administration hopes to integrate basic research on Earth-system processes with environmental and socio-economic impacts and effects studies, and research on mitigation and adaptation strategies and technologies. The President's FY 1995 budget presented in early 1994 will further outline this approach.

The FY 1994 plan notes that "the dynamic processes through which humans alter the natural environment can be better understood and more accurately predicted through analyses of the complex interactions among individuals and the institutions they create as well as interactions between human and natural systems." Thus, "research on the human dimensions of global change, including economics, provides insights into the forces that drive global change, the impact that those changes have on human health and activities, and actions to respond to global change."

### Economics Research

Economics research as part of the USGCRP focuses on: 1) economic forces and global environmental change; 2) impacts and adaptation of economic systems; 3) the value of information and decisionmaking under uncertainty; 4) the economics of technology and practice linked to global environmental change; and 5) policy and policy instrument evaluation. The fundamental aim is to develop and analyze methodologies and economic models to support an integrated framework for assessing policy options.

Increasing attention is also focused on the interactive aspects of how humans change the natural environment. These include examinations of factors that lead people to change their use of forests and other environments, and the human-induced processes that lead to deforestation and desertification.

Cognitive and behavioral science research as part of the USGCRP has sought to clarify the processes through which people and institutions perceive and respond to changes in the environment, including the roles of scientists and popular media as communicators of global change information, and the impact of messages on individuals and groups with different socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The plan also calls for more research on the health effects of global environmental changes.

Implementation of the plan is contingent on final appropriations and agency allocation decisions.

For more information, contact the Committee on Earth and Environmental Science, c/o the National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

## COSSA TESTIFIES ON AIDS RESEARCH PROGRAMS *SP*

COSSA Associate Director for Government Affairs Susan Persons, presented testimony at a October 21 hearing held by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in AIDS Research. The IOM Committee, part of the National Academy of Sciences, is conducting a congressionally mandated study of the AIDS research programs of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

The Committee is examining the state of biomedical, neurological, behavioral, and social science knowledge of the substance and mental health aspects of HIV/AIDS, as well as how research at the institutes is managed, and how it is linked with AIDS services programs elsewhere in the Public Health Service.

The public meeting gave professional organizations, researchers, AIDS advocates, and service providers the opportunity to share their concerns and recommendations for the programs under review by the Committee. Among the participants who testified were representatives of three COSSA member organizations: Felice Levine of the American Sociological Association, Bill Bailey of the American Psychological Association, and Peggy Overbey of the American Anthropological Association.

### Underutilization of Social and Behavioral Science

Persons focused her testimony on two issues: 1) the balance between biomedical and behavioral and social science research, and 2) the adequacy of the administrative structure to support the institutes' AIDS programs.

Persons began her testimony by calling attention to the significant challenge HIV/AIDS presents to U.S. society's ability to combat disease by stating that "No other malady tests our capacity to overcome prejudice, culture, and ignorance." To successfully address the complex issue of AIDS, Persons stressed the importance of research programs fully utilizing all that science has to offer, but noted the underutilization of the social and behavioral sciences. She cited the recently released National Commission on AIDS report which

documents this problem. (See *Update*, September 13, 1993)

### NRC Report Highlights Problem

The National Commission on AIDS report was not the first time the underutilization of the social and behavioral sciences was highlighted, Persons suggested. A 1989 National Research Council's publication, *AIDS: Sexual Behavior and Intravenous Drug Use*, also cited the need for social and behavioral research: "...HIV infection/AIDS is more than a biomedical phenomenon--an epidemic rooted firmly, some fear intractably, in human behavior....Understanding the human behaviors that transmit HIV infection, as well as the social contexts in which those behaviors occur, calls for action by the disciplines that constitute the behavioral, social, and statistical sciences."

In addressing the question, "What should the appropriate balance be between biomedical, behavioral, and social science research?" Persons discussed difficulty of measuring such a balance because of the lack of a clear NIH definition of what constitutes behavioral and social science research. She also noted that language barriers such as the rubric, "health and behavior research" used by NIH to describe all behavioral and social science research are problematic because they semantically eliminate the breadth of the social sciences. Other terms such as "psychosocial," "biobehavioral," and the use of "behavioral scientist" to describe all social scientists, connotes the psychological perspective of social science, but neglects the sociological, the economic, the anthropological, and the historical.

### Impediments to Social and Behavioral Science

Persons identified other barriers that impede the ability of the institutes to value, and hence, utilize the social and behavioral sciences, including three false dichotomies: 1) the "soft" social and behavioral sciences vs. the "hard" natural and physical sciences; 2) qualitative research vs. quantitative research; and 3) nature vs. nurture. Persons stated that the social and behavioral sciences have not received full recognition for their contributions to science partly for ideological reasons and partly because of a lack of funding over the years by the federal government. This has occurred because the social and behavioral sciences are sometimes identified with qualitative research rather than the more scientifically-valued quantitative research. The nature vs. nurture

dichotomy invokes an "either/or" mindset which attributes the cause of an illness to either genetic or contextual factors, rather than recognizing the validity of both.

Due to the historic neglect of the social and behavioral sciences at NIH, Persons noted the recent creation of an Office on Behavioral and Social Science research by Congress (See *Update*, May 31) She also commented on the reorganization of the Office of AIDS Research, and supported a senior staff appointment within the OAR, whose main responsibility would be to monitor, manage, and strengthen AIDS behavioral and social science research.

### Structural Barriers at NIH

Turning to structural barriers to social and behavioral research in AIDS and other research programs at NIH, Persons stressed the importance of having social and behavioral scientists and others with a sensitivity to the complexities of interdisciplinary research as members of peer review committees. She also noted that interdisciplinary collaboration must be better facilitated--that investigators need flexibility to cross disciplinary and/or departmental lines. Persons concluded her testimony by stating the need for providing sufficient interdisciplinary research training with realistic stipends.

### FARM RESIDENT REPORT DROPPED AS FARM POPULATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE *HS*

After 45 years of annual releases, the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture have announced they will cease producing the report *Residents of Farms and Rural Areas*. The report, a joint publication of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Economic Research Service (ERS), was based on data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) questionnaire.

The final report, released in early October 1993 and discussing 1991 data, noted that only 4,632,000 residents (about 2 percent of U.S. population) lived on farms. In 1950 there were 23 million farm residents and when the report was first published in 1945 close to 20 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms.

## ARMS CONTROL AGENCY ANNOUNCES FELLOWSHIP *MB*

The United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency will conduct a competition in 1993 for a one-year Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship in support of unclassified doctoral dissertation research in arms control and disarmament studies.

Law candidates for the Juris Doctor or any higher degree are also eligible if they are writing a substantial paper in partial fulfillment of degree requirements.

The fellowship stipends for the Ph.D. candidates will be \$5,000 plus applicable tuition and fees up to a maximum of \$3,400. Stipends and tuition for law candidates will be prorated according to the credits given for the research paper. Fellows must be citizens or nationals of the United States and degree candidates at a U.S. college or university.

The application deadline for awards is March 15, 1994 or January 1995. For information and application materials please write: Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, Operations Analysis and Information Management, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Washington, D.C. 20451.

The latest report also indicated that farm residence is no longer a reliable indication of whether or not someone is involved in farming, another justification for cancelling the series. According to the 1991 data, thirty two percent of farm managers were non-farm residents and 86 percent of farm workers lived elsewhere in 1991.

### New Publication Replaces Rural Data Series

The ERS has replaced, in part, the rural resident data series with a new publication that provides information on the farm entrepreneurial population -- persons living in households in which someone's primary occupation is operating or managing a farm, or in which someone received self-employment income from farming. The most recent report in this series was published by ERS in February 1993 (contact Margaret Butler, ERS, 202-219-0535).

The Census Bureau is also considering production of an annual CPS report tentatively titled *Residents of Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas*, to provide information on the characteristics of persons living in a variety of residential settings, including urban and rural, but not farm settings. This would not be published until after the March 1996 CPS.

For further information on the final farm resident report and plans for the new Census report contact Donald C. Dahmann, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233 (301-763-5592).

## BANE CONFIRMED TO LEAD *MB* CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OFFICE

Mary Jo Bane, formerly the Malcolm Weiner Professor of Social Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and most recently the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Social Services, was confirmed by the Senate on October 7 as the Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Bane was sworn in on October 8.

ACF administers over 60 programs that address the needs of children and families, including Head Start, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Child Support Enforcement. She will co-chair, along with HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation David Ellwood, President Clinton's Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support, and Independence.

Bane is the author of numerous books and articles in the area of human services and public policy, including *Gender and Public Policy: Cases and Comments* (1993), *The State and the Poor in the 1980s* (1984), and *Here to Stay: American Families in the Twentieth Century* (1976). She has also written, with Ellwood, a number of articles on poverty and welfare, and a forthcoming book on welfare research and poverty.

She received her bachelor of science degree in foreign service from Georgetown University, and received a master of fine arts in teaching and a doctorate in education from Harvard University.

## SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT *ke*

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.

### Center for Population Research

The Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch (DBS) of the Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is inviting grant applications for the support of research on social, demographic, behavioral, and cultural factors in Hispanic child health.

The purpose of the RFA is to encourage theoretically and methodologically innovative research to address scientific issues among the Hispanic population and to better address the needs of its children. Issues of interest are:

- ◆ Factors that promote low rates of infant mortality and chronic disease in some Hispanic subgroups, despite the experience of racism and poverty by this population;
- ◆ The experience of migration, its antecedents and consequences, affects the health of Hispanic subgroups and their children;
- ◆ Trends in fertility and mortality may change over time and space in response to changing characteristics of the population; and
- ◆ Factors that have led to different health outcomes among different Hispanic subpopulations, and to differences in the social, demographic, behavioral, and biological predictors of those outcomes.

**Application Procedure:** Applications are to be submitted on form PHS398 that is available in most institutional offices of sponsored research and from the Office of Grants Information, Division of Research Grants, NIH, Westwood Building, Room 449, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301)594-7248. Send your completed application package to: Division of Research Grants, NIH, Westwood Building, Room 240, Bethesda, MD 20892.

**Funds Available:** \$900,000 in direct costs are set aside for the first year of support. It is anticipated that six grants will be made from NICHD funds. The level of support is dependent on the receipt of a sufficient number of applications of high scientific merit.

**Review Process:** Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed by NIH staff for completeness and responsiveness to the RFA. The review criteria for the research projects submitted in response to this RFA are generally the same as those for unsolicited research grant applications. In addition, applications will be judged on the significance and appropriateness of the research problem and methods to the Hispanic population of the U.S.

**Deadlines:** Applications must be received by January 7, 1994.

**Contact:** Direct inquiries regarding programmatic issues to: Dr. Nancy E. Moss, Center for Population Research, NICHD, 6100 Executive Blvd., Rm. 8B13, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-1174. Direct inquiries regarding fiscal matters to: Melinda B. Nelson, Office of Grants and Contracts, 6100 Executive Blvd., Rm. 8A17, NICHD, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-5481.

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