
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume II, Number 15
July 29, 1983

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NSF TO RESTORE SCIENCE EDUCATION DIRECTORATE?

Faced with a growing Congressional mandate for science education programs, officials at the National Science Foundation (NSF) are beginning to discuss the possibility of reestablishing NSF's Science Education Directorate. The Directorate was disbanded in FY 1982 because of the Reagan administration's budget reductions in science education. At that time, the National Science Board (NSB) established a commission to look into the question of national needs and possible activities in the area of precollege science and mathematics education. The report of the commission has not yet been completed but is expected to be available this fall.

In the meantime, the Congress, alarmed at what it saw as a need for more rather than less attention to science education, passed science education increases in NSF authorizing and appropriating legislation. The FY 1984 appropriation for NSF contains \$75 million that is mandated for science education activities. In the face of this mandate, NSF director Edward Knapp recently told Foundation staff that he hopes to restore the Science Education Directorate.

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REFORMS PROPOSED IN BRITISH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PLANNING

The effects of the Rothschild Report on the British Social Science Research Council (SSRC) (see COSSA Legislative Report, June 11, 1982) and the political controversies entailed by the commissioning of the report are apparent in current discussions on reforming the structure of research planning in the British SSRC. Plans under consideration would alter the structure of the SSRC Committee System and, at the same time, introduce changes in graduate education in the social sciences in British universities.

The SSRC, which is one of several research councils created by the British government to identify and support needed scientific research and research training, has been under political pressure from the Minister of Education and Science, Sir Keith Joseph, for several years. This pressure was heightened by a government sponsored evaluation of the SSRC that Sir Keith anticipated would recommend the disbanding of the SSRC. The report, which was prepared by a respected scientist, Lord Rothschild, instead strongly endorsed the activities of the SSRC.

The Rothschild Report did, however, propose some administrative changes in the SSRC. At the time of Lord Rothschild's investigation, the SSRC supported approximately 70 committees, panels, boards, and working groups to aid in accomplishing its objectives. The report objected to the administrative burden posed by these many groups and proposed that their number be reduced and their functions changed.

Even before the publication of the Rothschild Report, SSRC Chairman Michael Posner had suggested altering the SSRC structure to broaden committee responsibility to encompass research planning and the distribution of research grants. His proposal, currently under discussion, would give seven SSRC committees jurisdiction over research planning in each area and over the distribution of £ 10.7 million, or roughly half the SSRC budget. The committees, with their budgets, are listed below. A fuller description of the substantive range of the committees and their members is given in Attachment 1 from the [London] Times Higher Education Supplement.

Committee	Amount	Percentage of Total
Economic Affairs	£ 1.7m	16%
Education & Human Development	£ 1.4m	13%
Environment & Planning	£ 1.3m	12%
Research Resources & Methods	£ 0.7m	7%
Government & Law	£ 1.2m	11%
Social Affairs	£ 2.4m	22%
Industry & Employment	£ 2.0m	19%

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REFORMS PROPOSED IN BRITISH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PLANNING (cont.)

At the same time that the SSRC is considering changes in its advisory structure, it is also altering its system of graduate awards to make the British system more like the American model for graduate education. This new policy results from a government request that the SSRC make available more research awards to individuals through open competition and reduce the number of institutional awards to university departments. It is also in accord with the suggestion of Lord Rothschild that the SSRC use awards to individual students to encourage speedy completion of their degrees. "The issues raised are extremely intricate," he wrote, "but there is some case for a revision of the entire PhD system in the social sciences, involving, where appropriate, a transition to the American practice, according to which a doctoral degree is at least partly taught, and directed toward competence rather than originality." The Rothschild report recommended that the SSRC encourage universities to reorganize their graduate programs in most areas of the social sciences to include one year of course work followed by a qualifying exam and approximately two years' work on a thesis.

Making more grants to individuals would curtail the long-standing SSRC practice of making long-term awards to university departments, a system that was established in the 1960's to strengthen the newly developing social sciences. At that time, SSRC awards were seen as a means of providing a measure of institutional strength and stability for university social science departments that lacked the long university traditions of other disciplines.

Both the structural changes in the SSRC and the proposed adaptation of the American model of graduate study in the social sciences will be considered by members of the SSRC over the summer.

QUOTATION OF THE WEEK

"Committees are consumers and sometimes sterilizers of ideas, rarely creators of them."

- Henry Kissinger, cited in
the Rothschild Report

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COSSA SEEKS SUPPORT FOR NIMH, FIPSE BUDGETS

COSSA staff have been visiting the offices of Members of Congress on both the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education. Subcommittee members are being asked to increase funding for research training for FY 1984 at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), to support the increase in NIMH extramural research funding proposed by the administration budget, and to adopt report language that would recommend that NIMH funds for research and research training be distributed equitably among all scientific disciplines supported by NIMH, including the behavioral and social sciences. In addition, COSSA has been urging Subcommittee members to reject administration proposals to reduce the FY 1984 budget of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) by 49% and instead to increase the FIPSE budget by 5% over its FY 1983 level. FIPSE is the only federal agency that supports education initiatives on the postsecondary education level.

The Senate will not begin considering the large Labor, HHS, and Education appropriation until it reconvenes in September after the summer recess. Although the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education has completed marking up its bill, it has not been considered by the full House Appropriations Committee. Results of the Subcommittee markup are embargoed until full Committee consideration.

Obtaining congressional support for increased research budgets involves much more than asking for funds. An essential prior step is educating the Congress about the importance of research. The upcoming recess presents an excellent opportunity for social and behavioral scientists to visit the local offices of their Representatives and Senators to discuss the importance of continued federal support of research in the social and behavioral sciences and to provide information about the research currently underway in the Representative's district. Those researchers who reside in the states and districts of Members who are on either of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, HHS, and Education also have an opportunity to discuss the specific needs of NIMH and FIPSE. The names of members of the two Appropriations Subcommittees are listed below. Included as Attachments 3 and 4 are fact sheets used by COSSA to lobby on behalf of NIMH and FIPSE, respectively.

Readers who would like to visit their Members of Congress and have further questions are encouraged to call the COSSA office for assistance (202/234-5703).

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COSSA SEEKS SUPPORT FOR NIMH, FIPSE BUDGETS (cont.)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education

Lowell Weicker, Chair (CT)	William Proxmire (WI)
Mark Hatfield (OR)	Robert C. Byrd (WV)
Ted Stevens (AK)	Ernest F. Hollings (SC)
Mark Andrews (ND)	Thomas F. Eagleton (MO)
Warren B. Rudman (NH)	Lawton Chiles (FL)
Arlen Specter (PA)	Quentin N. Burdick (ND)
James A. McClure (ID)	Daniel K. Inouye (HI)
Pete Dominici (NM)	

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education

William H. Natcher, Chair (KY-2nd)	Silvio O. Conte (MA-1st)
Neal Smith (IA-4th)	George M. O'Brien (IL-4th)
David R. Obey (WI-7th)	Carl D. Pursell (MI-2nd)
Edward R. Roybal (CA-25th)	John Edward Porter (IL-10TH)
Louis Stokes (OH-21st)	C. W. Bill Young (FL-8th)
Joseph D. Early (MA-3rd)	
Bernard J. Dwyer (NJ-6th)	
Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5th)	

COSSA CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR ON ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Over 100 Members of Congress and congressional staff attended a Congressional Luncheon Seminar on the role of foreign area studies and foreign language competence in promoting U.S. economic competitiveness abroad. The group was addressed by Dr. William O. Baker, retired Chairman of the Board of Bell Telephone Laboratories and member of the National Commission on Excellence in Education and the COSSA Board of Directors; Professor Michel Oksenberg, political scientist at the University of Michigan and former member of the National Security Council; and Professor Fritz Stern, historian at Columbia University and consultant on Western European and contemporary German affairs.

The luncheon seminar was organized as part of a continuing program to bring information about current research and its uses to the Congress. Co-sponsors of the seminar with COSSA were the American Council on Education, the International Educational Exchange Liaison Group, and the Joint National Committee on Languages. Congressional co-sponsors were the Export Task Force of the House of Representatives and the House and Senate International Education Group. Funds for the seminar were provided in part by the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

For an account of the seminar from the Washington Times, see Attachment 2.

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SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for information.

Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)

The Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 directs that small firms receive a fixed minimum percentage of research awards made by federal agencies having sizeable research and development budgets. It is estimated that \$45 million will be awarded to researchers in all fields in FY 1983.

The solicitations listed below are open to small profit-oriented concerns only and concern topics of interest to social and behavioral scientists.

Department of Education (DOEd)

- Research and development of models, guides, and plans for handicapped populations - this topic includes plans for analyzing architectural barriers, integrating community resources, and other topics related to handicapped individuals.
- Input and output mechanisms and devices - includes ways of improving communication between learners and computers, with emphasis on handicapped populations.

Copies of the DOEd SBIR solicitation are available from:
Education Technology and Science Staff
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
Mail Stop 40
Washington, DC 20208
202/254-8247

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- National Institute on Aging - behavioral sciences research on aging; clinical research on aging.
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development - population research; research for mothers and children.
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism - treatment compliance; prevention.
- National Institute on Drug Abuse - adolescent prevention technology; prevention program assessment methods.

Copies of the DHHS SBIR solicitation are available from:
Office of Grant Inquiries, Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Building, Room 449
Bethesda, MD 20205
301/496-7441

NEW COMMITTEES OF THE BRITISH SSRC

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS - £1.7m for 1983/84 (16% of total)

The committee contains economists and historians who say they have had a very fair hearing on their concerns for promoting modern economic history, particularly covering the late twentieth century where there appear to be gaps. The historians are also planning a big project on changes in standards of living, comparing consumption patterns and wage rates from 1300-1800. The committee is steering the programme more towards applied problem-solving, in part by supporting a new international policy research centre to be set up shortly. The heavy macro-economic modelling work is now handled by a separate consortium.

Mr John Flemming (Chairman), chief adviser, economics division, Bank of England; Professor Richard Portes (Vice-Chairman), professor of economics, Birkbeck College, London; Dr John Hatcher (Vice-Chairman), lecturer in history, Cambridge University; Mr Ian Byatt, deputy chief economic adviser, HM Treasury; Professor Ronald Dore, assistant director, Technical Change Centre; Professor Charles Feinstein, professor of economic and social history, York University; Professor Frank Hahn, professor of economics, Cambridge University; Professor Frank Livesey, head of school of economics and business studies, Preston Polytechnic; Dr Richard Markovits, joint director, SSRC Centre for Sociological Studies, Oxford; Professor Geoffrey Maynard, vice-president, director of economics (Europe and Middle East), Chase Manhattan Bank; Professor Grayham Mizon, Leverhulme professor of econometrics, Southampton University; Professor David Pearce, professor of political economy, Aberdeen University; Professor Alasdair Smith, professor of economics, Sussex University; Professor T. Christopher-Smout, professor of Scottish history, St Andrews University; Mr David Stout, chief economist, Unilever.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - £1.4m for 1983/84 (13% of total)

The committee is keen on promoting fundamental and applied research on knowledge structures, involving cognitive, social, and developmental psychology. This would include studies of the relation between people and machines, the development of artificial intelligence and the need to adapt the education curriculum to include recent developments in information technology. A second focus will be personal and social development, including the development of current work on children in care and child development at the Thomas Coram Research Unit in London. Third is educational provision covering the 16-19 age group.

Professor Philip Levy (Chairman), professor of psychology, Lancaster University; Professor Gerald Bernbaum (Vice-Chairman), professor of education, Leicester University; Dr Veronika Colheart, department of psychology, City Polytechnic, London; Professor James Reason (Vice-Chairman), professor of psychology, Manchester University; Dr Judith Dunn, assistant director, MRC Unit on the Development and Integration of Behaviour, Cambridge University; Professor Peter Gosden, professor of the history of education, Leeds University; Professor Peter Kelly, professor of education, Southampton University; Mr Michael Marland, North Westminster School, London; Professor Peter Mittler, professor of special education, Manchester University; Dr Peter Mortimore, director of research and

The seven committees have a total of £10.7m to spend on research grants, on initiatives and applications, and on existing fixed commitments, including research units, designated research centres and contracts in progress, divided largely in reference to historic expenditure of the old committees.

statistics, Inner London Education Authority; Mrs Pauline Perry, chief inspector - teacher training, Department of Education and Science; Professor Peter Robinson, professor of education, Bristol University; Professor Marten Shipman, professor of education, Warwick University; Professor Neil Smith, professor of phonetics and linguistics, University College London; Dr Peter Trudgill, reader in linguistic science, Reading University; Dr David Wood, reader in psychology, Nottingham University.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING - £1.3m for 1983/84 (12% of total)

The committee is keen to involve the wider academic constituency in its initiatives for research which will cover urban development, resource conservation, housing and the social implications of information technology. The multidisciplinary approach is being promoted. Urban planning has changed greatly in the 1970s with a potential conflict between a policy for productive "footloose" investment and the need to revive inner city areas. A programme would involve work on land use, on technical change, and on the barriers to progress. Research conservation would involve looking at the public's image of conservation in a declining economy and the types of agency involved. A housing workshop is planned for later this year to look at research ideas for financing problems, interwar housing and the links between the labour and housing markets.

Professor Brian Robson (Chairman), professor of geography, Manchester University; Professor Michael Batty (Vice-Chairman), professor of town planning, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology; Professor Timothy O'Riordan (Vice-Chairman), professor of environmental sciences, University of East Anglia; Dr Noel Boaden, senior lecturer in social administration, Liverpool University; Dr Alan Gilbert, lecturer in geography, University College, London; Dr Patsy Healey, principal lecturer, Oxford Polytechnic; Professor Peter Lloyd, professor of social anthropology, Sussex University; Dr W. Derek Lyddon, chief planning officer, Scottish Development Department; Mrs Judith Marquand, assistant secretary, economics and statistics branch, Manpower Services Commission; Doreen Massey, faculty of social sciences, Open University; Mr J. Martin Shaw, chief planning officer, Norfolk County Council; Professor Anthony Sutcliffe, economic and social history department, Sheffield University; Professor Alan Wilson, professor of urban and regional geography, Leeds University.

RESEARCH RESOURCES AND METHODS - £0.7m for 1983/84 (7% of total)

The committee inherits the work previously carried out by the statistics and computing committee, but it has a new task to encourage the development of methods across all the social sciences. Initially the committee has been involved with building good relations with the other six committees to mount joint projects, through courses, workshops, and research work. Methods have generally been related to quantitative matters, but the committee is out to broaden this approach.

Professor James Durbin (Chairman), professor of statistics, London School of Economics; Mr Morley Sage (Vice-Chairman), director of the Computing Services, Southampton University; Professor James Alty, director of the Computer Laboratory, Liverpool University; Professor Michael Anderson, professor of economic history, Edinburgh University; Mr Tim Bowles, joint managing director, Audits of Great Britain; Dr Martin Bulmer, lecturer in social administration, London School of Economics; Dr Robert Gilchrist, principal lecturer in statistics, Polytechnic of North London; Professor Jack Goody, William Wyse professor of social anthropology, Cambridge University; Professor D. Tim Holt, Leverhulme professor of social statistics, Southampton University; Mr Clive Payne, manager of the computing and research support unit, faculty of social studies, Oxford University; Professor Robin Sibson, professor of statistics, Bath University; Mr Eric Thompson, principal director of statistics, Departments of the Environment and Transport; Professor Ken Wallis, professor of economics, Warwick University.

GOVERNMENT AND LAW - £1.2m for 1983/84 (11% of total)

The committee has found it hard to distil the wide range of topics for which it is responsible into a few select priority areas. It has also been hesitant about concentrating its efforts too narrowly. But it has selected as one priority the determination of public policy. A hybrid sub-committee dealing with social sciences and the law advises the main committee. It has been giving priority to research on the monitoring of legislation. But it is also keen to foster work on the regulatory activities of governmental bodies, and administrative discretion. The sub-committee is also looking after criminological research, and is interested in work on justice, family law and socio-legal studies.

Mr Nevil Johnson (Chairman), Nuffield reader in the comparative study of institutions, Nuffield College, Oxford University; Professor Jeffrey Jowell (Vice-Chairman), professor of public law, University College London; Professor Malcolm Anderson, professor of politics, Edinburgh University; Ms Jennifer Bacon, assistant secretary, Office of Management and Personnel; Dr Robert Bennett, lecturer in geography, Cambridge University; Professor Anthony Bottoms, professor of criminology, Sheffield University; Professor Lawrence Freedman, professor of war studies, Kings College London; Mr Patrick Laver, director of research, foreign and Commonwealth Office; Sir Arthur Peterson, formerly permanent under secretary of state, Home Office; Professor Raymond Plant, professor of politics, Southampton University; Professor Susan Strange, professor of international relations, London School of Economics; Dr Maurice Wright, reader in government, Manchester University; Professor Ken Newton, professor of politics, Dundee University.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS - £2.4m for 1983/84 (22% of total)

The committee has been keen to capitalize on the multidisciplinary potential of its membership, which includes economists, sociologists, social anthropologists, psychologists, social administrators, demographers and health researchers. It is keen to fund events, perhaps, workshops, which

allow open discussion of the methodologies used in different disciplines. The first priority is aging, with reference to the effects of the recession. Inequalities in health research follows the Black report. The consequences of unemployment will study the sociology and psychology of economic life. The role of the welfare state in a recession and alternative methods is the fourth.

Professor Raymond Illsley (Chairman), director, MRC Institute of Medical Sociology, Aberdeen University; Dr Tessa Blackstone (Vice-Chairman), assistant education officer, Inner London Education Authority; Dr Peter Riviere (Vice-Chairman), lecturer in social anthropology, Oxford University; Mr Jack Barnes, principal social work service officer, Department of Health and Social Security; Mrs Linda Challis, school of humanities and social studies, Bath University; Professor Nicholas Deakin, professor of social policy and administration, Birmingham University; Professor Michael Drake, professor in the social sciences, The Open University; Dr Ruth Finnegan, senior lecturer in comparative social institutions and social anthropology, The Open University; Professor A John Fox, Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys (SSRC professional fellow in social statistics, City University); Dr Colin Fraser, lecturer in social psychology, Cambridge University; Dr Oonagh Hartnett, lecturer in applied psychology, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology; Dr Julian Le Grand, lecturer in economics, London School of Economics; Dr David Plank, director of social services, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham; Miss Jennifer Platt, reader in sociology, Sussex University; Professor Bryan Roberts, department of sociology, Manchester University; Dr David Robinson, senior lecturer in health studies, Hull University.

INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT - £2m for 1983/84 (19% of total)

One important initiative will cover competitiveness and industrial regeneration, combining a broad range of work on economic, and organization issues, labour markets and industrial relations, with emphasis on improving British competitiveness. Further discussions are planned with trade unionists, industrialists and Whitehall. The initiative on inflation accounting will be continued and other priorities include public sector management, marketing and job generation, and the impact of North Sea oil. The committee is keen to strengthen the SSRC's links with industry and streamline the "Open Door" scheme.

Professor Sydney Checkland (Chairman), professor of economic history, Glasgow University; Professor Alan Mercer (Vice-Chairman), professor of operational research, Lancaster University; Professor Andrew Thomson (Vice-Chairman), professor of business policy, Glasgow University; Professor George Bain, professor of industrial relations, Warwick University; Professor Michael Bromwich, professor of finance and accounting, Reading University; Mrs Barbara Duffner, head of employment policy, personnel department, The Post Office; Professor Leslie Hannah, professor of business history, London School of Economics; Mr Roger Kendrick, managing director, British Underwater Engineering; Professor Geoffrey Stephenson, professor of social psychology, Kent University; Mr Roger Tarling, senior research officer, department of applied economics, Cambridge University; Professor Raymond Thoms, professor of business administration, Bath University; Mr Anthony Vineall, deputy head of personnel, Unilever; Dr Graham Winfield, British Oxygen Company Ltd.

The Washington Times

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1983,

Linguistics are vital to overseas business

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

A distinguished educator and a retired Bell Telephone executive said yesterday that U.S. businessmen must become fluent in foreign languages to compete effectively in overseas markets.

Businessmen have difficulty negotiating complicated international deals because their knowledge of foreign languages rarely surpasses rudimentary levels, said William O. Baker, former chairman of the Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J.

Citing his personal experience as a Bell executive, Baker said the American communications giant experienced "enormous problems" when it won a contract to install microwave links in Saudi Arabia.

"The only thing that carried us through is (that) English is so widespread," Baker said. "We muddled through with it, but with this high-tech commerce we aren't going to be able to muddle through it in the future."

At a seminar sponsored by the American Council on Education, Baker said American industry must learn language and cultural habits in order to keep up with foreign counterparts.

"In comparison to the Japanese, Americans are not well equipped," he said.

Prof. Michel C. Oksenberg of the University of Michigan, an authority on contemporary China and a former senior member of the National Security Council, said U.S. companies were not doing enough to penetrate foreign markets.

"Our corporations do not have a long-term development strategy like the Japanese," Oksenberg said.

For example, Japanese companies are spending huge sums to establish their own brand-name products in overseas markets, he said.

Seiko watches can be seen on city streets in China, and Mitsubishi has a long-range plan to market its electronic products in that country, he added.

Despite the language barrier, Oksenberg said some large U.S. corporations like Coca-Cola and Philip Morris have done credible marketing jobs in China.

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RESEARCH ON MENTAL HEALTH

Fact Sheet for the National Institute of Mental Health, FY 1984 Budget

Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education are urged to fund extramural mental health research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the level requested by the administration (\$119.2 million) and to increase funds for research training in mental health by \$5 million.

Mental illness is one of the nation's major public health problems. It is estimated that about 20 million people in the United States suffer from some form of mental illness. Moreover, the annual cost of mental illness, taking into account factors such as loss of earnings and the cost of care in and out of institutions, is estimated to exceed \$25 billion. Mental health research in the social and behavioral sciences at NIMH has expanded and improved the range of treatment options available to patients and has extended our understanding of the etiology and the cause of of mental illness.

Extramural Research at NIMH

The administration is requesting an increase of 12% in NIMH extramural research funds. It is important that these funds not be used in a single discipline or field of inquiry but that they be used to support the best and most promising research in all fields. For example, social and behavioral science research is beginning to clarify such basic mental processes as learning, memory, and emotional development. It is helping practitioners to understand how stress and the strategies we use to cope with stress affect mental health. A fuller discussion of the contribution of scientific research in this area can be seen in the report to the Director of NIMH of the Behavioral Sciences Cluster Group.

Recommendation: Extramural research at NIMH should be funded at the requested level of \$119.2 million. The Committee report should include language emphasizing that promising research from all disciplines, including the social and behavioral sciences, be supported with these funds.

Research Training at NIMH

NIMH research training grants to university programs in the biological, social and behavioral sciences allow these science departments to train researchers with expertise in issues of mental health. Funds are awarded to provide stipends for pre- and post-doctoral trainees and to support specialized training in areas of mental health research. Recognizing the importance of research training support and the need for additional funding in this area, the Congress added \$1 million to the administration's requested budget for research training at NIMH in FY 1983. The FY 1984 budget request, however, is at almost the same level at the FY 1983 budget for research training.

Recommendation: We urge the Congress to put an additional \$5 million in the NIMH research training budget for FY 1984. The Committee report should include language emphasizing that this increase in research training support be extended proportionally to all disciplines supported by NIMH in the form most useful to each discipline.

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IMPROVING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Fact Sheet for FIPSE, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education
FY 1984 Budget

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) urges Members of Congress to fund FIPSE for FY 1984 at \$12.3 million, 5% above its FY 1983 level.

FIPSE, the major instrument through which the federal government encourages improvements in postsecondary education, appears to be slated for elimination by the administration. The President has proposed that FIPSE's budget for FY 1983 of \$11.7 million be halved for FY 1984. This reduction would preclude the initiation of new awards, since approximately half of each annual budget is used to fund continuing commitments.

COSSA strongly urges Members of Congress to continue supporting FIPSE and the innovative postsecondary education projects it funds. As economic, technological and demographic conditions continue to change, many postsecondary institutions will be required to make major adjustments in their missions and delivery systems. Thus the need for venture capital in postsecondary education — and that is what FIPSE provides — has never been greater.

There are, moreover, important proposals to support. FIPSE is now receiving many worthy applications that address issues such as enhancing the state role in postsecondary education, electronic technology and education, institutional management and leadership, high school/college cooperation, and retraining of the workforce. Indeed, among the strongest proposals are those that deal with developing cooperative educational efforts among colleges, local governments, unions, and business.

FIPSE's remarkable effectiveness and reputation have set it apart from other federal programs:

- 70% of projects continue (and usually grow) after the grant ends, compared with rates of 5% to 15% in other federal education seed grant programs.
- Most projects influence other postsecondary education institutions, without further federal funds. Also, in a random survey of educators, evaluators of FIPSE found that FIPSE is widely known and that 80% of those who know FIPSE think that it has broken new ground.
- FIPSE has been able to reach new audiences. One-third of the grantees from 1973-78 had never before applied to any Federal programs.
- FIPSE has conducted special competitions with money transferred from the Department of Labor and the Carnegie Corporation.
- Applications increased from 1750 in 1981 to 2250 in 1982 and 2300 in 1983. The number of new grants made in 1982 was 71 or 3 out of every 100 applications.

The 5 percent increase being requested would allow FIPSE to fund approximately the same number of awards that it did in FY 1983 and to continue its pioneering work in postsecondary education innovation.