

Association News

Project 87

On January 5, the Council approved the first stage (three years) of an interdisciplinary study of the United States Constitution. The design calls for a wide-ranging program of constitutional studies and centers on a scholarly program that includes provision for research grants, residential fellowships, conferences, and seminars.

The ideas for Project 87 grew out of conversations between James MacGregor Burns and Richard B. Morris, who were Presidents, respectively, of the American Political Science Association and the American Historical Association, during the bicentennial year of 1976. Professors Burns and Morris were convinced that political scientists and historians had an important contribution to make to the bicentennial of the Constitution's framing and ratification, and that the effective discharge of this professional responsibility depended upon timely preparation and adequate support.

In response to this vision, the Councils of the two Associations appointed a Joint Committee on the Bicentennial Era. Preliminary discussions were held in 1976 and 1977, and in September 1977, a systematic canvass of the two disciplines, and of the faculties of law schools, was undertaken to determine what work on constitutional studies was in progress and what scholars would propose to do if additional support could be generated. On the basis of the response to this solicitation, and through its own detailed deliberations, the Joint Committee prepared the design that was submitted to the Councils of the two Associations. The AHA Council voted its approval on December 28, 1977, and the APSA Council added its assent a week later.

The design as approved calls for three years of scholarly research and discussion on topics relating to the framing and ratification of the Constitution, the evolution of constitutional form through the years, the analysis of political behavior within the constitutional framework, the reputation and impact of the Constitution as a model at home and abroad, and the assessment of its prospects under modern conditions. It calls also for the development of plans for conveying the fruits of these academic labors to a broader public during the bicentennial decade, through television programs, curricular materials for the schools, community forums, and other modes of popular education.

In addition to Professors Burns and Morris, the Joint Committee included the following mem-

bers: Representing APSA: Kenneth Prewitt, University of Chicago; Heinz Eulau, Stanford University; Harvey Mansfield, Jr., Harvard University; Walter Murphy, Princeton University; Austin Ranney, American Enterprise Institute; Martin Shapiro, University of California, Berkeley; John Wahlke, University of Iowa; and Evron Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of APSA. Representing AHA: Michael Kammen, Cornell University; Patricia Bonomi, New York University; Harold Hyman, Rice University; Herbert Johnson, University of South Carolina; Paul Murphy, University of Minnesota; and Mack Thompson, Executive Director of AHA.

Since September, Professor Donald Allen Robinson, Smith College, has been serving as Project Director.

Pursuant to the action of the two Councils, formal application for financial support will now be made to several private foundations, and to the National Endowment of the Humanities. As soon as sufficient funds are assured, announcement will be made of competitions for research grants and fellowships. It is hoped that these announcements can be made in the Spring of 1978.

James Madison Award

The Council has established a James Madison Award to be given to a living American political scientist who, during his or her career as a whole, has made a distinguished scholarly contribution to political science. The award, to be given no more frequently than every three years, will carry an honorarium of \$1,500, and provides for the winner to present an address on the occasion of receiving the award at the Annual Meeting. The Madison Award has been endowed through the generosity of Ernest Griffith, former Director of the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress and Dean Emeritus of the American University School of International Service. Dr. Griffith also served as Chairman in the late 1940s of the Association's Research Committee, which initiated the development of Association awards for professional recognition.

The first James Madison award will be presented at the 1978 Annual Meeting. Members of the Award Selection Committee are Ernest Griffith, American University, Emeritus, Chairperson; Richard Fenno, University of Rochester; and Samuel C. Patterson, University of Iowa. Nominations from individuals and depart-