
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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CONGRESS IN CHAOS: APPROPRIATIONS FINALLY PASS

On October 11, ten days after the fiscal year began, the Congress finally passed and sent to the President a continuing resolution (CR) making appropriations for most of the government for Fiscal Year 1985. Just prior to reaching agreement on the CR, the Congress removed the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments appropriations bill from the CR and passed it as a separate measure.

This is an election year. All Members of the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate must face the electorate on November 6. The leadership in both the House and Senate projected an October 4 adjournment date for Congress. It is now October 11 and Congress is still here.

The 1985 Fiscal Year began on October 1. On that day only 4 of the 13 appropriations bills that fund the government had passed Congress. This is not a new situation: the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education departments went for years without a regular appropriations bill. To remedy this situation Congress usually passes a continuing resolution that is a catch-all appropriations bill. This year the government

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

shut down for half a day and Congress passed three CRs that lasted for one or two days. The main CR became a Christmas tree open to ornaments proposed by members of Congress as they tried to attach amendments to the bill in the rush of last-minute action. As a result the major CR passed 11 days late. For a week the delay was caused by civil rights amendments to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in the Grove City case which narrowed the protections of Title IX sex discrimination provisions. These amendments were eventually tabled in the face of a filibuster. A threatened presidential veto over water projects created further delays. The Congress reluctantly agreed to remove them from the CR. Finally, a compromise was reached on continued aid to the anti-government forces in Nicaragua, which the House wanted to eliminate and the Senate and administration wanted to keep. Although this continuing resolution is supposed to be an appropriations measure, almost 75% of the text is a major revision of the nation's criminal code. If the House and Senate can get together on raising the debt ceiling so the government can continue to borrow money, by the time you receive this issue of the Update your House member or Senator should be home making the rounds seeking your vote.

Several observations about all of this chaos: 1) election year politics, which had remained somewhat subdued and enabled Congress to accomplish a number of things that people did not expect this year, in the end surfaced with a vengeance; 2) the two-decade long growth of individualism in Congress where members pay more attention to district and re-election needs, instead of forging necessary legislative compromises, continues to run rampant; 3) retiring Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, who a few weeks ago was being saluted as the best and most forceful Senate leader in a long time, lost control of the Senate. There is now talk of his successor needing to be stronger, yet given point #2 above, can any Senate leader lead?

While all this chaos has reigned, some issues COSSA has been following were resolved.

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations. As noted above, this appropriations bill was removed from the continuing resolution at the last minute and passed as a separate bill. What follows is a brief listing of the funding levels of programs of interest to social and behavioral scientists. (For earlier descriptions see COSSA Washington Update, July 27, 1984.)

Department of Labor: The pilots and demonstrations account under the Job Training Partnership Act, which includes funding for the National Longitudinal Survey (NLS), received \$20.2 million, a \$5 million increase over the President's request. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) received a 4% increase over the administration request and a 12% increase over FY 1984 funding. The conference report instructed BLS to use the increase to improve data collection in the service sector of the economy and to implement a report on permanent mass layoffs and plant closings.

Department of Health and Human Services: Concern for research on aging led to a 26% increase over its FY 1984 level in funding for the National Institute on Aging (NIA). The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) received a 14% increase over FY 1984.

The National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH) received an 8% increase for research and research training and was provided \$22 million for clinical training that the administration wanted to eliminate. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) was granted an 18% increase for research and training over FY 1984, while the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) appropriation for research and research training increased by 15% over FY 1984.

The Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation (ASPE) received \$9.75 million, a slight 2% decrease from FY 1984, but below the 20% decrease the administration wanted. The Office of Human Development Services (OHDS) total appropriation is close to \$2 billion; the Congress rejected the administration's attempt to combine the research programs into one severely reduced block of funds.

Department of Education: The National Institute of Education (NIE) appropriation represents a \$3 million increase over its FY 1984 funding, but not the \$6 million increase the administration sought. The initial funding for programs authorized by the Math-Science Education bill was set at \$100 million. The National Institute for Handicapped Research (NIHR) received \$39 million, an 8% increase over FY 1984.

The Congress rejected once again the administration's attempt to zero-fund International Education programs, providing a slight 4% increase over FY 1984 instead. The National Graduate Fellows Programs was funded for the first time at \$2.5 million. The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) received \$12.7 million, up \$1 million from FY 1984. The Congress directed FIPSE to spend \$2 million on projects for "geographically diverse schools of education which submit quality proposals for innovative reform of curriculum, student recruitment and degree requirements in graduate schools of education."

National Institutes of Health Reauthorization. An agreement has been reached on the reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Although the House provision requiring the appointment of a specific number of social and behavioral scientists to NIH board and councils has been removed, the Conference Report strongly and specifically suggests that social and behavioral scientists be included in appointments.

National Archives and Records Service. The National Archives independence bill is on its way to the President. Differences between the House and Senate bill were resolved in conference.

Office of Justice Assistance. After much maneuvering and lobbying by COSSA and others, the Congress has attached to the Continuing Resolution an anti-crime package that includes the establishment of an Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) along the lines of the Justice Assistance, Missing Children and Juvenile Justice Act of 1984 (see Update, August 24, 1984), which maintains the independence of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The reauthorization of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is included in the anti-crime package in the Continuing Resolution. OJJDP, which has been the subject of intense congressional scrutiny and oversight during 1984, was constrained in numerous ways. New programs selected for assistance through grants or contracts must undergo a formal peer review process utilizing experts outside the Justice Department. All new grants or contracts must be selected through a competitive process unless the administrator makes a written declaration that the applicant is "uniquely qualified" or the award is of "such outstanding merit as determined by peer review." In addition, notification of awards, accompanied by the application, must be made to Congress. The provision prohibiting biomedical or behavior control experimentation on individuals remains, although there is language that attempts to define these terms. The OJJDP's research function, which was removed in the House bill, has been restored.

INFORMATION REVOLUTION "TRANSFORMING" SOCIETY

The impact of information technologies on social transformation was the topic of a symposium sponsored by the National Academy of Engineering on October 4. Speakers included Harlan Cleveland, Director of the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and Melvin Kranzberg, Professor of the History of Technology at Georgia Tech and President of the Society for the History of Technology, a COSSA Affiliate.

Professor Cleveland noted that the information age has led to the "twilight of five hierarchies": power based on control, influence based on secrecy, class based on ownership, privilege based on early access, and politics based on geography. He further warned that "policies based on information monopolies are going to have a short half-life," and called for institutions that recognize the new "sharing of information environment" rather than the old "exchange of information environment." He claimed power is leaking from nation-states to "people communities" -- international organizations, multinational corporations, and neighborhood groups.

Professor Kranzberg compared the social changes generated by the information revolution to those engendered by the industrial revolution. He noted that both "revolutions" have

meant a series of fundamental changes in the production and distribution of goods and services and enormous changes in the socio-cultural aspects of life. He posited Kranzberg's Law -- technology is neither good nor bad, nor is it neutral -- and warned of the unforeseen consequences of "technological revolutions."

The symposium was held to honor the memory of the late Dr. George Low, a top official at NASA who played an important role in America's space program. Proceedings of the symposium will be available from the National Academy of Engineering.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT COSSA

The Consortium of Social Science Associations is staffed by four professionals trained in the social and behavioral sciences. Below are brief profiles of the COSSA staff, all of whom contribute to the Update. (A biographical sketch of David Jenness, Executive Director of COSSA, was featured in the July 27 issue of the newsletter.)

Howard J. Silver, Staff Associate for Government Relations at COSSA, is primarily responsible for lobbying members of Congress and their staffs on legislation affecting social and behavioral scientists. He also mobilizes participation by social and behavioral scientists in the policy process. Dr. Silver was previously a consultant for legislative and political research, a political campaign manager, and a legislative analyst in the Department of Education. Dr. Silver received the B.A. from the City College of the City University of New York and the Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University.

Susan D. Quarles, COSSA Executive Assistant, received the B.A. summa cum laude in sociology from the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. Ms. Quarles prepares "Sources of Research Support" for each issue of the Update and does the production and layout of the newsletter and other COSSA publications. She also maintains COSSA's database of Update subscribers and oversees the status of COSSA Members, Affiliates, and Contributors. Before coming to COSSA, Ms. Quarles worked in a similar position at a non-profit educational association and spent two years as a Revenue Officer for the Internal Revenue Service.

Eileen Chotiner is the Staff Assistant for Public Information. Ms. Chotiner organizes the COSSA congressional seminars and edits and circulates the seminar transcripts. She is also responsible for distributing information to the media and monitoring issues of scientific communication and access to information. She previously worked in the Washington and Pittsburgh offices of Rep. Doug Walgren (D-PA). Ms. Chotiner received the B.A. with high honors in history from Oberlin College.

WHO SAYS SCIENCE DRIVES TECHNOLOGY?

The British government's commitment to applied research, over the next five years, in advanced computing, including artificial intelligence, amounts to £200 million (about \$251 million), according to a recent issue of the (London) Times Higher Education Supplement. The funds are earmarked for the so-called Alvey programme within the Department of Trade and Industry. In the same five-year period, in comparison, the entire budget of the British Economic and Social Research Council (formerly the Social Science Research Council) will amount to about £125 million. The Alvey programme is intended to stimulate economic and industrial utilization of advanced computer technology, and thus economic growth. Funds for the monitoring of and research on social implications and effects of new computer-based information systems are not included in the Alvey budget, nor are funds and procedures for basic research on man-machine interfacing, computer modelling of cognitive processing, or the design of "knowledge-based" (i.e., parallel-processing, symbol-using, or self-revising) systems, using principles from the cognitive sciences.

Some British social and behavioral scientists have been concerned with the possible dangers of rapid adoption of new systems, pointing out that users -- in industry, government, and the service sector -- may overrate the power and precision of "intelligent" information systems. Furthermore, historians and anthropologists point to the need to recognize the cultural constraints on both the assumptions built into computer programming (as to reasoning, path-and-goal simulation, logic, etc.) and on the domains to which this new technology is directed. This bears, of course, on the question of societal priorities for information, as well as the conceptual presuppositions underlying information science.

Currently, according to the Supplement, possibly crucial research on science-society issues and on the major theoretical issues, as well as exploration of new domains for "expert" programs, are being funded by the ESRC, whose research budgets are already hard-pressed -- yet another example of major technological commitment without a corresponding concern for the social context or for opportunities for disciplinary research.

In the United States the Senate has passed and the House is working on a bill that would authorize the Department of Commerce to fund \$200 million in grants and cooperative agreements over four years for research to increase the amount of fundamental scientific and technological knowledge in fields relevant to manufacturing methods and processes, including computer assisted design, automated materials handling, processing and testing, and machine adaptive learning. (For earlier story, see COSSA Washington Update, June 29, 1984).

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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

Economic Development Administration

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the Department of Commerce provides grants and loans for the assistance of economically distressed areas for economic development planning purposes. A small portion of the EDA budget goes to support research and evaluation projects related to economic development. An announcement of FY 1985 funds available for grants and cooperative agreements was released this week by the Office of Planning, Technical Assistance, Research and Evaluation. EDA priority areas for FY 1985 include: regional growth, unemployment, underemployment, rural economic development, industrial location, private sector participation in economic development efforts, migration, export development, minority economic and business development, and the role of productivity and technology in economic development.

FY 1985 Funds Available: \$2 million

Funding Mechanisms: Grants, cooperative agreements

Review Process: In-house staff

Disciplines Funded: There are no restrictions. Any project which relates to the broad priority areas of EDA are eligible.

Restrictions on Awards: Projects will generally not exceed 12 months duration. The average grant amount is \$100,000.

Success Ratio: In FY 1984, 15 of 110 concept papers submitted received funding.

Deadlines: Concept papers must be submitted by February 28, 1985.

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