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This Week . . .

- ✓ ● Appropriations Moving Through House
 - House Committee Reduces NSF Requested Funding
 - Health and Human Services Agencies Receive Increases
 - Large Increase for Labor Research Approved
 - Higher Education Funding Deferred
 - House Restores GRH Cuts at Humanities Endowment
 - House Rejects Demise of OJJDP; BJS Gets Funds for UCR Study
- Peace Institute Announces Procedures for Grant Applications
- House Bill Would Place Civil Rights 'Watchdog' Under Congress
- Sources of Research Support: Department of Education

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APPROPRIATIONS MOVING THROUGH HOUSE

With the debate continuing over how to repair the Supreme Court's damage to Gramm-Rudman-Hollings (GRH), the Congress has begun to move the Fiscal Year 1987 appropriations bills. On July 30, the Senate voted to give the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the final authority to order specific funding cuts, but limited, it hoped, his discretion by including detailed instructions on how the size of the cuts are calculated and apportioned. This new provision is tied to the increase in the debt limit, so the House may be forced to accept the Senate action.

In the meantime, seven of the thirteen appropriations bills have already passed the House, three others have passed the full committee, and three others have made it past their respective subcommittees. The Senate, which usually follows the House, has completed subcommittee action on only one bill. So far, the general tendency of the House has been to vote increases for those agencies that usually get increases (e.g., the National

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The Consortium represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community.

Risa I. Palm, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF)), although in some cases not at the requested amount, and to level fund many agencies at FY 1986 figures, but with the March Gramm-Rudman-Hollings cuts restored. Attempts at across-the-board reductions through amendments on the House floor have succeeded only on the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations bill. Details of specific actions for agencies of interest to social and behavioral scientists are given below. (Unless otherwise noted, all FY 1986 figures are post-GRH deductions taken in March.)

● HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE REDUCES NSF REQUESTED FUNDING

The House HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA) reduced the appropriation for Research and Related Activities at the National Science Foundation (NSF) by \$146 million from the FY 1987 requested level of \$1.479 billion. Although the approved \$1.33 billion represents a 2.7% increase over the FY 1986 post-GRH level, it is below the FY 1986 pre-GRH level, and only a 1.7% increase over the FY 1985 appropriation. The initial allocation for research was \$15 million lower, but Rep. William Green (R-NY), the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee, convinced his colleagues to increase the funding to the \$1.33 billion level. The total appropriated for the Foundation was \$1.55 billion, and included \$99 million for Science and Engineering Education, a \$10 million increase over the request.

The full House Appropriations Committee was expected to approve the actions of the Subcommittee on July 31. The date of the Senate Subcommittee markup action is unclear as it is still conducting hearings on NASA. One staff member told COSSA that the Subcommittee would like to delay the markup as long as possible since "Congress does not like to take decisive actions, especially ones that are going to make people unhappy."

The action by the House Appropriations Subcommittee was disappointing. NSF Director Erich Bloch, along with the White House Science Council's Report "A Renewed Partnership" (also known as the Packard-Bromley report), has argued strongly for doubling the federal government's support for basic research. So far it appears that goal is farther away than ever.

In addition, on the same day the House Appropriations Subcommittee acted, the Senate Commerce Committee joined the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and the House of Representatives in authorizing NSF at the FY 1987 request level of \$1.685 billion. The Commerce Committee also included an extra \$3 million for social and behavioral science research. Once again the difference between the authorization process, which establishes funding authority, and the appropriations process, where actual funding levels are set, is illustrated.

COSSA urges readers to write to the Subcommittee Chair Sen. Jake Garn (R-UT) and ranking Democrat Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) urging the Senate HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to fund research at NSF at the FY 1987 requested level of \$1.479 billion. The address for both Senators is U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

The HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee also voted an appropriation of \$16.2 million for the Office of Policy Development and Research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is the same as the FY 1986 level, and a decrease of \$2.7 million from the FY 1987 request.

● HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES RECEIVE INCREASES

The National Institutes of Health received \$6.15 billion for FY 1987 from the House Labor, HHS, and ED Appropriations Subcommittee, with the full Appropriations Committee ratifying its actions. This is an increase of \$890 million (17%) over FY 1986 and a \$1.07 billion increase over the President's request. The Committee noted this should fund 6,200 new and competing grants in FY 1987. The Subcommittee, as it has in previous years, included language in its report, submitted by COSSA and the American Psychological Association, encouraging more research by NIH on the relationship between health and behavior.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development received \$368.5 million, a \$60.8 million increase (20%) over FY 1986 and \$59.4 million over the requested level. The National Institute on Aging received \$174.3 million, a \$24.7 million (17%) increase over FY 1986 and a \$28.5 million increase over the request.

The Subcommittee included \$336.8 million for AIDS research. This represents a \$112.5 million increase over FY 1986. The Subcommittee rejected the administration's request to centralize all AIDS research in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, and instead decided to maintain the current decentralized approach. Thus, funds were appropriated to a number of health agencies for research in this area.

Research funding at the National Institute of Mental Health should be \$229 million according to the Subcommittee. This is an increase of \$28.6 million (14%) over the FY 1986 level and \$34.1 million over the request. Research training at NIMH is funded at \$18 million -- the same as FY 1986 pre-GRH. Research funding at the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism was deferred by the Subcommittee pending reauthorization of these Institutes.

The National Center for Health Services Research and Health Care Technology Assessment received \$18.8 million for FY 1987 research and program support. This 21% increase is primarily for the National Medical Expenditure Survey. This survey was last

conducted in 1977 and Congress wants new information (see Update, April 4, 1986). The National Center for Health Statistics was appropriated \$53.2 million, an increase of \$8.5 million (19%) over FY 1986 and a \$3.1 million increase over the request. The Subcommittee included funds to increase the sample of the health interview survey to its full size of 54,000.

The Subcommittee bill includes \$8.2 million for policy research carried out by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). After years of reducing this budget (it was \$13.2 million in FY 1982), this year's 32% increase voted by the House Subcommittee is significant. Most of the increase will go to the Institute for Research on Poverty. The Committee report also suggests the Multi-Regional Policy Impact Simulation Model as worthy of support from this appropriation.

● LARGE INCREASE FOR LABOR RESEARCH APPROVED

The Department of Labor's requested 68% increase in the research and evaluation budget at the Employment and Training Administration was almost totally granted by the House Labor, HHS, and ED Appropriations Subcommittee. For FY 1987, \$25.2 million will be used for the evaluation of the Job Training Partnership Act, the National Longitudinal Survey, and major new initiatives for research and testing that examine how federal resources can best be focused to assist those most in need of employment and training assistance.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics received \$166.6 million from the Subcommittee, an increase of \$14.8 million (9.7%) over FY 1986 and a \$7.2 million increase over the request. The Committee also asked BLS to provide a plan for the implementation of a national white collar salary and benefit survey by August 1987.

● HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING DEFERRED

Sticking with a House rule, the Subcommittee did not fund any higher education programs that are included in the Higher Education Act reauthorization bill. A House-Senate conference officially began work on the bill this week. The deferral affects all graduate programs, except the Law School Clinical Program which received \$1.5 million. Appropriations for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement were deferred except for funding at pre-GRH FY 1986 levels for the Center for Statistics which was reauthorized last year. The Committee report noted: "This funding level is an interim step that will be reconsidered upon the enactment of authorizing legislation now pending in Congress."

● HOUSE RESTORES GRH CUTS AT HUMANITIES ENDOWMENT

The House appropriated \$138.4 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for FY 1987. This is the same level of funding NEH received last year before the March GRH reductions.

● HOUSE REJECTS DEMISE OF OJJDP; BJS GETS FUNDS FOR UCR STUDY

The House once again this year rejected the administration's attempts to eliminate funding for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee appropriated \$70.3 million for OJJDP, which would maintain current funding for the agency. When the bill reached the floor, the House passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-MN) to reduce all appropriations accounts in the bill by 5%, excluding the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Thus OJJDP's appropriation from the House is \$66.7 million. The Bureau of Justice Statistics received an additional \$3 million as requested to initiate the implementation of the redesigned Uniform Crime Report (UCR) program.

PEACE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES PROCEDURES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

On July 16 the United States Institute of Peace announced interim procedures for awarding grants for research, education and training, and public information activities. This represents the first movement of the Institute towards spending any of its initial \$4 million appropriated in FY 1985 on competitive awards. The Institute was created in October 1984, but delays in appointments to its Board of Directors and other organizational snafu's have prevented the Institute from initiating its grants program.

By law, the Peace Institute must award at least one-fourth of its annual appropriations to nonprofit and official public institutions. Individuals are also eligible for grants. Among the projects that may be supported are basic and applied research, particularly research of an inter- or multidisciplinary nature, on the causes of war and other international conflicts and the elements of peace; training, symposia, and continuing education programs for practitioners, policymakers, and others in international peace and conflict resolution; and making research, education, and training more available and useful, including the creation of handbooks and other practical materials.

Several topics have been designated as priority areas, including research on human rights, perceptions of peace across political systems and ideologies, negotiation, domestic political systems and the aggressive use of force, the United Nations Charter, mediation of political change, and curriculum development.

Application deadlines have not been established as yet. Under the interim guidelines, proposal evaluation should take no more

than six months. Proposals will be reviewed by Institute staff and its Board of Directors. Currently, there are no plans to routinely use external reviewers, although the Institute may seek the advice of outside reviewers to aid internal staff evaluation.

Application forms are available from the Institute at 730 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503. Specific questions may be directed to Dr. Kenneth Jensen at 202/789-5700.

HOUSE BILL WOULD PLACE CIVIL RIGHTS 'WATCHDOG' UNDER CONGRESS

A bill to establish an Office of Civil Rights Assessment was proposed July 16 by Reps. Augustus Hawkins (D-CA) and Matthew Martinez (D-CA). The proposed legislation parallels action in the House Appropriations Committee seeking to eliminate funding for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (CCR), an independent agency. If enacted, the new civil rights unit would be chartered to carry out the same functions as the Commission: study of discrimination, including conducting and commissioning research; appraisal of federal civil rights enforcement; and service as an information clearinghouse. The important difference would be that the new unit would report to Congress rather than the President -- a position in the federal structure analogous to that of the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) or the Congressional Budget Office. As a unit of the legislature, the new entity would not have enforcement powers, but that is not different from the present CCR.

Staff of the Employment Opportunities Subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor say the reconstituted civil rights activity would likely place increased (i.e., renewed) emphasis on research. The major research effort currently under way in the CCR's Office of Programs and Policy is a series of studies centered on analyses of Census data since 1940 contrasting economic status of various minority groups and women with the economic status of white males. Most CCR research is conducted by in-house staff with advisory committees drawn mostly from university-based social scientists. In 1985, a CCR contract for a study of school desegregation in 125 school districts became the center of a controversy concerning its political tone and purposes. CCR staff say the objectives of the project have been scaled down, and the anticipated outcome will be a useful database on desegregation including comparative information on the outcomes of court directed efforts, and the impact of magnet schools.

This effort to restructure a major federal civil rights office may well be only a passing step in an on-going struggle. Some observers note that the relative remoteness from the push and pull of politics enjoyed by an entity such as the OTA would be much tougher to maintain in a Congressionally supervised office with responsibility for a highly sensitive issue such as civil rights.

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.

National Institute of Handicapped Research
(Field-Initiated Research Program)

The National Institute of Handicapped Research (NIHR) provides support for national and international research on the rehabilitation of disabled individuals. The overall mission of the Institute research program is to (1) identify the causes and consequences of disability; (2) maximize the healthy physical and emotional status of disabled persons, including their functional ability, self-sufficiency, and personal autonomy; (3) prevent or minimize the mental, social, educational, vocational, and economic effects of disability on individuals and families; and (4) reduce barriers that restrict disabled persons in the course of their daily life.

The Field-Initiated Research Program solicits the input of original and innovative ideas from the research community. Awards may be made for research in any area having a direct bearing on the development of methods, procedures, and devices to assist in the provision of vocational and other rehabilitation services to handicapped individuals, especially the most severely handicapped.

Budget: Approximately \$1.5 million is available for new awards in FY 1986.

Review Process: Applications undergo both staff and peer review.

Funding Mechanisms: The Field-Initiated Research Program awards both grants and cooperative agreements. The average award for this program is \$75,000; projects may be supported for up to three years.

Deadlines: Applications are reviewed in two cycles. The deadlines for FY 1987 awards are September 30, 1986 and March 16, 1987.

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