

1983. This, however, is a sharp drop from 1982 when 78 percent of the Hispanics were placed. As was true for all job candidates, minority job candidates with Ph.D.s in hand were more successful (52 percent) than ABDs (22 percent), but blacks and Hispanics fared much less well than whites in securing employment. □

## **Group Meets to Discuss Changes in Constitution**

**Howard J. Silver**

Consortium of Social Science Associations

The Committee on the Constitutional System held its fourth general meeting on March 9 and 10 at the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Chaired by Lloyd Cutler, former adviser to President Carter, and C. Douglas Dillon, former Treasury Secretary to President Kennedy, the committee was formed in 1981 to initiate discussion about possible constitutional changes in the structure of government to overcome what is perceived as a deadlock—induced by the separation of powers—in the government's ability to solve the nation's crucial problems.

At the meeting over 70 political scientists, historians, journalists, and former congressional and executive branch officials discussed proposals that they hoped would lead to more government accountability and party responsibility. A workbook prepared by Professor Donald Robinson of Smith College which included analyses by James Sundquist, James MacGregor Burns, Charles Jones, Don Price, Louis Koenig and Richard Pious, among others, served to focus the discussions. Senators Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) and Robert Dole (R-KS) addressed the group on the difficulties of solving the enormous federal budget deficit problem.

Among the proposals debated were: (1) four-year terms for House members running concurrently with the president (an idea President Johnson pushed unsuccessfully in 1967); (2) repeal of the

22nd amendment limiting presidents to two terms; (3) a single six-year non-renewable term for president (an idea rejected by the panel I was on, but resurrected later in the general meeting); (4) holding congressional elections two weeks after the presidential election (an idea borrowed from the French system); (5) popular election of the president and elimination of the electoral college; (6) a bicameral nomination process where the party's congressional wings would have an equal say with the electorate in nominating presidential candidates; (7) an item veto for presidents; (8) giving the House a role in the treaty ratification process; and (9) a mandated once-every-ten-year convocation of federal, state and local officials that would adopt principles and guidelines for better inter-governmental relations (proposed by former Congressman Henry Reuss (D-WI).)

People interested in this effort can contact Peter Schauffler, Coordinator, Committee on the Constitutional System, 1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 410, Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 387-8787. □

## **Announcements**

### **National Science Foundation Requests Budget Increase**

The National Science Foundation's budget request for FY 1985 is \$1,051.8 million, an increase of 13.6 percent over its FY 1984 budget. This includes increases for social sciences and international affairs support. In the social sciences increased attention will be given to the extension of key socioeconomic data resources and a strengthening of related methodological and theoretical research, as well as studies of human origins, the learning process, and the development of cognitive capacities, including language.

A new program, Research Opportunities for Women, will be initiated at a level of \$0.5 million. In addition, support for Presidential Young Investigators Research Awards will increase from