
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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This Week . . .

- Appropriations Bills Moving Swiftly *HS*
- Economic Commission Seeks Deficit Reduction Suggestions *SC*
- Howard J. Silver Appointed Executive Director of COSSA *HS*
- Academy Releases Report on Aging Statistics *SC*
- Technological Change Conference Issues Call for Papers *SC*
- Congressional Fellowships in Child Development *SC*
- NSF Announces Electronic Access to Science Data *SC*
- U.K. Social Science Agency in Turmoil *SC*
- Sources of Research Support: Department of Energy *SC*

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APPROPRIATIONS BILLS MOVING SWIFTLY

For the first time since 1960, the House of Representatives has met its deadline for passing all thirteen appropriations bills. (That deadline is currently June 30, as set by the Budget Act of 1974.) The Senate has also made substantial progress, passing four bills while the other nine are already through the Senate Appropriations Committee and awaiting floor action. There is hope the Senate can finish its actions by the end of July. Congressional leaders vowed to avoid last year's disaster when none of the spending bills became law and only an Omnibus Continuing Resolution passed two months after the start of the fiscal year provided funding for agencies and programs in FY 1988. This year's task was made considerably easier by last November's summit agreement on the budget, which established spending totals for defense, foreign aid, and domestic discretionary programs.

The following agency-by-agency breakdown outlines some of the FY 1989 spending decisions made by the Congress so far for programs that support social and behavioral science research. The figures below represent decisions made by the House of Representatives and by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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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.

Victor G. Rosenblum, *President*

Howard J. Silver, *Executive Director*

Agriculture

Payments under the Hatch Act for the Cooperative State Research Service will remain at \$155.5 million in FY 1989, equal to both the FY 1988 appropriation and the the administration's FY 1989 request.

Commerce, Justice, State, and Related Agencies

The amount received by the Census Bureau for its current economic and demographic statistics programs, publications, general research, and data-systems development for FY 1989 from the House was the same as it received in FY 1988, \$94.8 million. The Senate committee provided a slight increase to \$97 million. These funds do not include support for the 1990 Census, which received substantial increases under the periodic programs and censuses account. The economic and statistical analysis account--which includes the Bureau of Economic Analysis--was funded by the House at \$29.7 million, a freeze at FY 1988 levels for all authorized programs. The Senate committee increased the appropriation from an FY 1988 total level of \$32.1 million to \$33 million. Of that increase, \$227,000 will be used to conduct the survey of residential finance.

The House refused to provide appropriations for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), since they have not been reauthorized. The Senate committee provided \$21.6 million (same as last year) for NIJ and \$20 million (a \$700,000 increase) for BJS. The Senate committee refused to go along with the administration's zero funding request for OJJDP and allocated \$66.7 million, slightly below last year. In addition, the Senate committee report addressed the "need for a comprehensive program to deal with issues affecting, children, families, and the law." As an example, it noted the work of the Consortium of Children, Families and the Law, a multi-university initiative looking at this problem and the interface between psychology and the law.

The Soviet and East European Research and Training program was level funded at \$4.6 million by the House, while it received an increase to \$5 million, the administration's request, from the Senate committee. The Educational and Cultural Exchange programs of the United States Information Agency were funded at the FY 1988 level of \$150.0 million by both the House and the Senate committee. The Senate committee (but not the House) included \$1.2 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a congressionally mandated study to be conducted by the National Academy of Sciences "analyzing the potential consequences of the elimination of mandatory retirement on institutions of higher education."

Housing

The Office of Policy Development and Research received \$17 million from the House and \$17.2 million from the Senate

committee. The FY 1989 request was \$19 million, the FY 1988 appropriation \$16.5 million. Both Houses insist that \$1.5 million be spent on solving lead-based paint problems. The extra funding provided by the Senate committee will be transferred to the Census Bureau for the survey of residential finance.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) received a significant increase from the House while the Senate committee recommended a small increase. The House increase was \$13.3 million (from the FY 1988 level of \$140.4 million to \$153.7 million), of which \$8 million is for the Endowment's preservation effort and \$3.8 million for state programs. The Senate committee added \$3.8 million (most of that for state programs), for a total appropriation of \$144.2 million.

United States Institute of Peace

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) finds itself in a situation similar to NIJ, BJS, and OJJDP: progressing nicely in the Senate but stalled by the lack of authorizing legislation in the House. The Senate committee has recommended an \$8 million appropriation for USIP in FY 1989, more than twice the administration's \$3.4 million request and close to the \$8.6 million request submitted by the Institute.<<

ECONOMIC COMMISSION SEEKS DEFICIT REDUCTION SUGGESTIONS

The National Economic Commission (NEC) was established in the aftermath of the October, 1987 stock market crash amid growing concern over the effects of the large federal deficit on the national economy. The Commission, which is in the midst of a series of hearings (see Update, June 10, 1988), is scheduled to publish its full report by March 1, 1989, with a summary of its recommendations planned for publication in December, 1988. Co-chaired by Drew Lewis and Robert Strauss, the Commission is made up of Members from both sides of Congress and both parties as well as businessmen and financiers. Two additional members will be appointed by the new president after the November election.

The Commission is currently soliciting public comments on deficit reduction methods within the Commission's purview. The NEC mission is to recommend ways to reduce the federal deficit while promoting economic growth and encouraging savings and capital formation. Created by an Act of Congress, the Commission is charged with ensuring that the burden of reducing the deficit is equitably distributed across social, economic, and geographic divisions. Two copies of comments, which should be no more than 10 double-spaced typed pages in length and should list the author's name and full affiliation, plus a one-page summary, should be submitted by August 3, 1988, to the NEC at 734 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503; further information can be obtained on 202/789-1993. Comments will be available for public inspection after August 3.<<

HOWARD J. SILVER APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COSSA

The Executive Committee of the Consortium of Social Science Associations has announced the appointment of Howard J. Silver as Executive Director of COSSA effective July 1, 1988. Silver has been serving as Acting Executive Director since the departure of David Jenness in January. A member of the COSSA staff since 1983, Silver previously served as COSSA's Associate Director for Government Relations.

Before joining COSSA, Silver was a consultant for legislative and political research, a political campaign manager, and a legislative analyst in the U. S. Department of Education. After receiving his Ph.D. in political science from the Ohio State University in 1975, he taught American government and public policy at several colleges and universities.

In announcing the appointment, COSSA Executive Committee Chairman Leonard D. Goodstein, Executive Vice-President of the American Psychological Association, stated that, in the Committee's judgment, "Howard has done an extraordinary job" since the departure of Dr. Jenness and "clearly has earned this position." The Executive Committee members, Goodstein added, made their decision after carefully considering "the long-term organizational needs of COSSA, its stability, and its future development." In the view of the Executive Committee, Silver offers the leadership and vision necessary to carry COSSA into the years ahead.<<

ACADEMY RELEASES REPORT ON AGING STATISTICS

The social and economic ramifications of the elderly as an increasing proportion of the U.S. population are of significant concern to policy makers. Of equal concern is the paucity of data on aging, as participants in a recent COSSA seminar testified (see Update, May 27, 1988). These concerns were the focus of a series of conferences, hearings, and commissioned papers sponsored by the Panel on Statistics for an Aging Population of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The initiative was begun in 1984 by the NAS Committee on National Statistics with support from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Veterans Administration.

The panel's report, The Aging Population in the Twenty-First Century: Statistics for Health Policy, makes 79 recommendations for improving the collection, analysis, and dissemination of federal statistics on aging, including 12 priority recommendations to meet urgent data needs for policy analysis. The panel found that "data gaps," such as incomplete segments within longitudinal data sets on health care financing, are exacerbated by the lack of uniform definitions for use in data collection. The report, edited by study director Dorothy Gilford, is available for \$19.95 from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418; 202/334-3313.<<

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE CONFERENCE ISSUES CALL FOR PAPERS

"The Worker in Transition: Technological Change" is the title of a conference COSSA is co-sponsoring with Texas A&M University, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the U.S. Department of Labor. The conference will be held April 5-7, 1989, in Washington, DC. It will focus on technical, social, and psychological issues relating to changes in work and the workforce brought about by technological developments, with particular attention given to the impact of technological change on the individual worker. The conference will bring together specialists from all disciplines which focus on the human implications of present and future changes in employment and the workforce. It will provide an opportunity for social and behavioral scientists and engineers to join together to address a problem which has a technical genesis but is of society-wide importance.

The conference organizers are currently soliciting papers for presentation at the conference. Topics for discussion include, but are not limited to: characterizations of the problems of technological change and society; effects of technological change on engineers and managerial professionals and problems of professional obsolescence; responses to major workforce reductions; the human needs of individuals, families, and groups in society; and educational, public policy, or industrial responses to change and responsibilities in times of change. The deadline for paper submission is December 1, 1988; papers will be peer reviewed and authors notified of the result by January 15, 1989. Manuscripts should be submitted to the program chairman: Professor Thomas J. Kovik, Institute for Innovation and Design in Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 77843-3132. General questions about the conference should be directed to Professor David G. Jansson at the above address. Professor Jansson, the conference organizer and director of the Institute for Innovation and Design in Engineering, can be reached on 409/845-5024.<<

CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIPS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Society for Research in Child Development, a COSSA Affiliate, is inviting applications for its 1989-90 Congressional fellowship program. Scientists and professionals at the postdoctoral level with interests in child development and public policy are eligible to apply. Mid-career applicants are particularly encouraged to apply. The fellowships offer a one-year tenure on a Congressional staff. The application deadline is November 7, 1988, for fellowships beginning September 1, 1989. For more information and application materials, contact Dr. Jeanette Goodstein, director, or Ms. Barbro Miles, program associate, at the Washington Liaison Office of the Society for Research in Child Development, 100 North Carolina Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003; 202/543-9582.<<

NSF ANNOUNCES ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO SCIENCE DATA

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced the creation of a Remote Bulletin Board System (RBBS) to provide current information on financial and human resources in science and engineering activities. RBBS contains electronically transmitted publication announcements, narrative reports on current studies, and comprehensive statistical tabulations. RBBS transmits data collected by the Division of Science Resources Studies, including statistics collected for Federal Funds for Research and Development, Characteristics of Recent Science/Engineering Graduates, International Comparisons of Science and Technology Data, and other reports.

While narratives and announcements can be read on-screen, data files are downloaded onto users' computers for viewing; these are available on ASCII and Lotus 1-2-3. The system is open to anyone with a personal computer equipped with a modem. Full technical specifications and further information on data availability can be obtained from: Roger Hardwicke or Mikhail Parekh, Division of Science Resources Studies, NSF, Room L-602, 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20550; 202/634-4250. NSF also makes data available on data diskettes for individuals or institutions that do not have access to electronic transmission equipment. Further information can be obtained from: NSF Diskette Service, RDS Systems, Inc., 6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 605, Rockville, MD 20852; 301/984-1989.<<

U.K. SOCIAL SCIENCE AGENCY IN TURMOIL

The newly appointed head of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the government body responsible for funding social science research in the United Kingdom, will not take up his post and a majority of ESRC staffers are likely to resign over the next six months, according to a report in the Times Higher Education Supplement (March 25, 1988). ESRC chairman-designate Peter Hall was due to start last month (see Update, September 25, 1987), but is resigning in protest over the government's decision to move the ESRC out of London before new Council offices have been completed.

Originally reported as being in favor of an eventual move out of London, Hall is quoted as saying the request to move immediately could not have come at a worse time. The premature relocation coincides with his taking up the chairmanship and with increasing demands on ESRC to trim its budget while facing the loss of a substantial proportion of its permanent staff. The new offices, in Swindon, about 60 miles west of the capital, are in a facility housing the three government-funded science and engineering research councils, although permanent quarters for the ESRC are two years from completion. The lease on the ESRC's present quarters expires this summer, and Hall, a professor of geography at Reading University and the University of California, Berkeley, had favored a temporary relocation in London until the Swindon offices are finished.<<

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

COSSA provides this information as a service, and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials.

Theoretical Ecology

The Office of Health and Environmental Research of the Department of Energy is soliciting applications for research grants in a new program in theoretical ecology. The Theoretical Ecology Program (Ecological Research Division) will provide the Department with the fundamental theoretical basis needed to understand complex ecological systems and thus to predict the behavior of such systems, to guide data collection, and to identify the most significant directions for future research.

This request for applications seeks state-of-the-art research contributing to the development of new theoretical paradigms that will lead to a unified theory of complex ecological systems. Three areas are of primary scientific interest: integration of processes across multiple levels of ecological organization, with special reference to terrestrial biosphere response to global change; analysis of spatial and temporal dynamics of complex ecological systems; and the effects of scale on analyses of ecological structure, function, and dynamics.

Application Procedure: Application kits are available from the Division of Acquisition and Assistance Management, Department of Energy (address below).

Eligible Activities: Theoretical research and mathematical modelling, including field research and computer simulation studies integral to this topic.

Budget: Up to six awards at an average of approximately \$150,000 per year are anticipated.

Funding Mechanism: Grants, renewable on an annual basis subject to the availability of funding, to for-profit and non-profit organizations and institutions.

Review Process: Peer review.

Deadline: October 25, 1988.

Contact: Dr. Edward J. Rykiel, Jr.
Office of Health and Environmental Research
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