Association News

Confidentiality of Social Science Research Sources and Data Project

The Association has received a substantial grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to study events and problems concerning confidentiality of social science research sources and data. The study will analyze such issues as the confidentiality of survey research data, and the obligations of a scholar to reveal his or her research sources to other scholars.

The study is co-sponsored by the American Anthropological Association, the American Historical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Sociological Association. The Association of American Law Schools, the Association of American Geographers, the American Economic Association, and the American Statistical Association are also considering co-sponsorship. The principal investigator for the project will be James Carroll of Syracuse University, a lawyer and political scientist, who authored the piece in the recent summer PS, "Confidentiality of Social Science Research and Data: The Popkin Case." Overall guidance for the Project will be provided by a project board with representatives from the sponsoring organizations.

The study will begin in February, 1974, and end in December, 1975.

Individuals and organizations are invited to send to the director of the study a statement of (1) any events of which they have knowledge that have raised questions concerning the confidentiality of social science research sources and data, and (2) any problems they have encountered that have involved questions concerning the confidentiality of social science research sources and data. The statement should specify the time, place, individuals, organizations, and circumstances involved in the events and problems.

Information provided in response to this request will be treated as confidential unless the individual providing the information consents to its release.

The statements will be used by the director and project board to select events and problems for further analysis.

Statements should be sent to the principal investigator: James D. Carroll, Director, Public Administration Programs, 200 Maxwell Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13210.

APSA Statement on Suppression of Academic Freedom in Chile

Under the newly instituted Council procedure for authorizing urgent public statements on an important matter involving professional ethics or academic freedom, as reported in the fall PS on page 441, the Association communicated the following message to General Augusto

Pinochet Ugante, the President of the Military Junta of Chile and issued it to the press on suppression of academic freedom in Chile:

The American Political Science Association wishes to express its deep concern over the serious threats to academic freedom as a result of recent political developments in Chile. Reports reaching us indicate that professors, students and administrators are being removed or tried for their political views, and that the autonomy of the universities of Chile is being destroyed. The Association deplores such action, and expresses the hope that academic freedom and faculty autonomy will be fully respected. It is imperative that intellectual freedom be maintained throughout the hemisphere.

APSA Study of Congress Project Conference

In October, the APSA Study of Congress Project held a two-day conference to review various aspects of current research in the area of Congress and develop new directions and strategies for the future. The Conference was held as a part of the Project which, according to its Director, Ralph K. Huitt, Executive Director of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, was designed "to explore how Congress worked - how its principal parts do their jobs and how they are related to each other in order to fill in research gaps. suggesting models and relevant variables for future research and provide some basis for stating the functions Congress performs for the political system, evaluating performance, and pointing out alternative structural arrangements and modes of action which seem realistically to be open to Congress."

The Program for the Conference included:

Friday, October 19

STRATEGIES OF CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH

Moderator: Ralph K. Huitt

National Association of State Universities and Land Grant

Colleges

Paper: Charles O. Jones

University of Pittsburgh "Congressional Research: Past

Present and Future"

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH

Moderator: Roger Davidson

U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Committees

Panelists: Charles S. Bullock

University of Georgia Barbara Hinckley

University of Wisconsin, Madison

John W. Kingdon University of Michigan Norman J. Ornstein Catholic University