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CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## FROM LOS ALAMOS TO THE MULTINATIONALS: KEYWORTH IN TRANSITION

Presidential science advisor George Keyworth II, in place since the beginning of the first Reagan administration as head of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the White House, will give up the job at the end of this year. Some observers in Washington see the timing of his resignation as a consequence of the go-ahead signal for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) that came out of the recent Geneva summit (where it was not, apparently, a bargaining chip) together with recent decisions by European governments to cooperate with the United States in SDI research. In other words, Keyworth, who wrote the President's first Star Wars speech and has been an untiring advocate for SDI, is leaving on a note of accomplishment.

Keyworth has accomplished a lot for science -- at least part of science. He has been the strongest voice at the White House, so far as anyone knows, for substantial increases in research budgets and especially for 'basic' research at the expense of funds for 'development'; for an especially rapid increase in Department of Defense research budgets and the earmarking of what federal funds there are for development to defense-related purposes; for a major upgrading of federal investment in engineering research, especially through the National Science Foundation's new engineering research centers; and for the view that a critical test for science investment should be its ability to contribute to national competitiveness in defense and in economic terms. While viewing university-based research as the

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Risa I. Palm, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

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central strength in the American system, Keyworth has encouraged university-corporate links, especially in engineering and biotechnology. But he has been skeptical of the 'entitlement' view of the basic research community, urging that community to be tough, lean, and mean: he supposedly has been hard on the national laboratories (whence he sprang), dismissive of university scientists' scruples about working on SDI, and has frequently labelled scientists as too complacent and too quick to get to the trough. In general, the science community has found Keyworth supportive of basic science but relatively uninterested in their advice about how to do it. He has been perceived as the President's man, rather than the scientific community's spokesman.

Keyworth has been skeptical of the ability of biomedical researchers to produce results that make a difference (for example, in organizing biotechnology companies in the private sector). As for social science, he defended 1981 cuts at the NSF as follows: "I think great wisdom and courage was executed in squashing the daylights out of NSF's social science program...in terms of sheer quality, they rated phenomenally low...There is a lot of important work within the social sciences, and I think you're seeing a rebuilding of the NSF programs. But they're being built anew...." (Science and Government Report, October 15, 1984).

While Keyworth leaves on a crest, it can also be argued that he saw dangerous times ahead. Science funding, even in defense, will likely be cut, unless taxes are raised -- in which case Keyworth would not be perceived by the research community as producing over-all growth curves, if by rebarbative means. The problem of obsolete science facilities and equipment in universities has been recognized but not solved. There is serious campus unrest over SDI. The life sciences desk at OSTP has been vacant since the departure this past summer of Bernadine (Bulkley) Healy; Keyworth has not seemed to know how to staff it except by seconding science managers from other agencies. (There is no social sciences desk at OSTP.)

In any event, he now enters the private sector, joining the former vice-chairman of the CIA's National Intelligence Council in setting up a firm to help big business analyze sociopolitical, economic, and scientific information -- so that he may well end up acting like a social scientist.

#### UPDATE PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

This is the final issue of Volume IV of the Update. Publication will resume on a biweekly schedule on January 10, 1986.

Comments on the Update are always welcome. We would be pleased to receive suggestions from our readers regarding content, regular features, or special series.

SCIENCE BOARD HAS FULL MEMBERSHIP

For the first time in over two years the National Science Board (NSB) will soon have its full complement of 24 members plus the Director who is ex-officio. The NSB is the policy-making body for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

In October the Senate confirmed Drs. Craig C. Black and Charles L. Hosler. Dr. Black is the Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. He has a doctorate in biology from Harvard and has been very active in science museum and paleontology and geologic organizations. Dr. Hosler is Vice President for Research at Pennsylvania State University and Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Hosler has a Ph.D. in meteorology from Penn State, is past president of the American Meteorological Association, and has been very active in working with science teachers in historically Black colleges and universities.

Dr. Warren J. Baker, President of California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, was nominated to the NSB by the President on October 7. He is expected to be confirmed shortly. Dr. Baker has a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of New Mexico, specializes in research on soil dynamics, and has held teaching and administrative posts at a number of universities.

FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE THREATENED

When the United States withdrew from the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the administration through Secretary of State George Shultz noted "we will...continue to make a significant and concrete contribution to international cooperation in education, science, culture and communications." In addition, it was suggested that the funds the U.S. contributed to UNESCO would be redirected to support international scientific activities outside the UNESCO structure. It is now clear that this will not happen.

The State Department, in cooperation with the the National Research Council, originally agreed to post-UNESCO funding of \$14 million "to continue support for U.S. participation in and to meet U.S. commitments to international conventions and scientific organizations engaged in work considered essential and important to U.S. interests." Among the programs considered important are: the Man and the Biosphere Program, an interdisciplinary program of ecological research; the International Libraries, Archives and Science Documentation Program, which sets standards for and provides data on international information technology activities; and Non-Governmental Research Organizations Support, including the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and other learned or scientific international and regional organizations.

However, in the administration-proposed budget the \$14 million was reduced to \$2.75 million. In the Foreign Aid

authorization bill that emerged from Congress in August that figure was further reduced to \$2.6 million. In the Foreign Aid appropriations bill, the House Appropriations Committee provided \$2.28 million for these purposes, while the Senate Appropriations Committee eliminated all funding for these programs.

Since the Foreign Aid appropriations bill has not passed either the House or the Senate, it is now part of the Continuing Resolution (H J Res 465) that Congress needs to pass by December 12 in order to keep the government functioning. The conference committee on that bill will reconcile the different decisions of the House and Senate about continued U.S. support for international science programs. COSSA has joined other groups in urging continuation of U.S. funding for these important programs for the international scientific community.

#### INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCES: STEPS FORWARD AND BACK

From November 27 to 30, executive director David Jenness attended a conference on European Cooperation in Social Sciences, held in Vienna under the auspices of the European Coordination Center for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences, informally known at the Vienna Centre. Conference participants, from countries to which the Centre is linked, included one or more persons from Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and Yugoslavia. Also attending were Jenness and a representative from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, in the status of observers; persons representing European or international organizations: UNESCO, the International Social Science Council (ISSC, Paris), the European Centre for Social Welfare Training and Research (Vienna), the Volkswagen Foundation (Hannover, Federal Republic of Germany), Science Center Berlin; and professional staff of the Vienna Centre.

The Vienna Centre, founded in 1963 by UNESCO, is an international non-governmental organization loosely governed by the ISSC, which has agreements with official bodies (ministries, academies of science, social science research councils, and the like) of 21 European countries. Eight countries currently have scientific staff at the Centre: German Democratic Republic, Denmark and the Nordic countries, Austria, Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, USSR, Great Britain, France. The expenses of those seconded to the Centre, for terms of a few years at a time, are paid by their countries. The 21 participating countries also contribute to Vienna Centre core and project budgets, one difficulty being that some of the contributions are paid in nonconvertible currency. The Centre also receives funds from UNESCO, private foundations, and other sources.

The Centre's purpose is to facilitate scientific cooperation among social scientists from all European countries in all areas of social sciences, by means of conferences, bilateral and multilateral comparative research projects, exchange of people and documentation, and the identification of theoretical and

methodological developments. Its information and documentation aspect links 200 institutes from 20 countries. The address of the Centre is: PO Box 974, A-1011 Vienna, Austria; cables, CEUCORS WIEN.

From an observer's viewpoint, the dominant themes of the conference can be seen, in some cases, as reflecting actual socio-economic and political trends in Europe, and, in other cases, as examples of overarching research interests common to most or all developed societies. In the first category are a concern to enlarge patterns of East-West cooperation, which has been the Vienna Centre's main program, to take account of North-South dimensions -- northern vis-à-vis southern Europe, and Europe vis-à-vis North Africa and the Near East; a concern with regionalism as related to national or supranational frameworks -- for example, Catalonia in relation to Spain, or Balkan or Nordic cooperation; a concern for the Mediterranean as an environmental and sociopolitical unit, its relation to Black Sea and North Sea regions, and the general relation of island to continental societies; and the pattern of institutional and intellectual development in social science in more scientifically advanced countries as contrasted with historically more recent scientific networks and estates. The last theme included, of course, considerations of flows of people and ideas, and notions of a critical point in scholarly and scientific development where an indigenous scientific cadre can manage and replicate itself with regard to education, training, and research capacity.

The main cross-cutting themes included the situation of the social sciences in each country, with regard to other branches of knowledge and the valuation of social science by government and the public; the question of theory-driven versus problem-oriented research and practice; cooperation between the social and the environmental/natural sciences in environmental contexts, necessarily going beyond national boundaries; the effect of rapidly changing technologies on work, social participation, human development and welfare, human resource patterns, and social planning and analysis; adult education, with special attention to urban/rural differences and minority needs; creativity in youth; the differences between bilateral and multilateral science projects, and between inter- and multidisciplinary research methods; migration, including 'markets' for scientists as well as labor migration; the effects of tourism, both social and environmental; and comparative ecostudies, especially on a focused, local level.

There was recurrent attention to paradoxes and quandaries in trying to 'develop' social science. The need for each society to build its own national scientific potential and pattern on a self-managing basis, cuts against a priority for cross-national cooperation. At the same time, 'have-not' nations in international linkages like UNESCO, ISSC, or Vienna Centre, are sensitive to issues of the rich, scientifically speaking, getting richer; and may insist that the more developed nations share with

them social science knowledge and activity that may not be appropriate to their own needs. The more-developed nations, for their part, need contact with and access to other societies to further develop their own models and extend non-local knowledge. Much of the conference discussion used rough metaphors of economic development 'traps' and sociopolitical center-periphery relationships to analyze the situation of the social sciences in a transnational framework. The senior Yugoslav participant may have identified a solution to some of the paradoxes, in recommending neither a 'national' nor a fully internationalized approach, but rather a flexible polycentric pattern in which scholars cooperate according to the demands of particular topics, regions, or stages of professional growth.

...elsewhere on the social science scene

The conference described above took place about a year after the withdrawal of the United States from UNESCO and, as it happens, about a week before Britain announced her withdrawal. The earlier withdrawal reduced the UNESCO budget by about 30 percent. Britain's contribution to UNESCO was another 8 percent of the budget approximately. Inevitably, the ISSC's budget from UNESCO for 1986-1987 has been reduced by about 25 percent, while the UNESCO subvention for the International Council of Scientific Unions has suffered even more. At the conference, the U.S. observer was asked no questions about U.S. participation in UNESCO. It seemed to be understood that such matters were irrelevant to the assumption that the major themes of social science were sounded everywhere, and recapitulated in much the same way. Certainly the social science priorities of UNESCO, the ISSC, and the Vienna Centre are familiar on this side of the Atlantic: technological change and its social impact, the role of the various sciences in environmental research, sub- and supranational linkages, the structure and organization of social sciences, the status of social science within the larger scientific context and in society generally.

Meanwhile, in Britain, the governmental higher education advisory body is urging polytechnics and colleges to switch student places from the social sciences and humanities to science and technology (Times Higher Education Supplement, Nov. 29, 1985, p.1). In Canada, the president of Social Science and Humanities Research Council, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education (December 4, 1985, p.45ff), is warning social scientists to get their act together, and the Social Science Federation of Canada is organizing a national lobbying effort.

COSSA WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER

COSSA is pleased to announce that Katrina R. Styles has joined the staff as Administrative Secretary. Ms. Styles has several years experience in Washington working in association administration. She brings with her welcome skills in office management, membership services, and computer operations.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

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

## NEH Special Initiatives:

"Understanding America" and "Understanding Other Nations"

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) supports scholarship, research, education, and public programs in the humanities "including those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods." From time to time NEH launches special initiatives aimed at encouraging proposals on designated topics (e.g., Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, Columbian Quincentenary). Recently NEH announced two new grant-making initiative intended to stimulate the study of American history and culture and foreign languages that would implications for elementary through postsecondary education.

In announcing the initiatives, NEH indicated that the heightened focus is in response to a crisis in the education of Americans "...despite the resurgence of interest in basic education and the billions spent on schooling, we as Americans may know less today about our culture and our history than at any other time in our nation's life." Citing survey research findings and recent media coverage, NEH is seeking proposals for a wide variety of activities (including research) which offer direct or indirect promise of improvements in the education of Americans. Proposals are invited by all NEH's grant-making programs.

FY 1986 Budget: No special funds allocated. Awards will be drawn from regular NEH budgets.

Review Process: Potential applicants are encouraged to contact NEH program staff early and to submit a full draft proposal for comment and suggestions. NEH uses peer review panels and, in some instances, other outside reviewers. Potential projects are presented to the National Council on the Humanities which advises the NEH Chairman. Final decisions are made by the Chairman.

Deadlines: Each NEH division and office has published deadlines.

Funding Mechanisms: All grants.

Contact: Jeffrey Thomas, Coordinator (for the initiatives)  
Office of Planning and Budget, Room 403  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20506  
202/786-0428

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