

---

---

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

---

---

Volume III, Number 22  
December 7, 1984

This Week . . .

Bloch, Adams Address COSSA Annual Meeting  
New COSSA President  
Republicans Choose Dole as Senate Leader  
Scholars Ponder Law and Social Science  
Internship Opportunity Available  
University Affiliation Program  
Fulbright American Scholar Awards Still Available  
Child Development and Social Policy Fellowships  
Sources of Research Support: Department of Education

\* \* \*

## BLOCH, ADAMS ADDRESS COSSA ANNUAL MEETING

Robert McC. Adams, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Erich Bloch, Director of the National Science Foundation, addressed the COSSA Annual Meeting on November 27 in Washington, D.C. The meeting was attended by the COSSA Board of Directors and representatives of 13 COSSA Affiliates.

Dr. Adams discussed prevailing perceptions of the social sciences and what he perceives as the needs the social science community must meet. Dr. Adams noted that the social sciences lack a spokesman to make a cohesive case for them, as William Bennett has done for the humanities:

It seems to me that the social science disciplines are still, relative to the need that confronts them, and relative, in some ways, to the humanities, somewhat disorganized and acephalous. And I say that with all due respect for what COSSA has succeeded in doing. COSSA is still a wary confederation of groups that regard themselves as basically autonomous and on their own distinctive paths. I think that's a condition that may have been appropriate in the mid-70s but that no longer really matches the needs that are out there in the 1980s.

---

---

**COSSA Washington Update** is published 20-24 times per year, normally biweekly, by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), 1200 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202/887-6166). Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$25.00; institutional subscriptions, \$90.00; overseas airmail, \$40.00. COSSA Members, Affiliates, and Contributors are listed on the back.

Dr. Adams suggested that disciplinary associations need to go beyond their current focus on Ph.D.'s in research careers and consider what happens to Ph.D.'s who do not find academic employment as well as follow the careers of those receiving bachelor's and master's degrees in the social sciences. It is the latter group who may increasingly represent the primary product of social science education.

Dr. Adams also talked about his desire, within the Smithsonian, "to break down some barriers that, to some extent, presently exist between curatorial staffs that tend to become isolated and concerned primarily with their collections and the 'outer world', which is primarily an academic world."

Mr. Bloch's address, delivered at luncheon, focused on the new spirit of cooperation between universities, industry, and government in supporting science and technology. The social and behavioral sciences, he pointed out, are necessary to understand changes in world economic competition, international competition in research, and the rapidly increasing complexity of science, technology, and the research process. Despite the difficulty which the social sciences have experienced in gaining funding in recent years, Mr. Bloch sees grounds for optimism based on the rapid recovery of budgets since 1981.

Mr. Bloch stated that technological innovation cannot be pursued successfully without understanding thoroughly the social context in which it occurs. Social science should also continue to create its own technological innovations. Mr. Bloch also pointed out the need for social and behavioral scientists to strengthen their ties with industry and to look to the private sector for additional support of their research enterprise, as natural scientists and engineers have done. He suggested topics such as human factors research and workplace-provided daycare arrangements as specific areas which industry is increasingly interested in exploring.

Both Bloch and Adams pointed to the need to develop a consensus within the community about the social science enterprise and communicate it clearly. Those attending the meeting picked up this theme in discussions of public information efforts, developing relationships with federal policymakers, and education. Attending the COSSA Annual Meeting were representatives from the following affiliated organizations: American Association for Public Opinion Research; American Educational Research Association; American Society of Criminology; Evaluation Network; Evaluation Research Society; History of Science Society; International Studies Association; National Council for the Social Studies; Population Association of America; Rural Sociological Society; Society for the History of Technology; Society for Research in Child Development; Society for Social Studies of Science.

New COSSA President

Following the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors convened its annual business meeting to consider COSSA priorities for 1985. Risa I. Palm, Acting Associate Vice Chancellor for Instruction of the University of Colorado, was elected President of COSSA to serve a two-year term. Dr. Palm represents the Association of American Geographers on the Board. She succeeds Dell H. Hymes, who served as President from 1982 to 1984.

REPUBLICANS CHOOSE DOLE AS SENATE LEADER

Republicans in the Senate chose Senator Robert Dole of Kansas as the new majority leader replacing the retiring Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee. The new majority leader faces a difficult task in keeping the slim Republican majority in line in the Senate, responding to White House initiatives, and negotiating with Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-MA) and the House Democratic majority.

Dole, who was the witty and acerbic vice-presidential candidate in 1976, in the past two years has managed to put together two tax increase packages that he was able to sell, not only to his colleagues, but to a skeptical Ronald Reagan as well. He has not lost any of his wit, but he has gained the reputation of a serious and successful law-maker who can get things done in the old tradition of forging legislative compromises for the good of the nation. His ability to continue to accomplish this as Senate leader, in a body whose rules and cast of characters support an every-Senator-for-him/herself posture, will be the measure of his success as majority leader and will clearly affect his not-so-hidden presidential ambitions.

Dole's selection clarifies the Senate Committee chairmanship structure. Since the majority leader cannot be chairman of a committee, Dole will have to give up his Finance Committee chair to Senator Robert Packwood (R-OR). Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) will take the Agriculture Chairmanship, while Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), another contender in the majority leader's contest, will chair the Foreign Relations committee. Packwood will be replaced as Chairman of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee by Senator John Danforth (R-MO). This committee includes the Science, Technology and Space Subcommittee, which is one of the two entities in the Senate claiming jurisdiction over the authorization of the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is expected that Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA) will remain as chairman of this subcommittee.

Now that the chairmen situation is settled, the internal switching of committee seats and the assignments for the seven freshmen Senators will take place. The announcements will come in January; the jockeying and lobbying occurs now.

SCHOLARS PONDER LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

The use of social science research findings and methodologies in legal scholarship was the subject of a two-day workshop sponsored by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in Arlington, VA on November 2 and 3. Over eighty scholars and law professors, from both legal and social science backgrounds, participated in discussions of what social science can contribute to the study of legal research problems, how empirical research has brought new knowledge to legal questions, how the courts use the findings of social science in their decision-making, and how social science has been included in the legal education curriculum.

Professors Julius Getman of Yale and Lee Teitelbaum of the University of New Mexico explained the difficulties encountered by scholars attempting to integrate law and social science, emphasizing that only some questions are researchable from the point of view of social scientists, and that only some researchable questions are of interest to the law.

Examples of the ways empirical research have brought new knowledge to legal questions included studies of sentencing procedures that have led to changes in the way the criminal justice system views sentencing, studies of the exclusionary rule on the admissibility of illegally seized evidence cited in recent Supreme Court decisions, and studies of the impact of Supreme Court decisions on the death penalty, school prayer and other issues. This research has been conducted by law school professors, political scientists, sociologists, psychologists and other social scientists interested in the judicial and criminal justice processes.

In the area of judicial decision-making, especially in higher courts, how social science evidence is used makes a difference in the incorporation of that knowledge into the legal process. Some decisions simply footnote social science studies indicating that such evidence was not integral to the decision itself. At the other extreme, certain decisions contain minimal legal explanation, and seem to rest on the citation of many studies that support the same conclusion. In the latter case, there may be serious methodological problems -- of summing evidence across very different situations or of failing to appreciate that the studies cited depend on each other (since science, too, argues often from precedent and from an apparent "weight of the evidence").

There is a difference between "legislative facts" -- general formulations that help tribunals determine the content of law and policy -- and "adjudicative facts" -- which apply to specific instances or litigation. In determining legislative facts, courts seem to have come to terms with statistical arguments and procedures, and with survey, sampling, and census type data: such data are regarded as an improvement on hearsay. There are problems, however, in civil and criminal cases

determining adjudicative facts, where courts may use scientific generalizations in individual cases: will this child develop better with the mother or the father; will this sex offender commit another crime? Here, the inherent difficulty in social science of predicting single outcomes from general propositions is evident.

In appellate procedures, these dimensions are sometimes mixed. Judges may privately turn to nearby "experts" for scientific opinions. Professor John Monahan of the University of Virginia pointed out that there is an issue of whether appellate judges should give notice of such consultation to the parties involved in adversary procedures. Monahan also reviewed briefly special ways proposed in the past for bringing social science knowledge into the judicial process: for example, special masters or court advisors or the employment of legal clerks with technical backgrounds. None of these possible mechanisms seem to have been widely accepted.

Professor Richard Schwartz of Syracuse University, a social scientist on the faculty of the law school and past president of the Law and Society Association, noted that legal education must include a healthy dose of social science education in order to make future lawyers understand how to marshal empirical evidence to support important societal values.

Of special interest to social scientists may have been an implicit "fairness doctrine" in these meetings as regards problems of communication. In the words of one participant, "A profession that uses terms like 'estoppel' should not criticize 'sociologese' like 'standard error' or 'significant difference'."

#### INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

The Consortium of Social Science Associations is currently seeking applications for the position of intern with the COSSA office in Washington. The internship will last three to six months, preferably beginning in January 1985. The internship does not provide a stipend, but will afford the successful applicant the opportunity to gain experience in the legislative process and public policy. Applicants should be graduate students or have completed at least two years of study towards a degree in one of the social or behavioral sciences.

The duties of the intern will include assisting the COSSA staff in the preparation of the FY 1986 budget analysis; monitoring research management at federal agencies; an independent project related to the intern's research interests; and general administrative duties.

Applicants should submit a resume and letter outlining their interests to the COSSA office as soon as possible.

## OPPORTUNITIES

University Affiliation Program

The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) announces the 1985 program of support for institutional partnerships between U.S. and non-U.S. colleges and universities. The goal of the program is to facilitate bilateral institutional relationships which promote mutual understanding through faculty and staff exchanges. Eligible fields are the social sciences, humanities, education, and communications. There will be up to 30 grants awarded in the regular competition, and up to 10 grants in a special competition for proposals on the theme of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The deadline for proposals is February 1, 1985. For complete information, contact the University Affiliation Program, USIA, 301 4th St., SW, Washington, DC 20547; 202/485-8424.

Fulbright American Scholar Awards Still Available

Because of an increased demand by host countries, numerous awards remain available for university lecturing abroad in the fields of American history, economics, and political science for the 1985-86 academic year. Openings exist in all world areas and all faculty ranks are eligible. To verify those openings still available, interested scholars should contact (as soon as possible) the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20036; 202/833-4950.

Child Development and Social Policy Fellowships

The Bush Foundation Programs in Child Development and Social Policy are accepting fellowship applications through March 15, 1985, for the 1985-86 academic year. Available for pre/post-doctoral and mid-career scholars, the Bush programs have both training and public education functions designed to hasten the development of constructive social policies for children and their families. Programs include seminars, internships, and outreach events such as conferences and workshops. Bush Programs are located at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of Michigan, and Yale University. For more information contact Sharon L. Kagan, Bush Network Coordinator, P.O. Box 11A, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Research in Education of the Handicapped  
(Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services)

The Research in Education of the Handicapped program of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services supports research, surveys, or demonstration projects relating to the educational needs of handicapped children. Research and related activities shall be designed to increase knowledge and understanding of handicapping conditions and teaching, learning, and education-related practices and services for handicapped children and youth, including physical education and recreation. Two categories of projects supported by the program, Field Initiated Research and Student Initiated Research, are of particular interest to social and behavioral scientists. Field Initiated Research Projects may cover a broad range of topics proposed by professionals and/or faculty; Student Initiated Research Projects provide support to postsecondary (primarily doctoral) students to initiate and direct research and research-related projects. Both projects are limited only by the mission of the program -- the support of applied research relating to the education of handicapped children and youth.

FY 1985 Funds Available: Approximately \$2.7 million will be available to fund 27 new Field Initiated Research projects. Approximately \$250,000 will be available to support 25 new Student Initiated Research projects.

Funding Mechanism: Primarily grants

Review Process: Peer review

Disciplines Funded: Proposals from any discipline may be considered; multidisciplinary projects are encouraged.

Restrictions on Awards: Field Initiated Research projects will be funded for a period of up to 60 months. Student Initiated Research projects will be funded for up to 18 months.

Success Ratio: Generally 5% - 10% of Field Initiated Research projects receive funding. Approximately 1/3 of Student Initiated Research projects are funded.

Deadlines: Field Initiated Research projects - January 28, 1985; Student Initiated Research projects - March 15, 1985.

Contact: Dr. James Hamilton  
Research Projects Branch, Room 3511  
Special Education Programs  
Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202  
202/732-1110

12/07/84

**CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS**

**MEMBERS**

American Anthropological Association  
 American Economic Association  
 American Historical Association  
 American Political Science Association  
 American Psychological Association  
 American Sociological Association  
 American Statistical Association  
 Association of American Geographers  
 Association of American Law Schools  
 Linguistic Society of America

**AFFILIATES**

American Association for Public Opinion  
 Research  
 American Educational Research  
 Association  
 American Society of Criminology  
 Association for Asian Studies  
 Eastern Sociological Society  
 Economic History Association  
 Evaluation Network  
 Evaluation Research Society  
 History of Science Society  
 International Studies Association  
 Law and Society Association  
 Midwest Sociological Society  
 National Council on Family Relations  
 National Council for the Social Studies

North Central Sociological Association  
 Northeastern Anthropological Association  
 Population Association of America  
 Regional Science Association  
 Rural Sociological Society  
 Social Science History Association  
 Society for American Archaeology  
 Society for the History of Technology  
 Society for Research in Child  
 Development  
 Society for the Scientific Study  
 of Religion  
 Society for Social Studies of Science  
 Southwestern Social Science Association

**CONTRIBUTORS**

University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of California, Santa Barbara  
 Carnegie-Mellon University  
 Center for Advanced Study in the  
 Behavioral Sciences  
 Center for International Studies,  
 Duke University  
 University of Colorado  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell Institute for Social and  
 Economic Research  
 Cornell University

Florida State University  
 Harvard University  
 University of Illinois  
 Indiana University  
 Institute for Social Research,  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Iowa  
 The Johns Hopkins University  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Missouri  
 University of Nebraska  
 New York University  
 Ohio State University  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 Princeton University  
 Rutgers University  
 Social Science Research Council  
 University of Southern California  
 Stanford University  
 State University of New York at  
 Stony Brook  
 Texas A & M University  
 Tulane University  
 University of Washington  
 University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

---

**CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS**

1200 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N.W., SUITE 520, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

---