

The Future

COSSA's plans for the future include the preparation and publication of a *Research Guide for Social Scientists* that will compile the sources of research support available from the federal government. The *Guide*, supported by a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation, should be available in Spring 1986.

In addition, COSSA is monitoring and cooperating with the major study of U.S. science policy conducted by the House Science and Technology Committee during the 99th Congress in 1985-86. Meetings with the committee staff, help in arranging for hearing witnesses, and three congressional seminars directed to the committee's agenda, should provide information on the role of the social and behavioral sciences in U.S. science.

COSSA plans to take new initiatives in reaching out to the non-academic, private social science research sector. Exploratory meetings with some of these people have led to exchanges as to possible areas of cooperation.

This year COSSA plans to examine social science research activities at the Department of Defense. Preliminary discussions indicate that this will not be a simple task. Closer monitoring of the National Endowment for the Humanities is also on the agenda.

As always, COSSA will continue to play its role as a lobbying organization providing decision-makers the justifications for increased support for the social sciences. The Consortium will monitor and react to changes in the funding environment and be ever-vigilant to protect the peer review process and to prevent politicization of research funding. It appreciates the support and guidance received from political scientists, the APSA and its staff, particularly Executive Director Thomas E. Mann, who served as the first chairman of COSSA's executive committee. As the future unfolds COSSA hopes it can continue to count on your support.



Research Opportunities Projected for Behavioral and Social Sciences

The Committee on Basic Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences was established in 1980 to evaluate and improve the vitality of research in the behavioral and social sciences. The committee is housed in the Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Research Council.

The committee's first two projects concentrated on the present dimensions and past record of the behavioral and social sciences. An initial report, *Behavioral and Social Science Research: A National Resource* (1982), developed criteria and cases to assess the present value, significance, and social utility of basic research in these subjects. A second report, now being completed, derives from a November 1983 symposium commemorating the landmark report of the President's Research Committee on Social Trends (1933). This retrospective symposium was entitled, "Knowledge in Social and Behavioral Science: Some Discoveries and Trends Over Fifty Years."

The committee is now engaged in a prospective study, a ten-year outlook on research opportunities in the behavioral and social sciences, in cooperation with the Social Science Research Council and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. The ten-year outlook is designed to study scientific frontiers, leading research questions, and new resources needed over the next decade, roughly 1986-1995, for rapid progress on fundamental problems in the behavioral and social sciences.

On the basis of responses from the scientific community and its own judgment, the committee has formed 30 topical working groups to consider in detail current and prospective research opportunities. Each group is comprised of five to ten members chosen from outside the committee. For the most part, these groups are organized to reflect research problem areas rather than disciplinary or sub-disciplinary boundaries.

Each group will draft a working paper, which is to define priorities for new or ex-

panded support of program initiatives, multi-user facilities, institutes, fellowships, or other "infrastructure" that may serve many lines of research. Each working paper is intended to give nonspecialists a clear picture of the research objectives, practices, problems, and needs in the subject area. The working papers are not intended for separate publication, but for committee use in preparing its ten-year outlook report.

Following the receipt of working papers in mid-1985, the committee will begin drafting its report, which will assess leading research questions and resources needed to pursue them, and make priority recommendations for new scientific investments over the next ten years that represent, in the judgment of the committee, substantial promise of scientific and ultimately practical return. The report will, to the extent possible, reflect a consensus of leaders and members of the behavioral and social science research communities.

The following working groups are chaired by political scientists:

Collective Choice Institutions. William H. Riker, Department of Political Science, University of Rochester.

Studies of collective choice cover the properties of voting and agenda-setting in allocative institutions, game theory, institutional design, social choice theory, and properties of bureaucratic and centralized decision mechanisms.

Formal and Legal Processes. Robert Kagan, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley.

This subject includes local and international comparative studies on the proliferation of legal institutions, the due process revolution, the bureaucratization of public and private life, and forms of dispute resolution.

Crime and Violence. Alfred Blumstein, School of Urban and Public Affairs, Carnegie-Mellon University.

Studies of crime and violence involve theories and empirical evidence on penal

deterrence, sanction systems, criminal justice operations; and the sociological, demographic, and economic correlates and dimensions of crime, deviant behavior, and family violence.

Religion and Political Change. Daniel Levine, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

Current research on modernization and secularization emphasizes the influence of religious activism on political processes, including such cases as Islam in the Middle East and Catholicism in Latin America.

International Crisis Management and Security Studies. Robert Jervis, Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University.

Research in this area covers the behavioral and conceptual dimensions of international arms competition, risks of war, theories and tests of deterrence, repeated-play games, and asymmetric information.

Social Knowledge Producing Institutions. Theda R. Skocpol, Department of Sociology and Department of Political Science, University of Chicago.

This area of study addresses the relevance, application, and control of social and behavioral knowledge; the modern history of the social and behavioral sciences; and the relations of social and behavioral research institutions to the state.

Large-Scale Data Bases. Warren E. Miller, Department of Political Science, Arizona State University.

Problems in data-base construction and utilization include the availability of data aggregates at various levels of analysis, development and use of longitudinal data bases, relations between data files, and centralized information about research data. □