

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

*Science* serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

### Editorial Board

FREDERICK R. BLATTNER, BERNARD F. BURKE, ARNOLD DEMAIN, CHARLES L. DRAKE, ARTHUR F. FINDEIS, E. PETER GEIDUSCHEK, GLYNN ISAAC, NEAL E. MILLER, FREDERICK MOSTELLER, ALLEN NEWELL, RUTH PATRICK, BRYANT W. ROSSITER, VERA C. RUBIN, WILLIAM P. SLICHTER, SOLOMON H. SNYDER, PAUL E. WAGGONER, JOHN WOOD

**Publisher:** WILLIAM D. CAREY  
**Associate Publisher:** ROBERT V. ORMES

**Editor:** PHILIP H. ABELSON

### Editorial Staff

**Assistant Managing Editor:** JOHN E. RINGLE  
**Production Editor:** ELLEN E. MURPHY  
**Business Manager:** HANS NUSSBAUM  
**News Editor:** BARBARA J. CULLITON  
**News and Comment:** COLIN NORMAN (deputy editor), JEFFREY L. FOX, CONSTANCE HOLDEN, ELIOT MARSHALL, R. JEFFREY SMITH, MARJORIE SUN, JOHN WALSH

**European Correspondent:** DAVID DICKSON  
**Contributing Writer:** LUTHER J. CARTER  
**Research News:** ROGER LEWIN (deputy editor), RICHARD A. KERR, GINA KOLATA, JEAN L. MARX, THOMAS H. MAUGH II, ARTHUR L. ROBINSON, M. MITCHELL WALDROP

**Administrative Assistant, News:** SCHERRAINE MACK;  
**Editorial Assistant, News:** FANNIE GROOM  
**Senior Editors:** ELEANORE BUTZ, MARY DOREFMAN, RUTH KULSTAD

**Associate Editors:** MARTHA COLLINS, SYLVIA EBERHART, CAITILIN GORDON, LOIS SCHMITT  
**Assistant Editors:** STEPHEN KEPPLER, LISA MCCULLOUGH, EDITH MEYERS

**Book Reviews:** KATHERINE LIVINGSTON, **Editor:** LINDA HEISERMAN, JANET KEGG

**Letters:** CHRISTINE GILBERT  
**Copy Editor:** ISABELLA BOULDIN  
**Production:** JOHN BAKER; HOLLY BISHOP, ELEANOR WARNER; JEAN ROCKWOOD, SHARON RYAN, BEVERLY SHIELDS

**Covers, Reprints, and Permissions:** GRAYCE FINGER, **Editor:** GERALDINE CRUMP, CORRINE HARRIS

**Guide to Scientific Instruments:** RICHARD G. SOMMER  
**Editorial Administrator:** SUSAN ELLIOTT

**Assistant to the Associate Publisher:** ROSE LOWERY  
**Assistant to the Managing Editor:** NANCY HARTNAGEL

**Membership Recruitment:** GWENDOLYN HUDDLE  
**Member and Subscription Records:** ANN RAGLAND

**EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Area code 202. General Editorial Office, 467-4350; Book Reviews, 467-4367; Guide to Scientific Instruments, 467-4480; News and Comment, 467-4430; Reprints and Permissions, 467-4483; Research News, 467-4321. Cable: Advancements, Washington. For "Information for Contributors," write to the editorial office or see page xi, *Science*, 30 March 1984.

**BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE:** Area Code 202. Membership and Subscriptions: 467-4417.

### Advertising Representatives

**Director:** EARL J. SCHERAGO  
**Production Manager:** GINA REILLY  
**Advertising Sales Manager:** RICHARD L. CHARLES  
**Marketing Manager:** HERBERT L. BURKLUND  
**Sales:** NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036: Steve Hamburger, 1515 Broadway (212-730-1050); SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J. 07076: C. Richard Callis, 12 Unami Lane (201-889-4873); CHICAGO, ILL. 60611: Jack Ryan, Room 2107, 919 N. Michigan Ave. (312-337-4973); BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. 90211: Winn Nance, 111 N. La Cienega Blvd. (213-657-2772); SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95112: Bob Brindley, 310 S. 16 St. (408-998-4690); DORSET, VT. 05251: Fred W. Diefenbach, Kent Hill Rd. (802-867-5581).  
**ADVERTISING CORRESPONDENCE:** Tenth floor, 1515 Broadway, New York 10036 (212-730-1050).

## The Budget for Social Science Research

In the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 1985, funding for research in the social and behavioral sciences is scattered among nearly 40 agencies, programs, or departments. Their budgets reflect many of the same forces that shaped other federal budgets—legal mandates, a belief in the importance of certain areas of federal expenditure, a desire to reduce the federal deficit, and, this year, the inevitable appeal to the electorate.

What is missing is a sense of the scientific and economic benefits of an integrated, collaborative national research program in the social and behavioral sciences and a budget strategy that takes these benefits into account. Although it is not surprising that mission and basic research activities should be different, it is inefficient for a research program in one federal agency to emphasize an aspect of the research enterprise that is being dismantled in another part of the government.

In the fiscal 1985 budget, there is strong support for the development of scientific databases at the National Science Foundation; at the same time, there are plans to discontinue, for want of funds, the Department of Labor's National Longitudinal Surveys, one of the most productive and scientifically important longitudinal databases in the nation. Programs in the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration to examine the medical and social problems of alcoholism and drug abuse receive sizable increases, but research programs in the Office of Human Development Services that, if well managed, would deal with some of the human effects of these factors are very nearly decimated. In education, too, the Administration's rhetorical emphasis on improving the education of American youth is undercut by its inconsistent budget proposals over the past several years.

In general, the fiscal 1985 proposals for social and behavioral science research continue the patterns established by this Administration in the last 2 years. There are, once more, modest increases in support for basic research. Research budgets in mission agencies dealing with topics of importance to the Administration, such as defense or alcohol and drug abuse, are granted increases, while research programs dealing with social services or social policy are generally slated for budget cuts. Finally, certain research and training programs are again not funded, including programs in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, clinical training at the National Institute of Mental Health, and international education and foreign language studies in the Department of Education. In the past, Congress has consistently reestablished funding for agencies with zero budgets. A similar situation may well occur in fiscal 1985.

The larger issue raised by this budget and its recent predecessors is whether the combination of uncoordinated and, at first glance, almost capricious budget changes imposed on social and behavioral science research programs over the past several years is wise. The cumulative effect of the 50 to 75 percent budget cuts of fiscal 1981 and 1982, combined with the uncertainty on a year-to-year basis of the future of specific federal research programs, may be less important for the dollars that are not spent than for the consequent depletion of important national scientific resources. One resource that is being eroded is the strength and vitality of the research community. A second is the corps of able and experienced federal social science research administrators, many of whom are leaving their positions because of low esteem and budget uncertainty.

At a time when the federal budget deficit is expanding rapidly, it is difficult to argue for special purpose or special interest funding increases. However, the interest of the social and behavioral science community coincides with the national interest. A modest amount of coordinated intelligence when research budgets are being set and when research projects and databases are under consideration would go a long way toward achieving economies and improving the federal research enterprise in this area.—ROBERTA BALSTAD MILLER, *Executive Director, Consortium of Social Science Associations, Washington, D.C. 20036*