

CHILDNEWS

*The Official Newsletter of the Sociology of Children Section
The American Sociological Association*

SUMMER 1996

FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to announce the results of this year's election for section officers. The incoming chair-elect will be **Jeylan Mortimer** (University of Minnesota). Joining her for two year terms on our Council, beginning in 1997, are **David Kinney** (Central Michigan University), **Marty Power** (Illinois State University), and **Tim Owens** (Indiana University-Indianapolis). The diversity of these candidates, in terms of gender, theoretical persuasion, methodological preference, and areas of specialization within sociology of children, speaks well for the ecumenical nature of our section. In our short history, our Board has been represented by demographers, ethnographers, historical sociologists, microsociologists, and macrosociologists, as well as practitioners and researchers. It is rewarding to see that this tradition will continue. In addition, the membership voted overwhelmingly to support the referendum to **increase** the dues of the section. This means that, beginning 1997, dues will be set at \$12 for regular members and \$6 for student members. These additional funds will allow the section to grow, to host functions, support awards, and participate in other ASA events.

Patti and I recently returned from our trip to Scandinavia, where we visited scholars in Norway and Denmark to lecture about our research and to discuss the state of affairs for the sociology of children and childhood today. Our hosts showed us warm European hospitality and many fruitful hours were spent comparing cross-cultural aspects of our research and the various projects being conducted in these other countries. We are particularly appreciative of Ivar Frønes, who set up our visit and served as the chief ambassador for Scandinavian scholars of children. We would also like to thank Kåre Heggen, Dean of Social Sciences at Volda College, Per Egil Mjaavatt (Director of the Norwegian Centre for Child Research at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Jens Qvortrup (South Jutland University Centre), and Flemming Mouritsen (Odense University) for their graciousness and support.

I would like to point out several potential opportunities of interest that we learned about while in Scandinavia. My discussions with Jens Qvortrup, chair of the International Sociological Association's working group on the sociology of childhood, were beneficial in beginning to lay the groundwork for increased intercourse between our section and his. Anyone who is interested in hearing more about the ISA's group on childhood would contact Jens at South Jutland University Centre, Niels Bohrsjev 9, DK-6700, Esbjerg, DENMARK. Jens, along with his colleague Fleming Mouritsen, have secured funds for the next five years from the Lego Corporation (the Danish manufacturers of quality children's toys) to further research and theoretical advancements on the sociology of childhood. Patti and I were honored to be the first Lego lecturers in Denmark. Jens is interested in working with other scholars who might want to come to Denmark. *(continued on page 2)*

OFFICERS

Chair Peter Adler

Chair-Elect Donald J. Hernandez

Past Chair David J. Eggebeen

Secretary-Treasurer Brett Brown

Council: Patti A. Adler, Gary A. Fine, Donna King, Annette Lareau, Elizabeth G. Menaghan, Arland Thornton

Nominations Committee: Patti Adler (chair), Mark Berends, Rose Marie Del Rosario, Donna King, Annette Lareau, Martha Wittig

Founding-Chair Gertrud Lenzer

Newsletter Editor Diana Papademas

Further, I would like to bring to your attention an important conference on Urban Childhood, hosted by the Norwegian Centre for Child Research from June 9-12, 1997. The international, interdisciplinary conference featuring nearly 1000 participants from around the globe, sets out to discuss various aspects of children's living conditions in cities, which will be related to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Serving as a forum for researchers, politicians, planners, and practitioners, the conference will offer a unique opportunity for scientific discussions concerning children growing up in cities. Trondheim, the location for the conference, is a vibrant, cultural, and cosmopolitan city which will be celebrating its 1000-year anniversary in 1997. Given the success of the previous conferences hosted by the Norwegian Centre for Child Research, and the exciting opportunities available in Trondheim, I strongly encourage you to consider attending the conference. For more information, you can write to me or directly to the Conference Secretariat, Norwegian Centre for Child Research, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, N-7055 Dragvoll, NORWAY.

I look forward to seeing you in New York City this summer. Donald Hernandez has put together an exciting set of panels and roundtables. In addition, Tim Owens and I are thrilled about the prospects for our session, "Changing Youth in a Changing Society: A Panel Discussion of Youth in Contemporary and Historical Perspective". Please remember that all section sessions, as well as our business meeting, take place on the first day of the meetings, Friday, August 16.

As of Spring 1996, our membership stands at 326. This puts us on solid footing, clearly established as a section within the ASA structure. However, it would still be advisable for us to be actively recruiting new members. Especially given our "cut-rate" fees for students, you might want to suggest to your students that they join the section.

Having returned from my European travels invigorated with new ideas and vistas, I am more convinced than ever of the importance of our mutual endeavors. The scholarship we produce stands to impact on many generations of sociologists, and perhaps more importantly, children. Please actively participate in our section and further the cause we share.

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

There is still time! David Eggebeen, Chair of the **Student Paper Competition** will accept papers until **July 15, 1996**. To qualify, the paper must be composed by someone who was a student at the time the paper was written. Co-written papers are acceptable only if both authors were students at the time the paper was written. The paper must have made a "public appearance" in 1995 or 1996. That is, a paper is eligible for the award if it (a) was submitted as partial requirements for a class or seminar held in the years in question; (b) was presented at a professional meeting in those years; or (c) was either accepted for publication or appeared in print in those years. Nominations for this competition can be brought to David Eggebeen's attention in several ways. Faculty may submit a paper of one of their students. Students may send in their own papers. Individuals may also nominate particularly outstanding papers that they came across in published form or that were read at professional meetings. Send three copies of the paper to:

David Eggebeen
Department of Human Development and Family Studies
S-110 Henderson Building
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

For the Directory of Officers & Council See the Winter 1996 *CHILDNEWS*

NEWS & NOTES

New Interdisciplinary Program in Children's Studies

Sociology Professor Gertrud Lenzer, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of CUNY, is featured in the June *New York Teacher* for her efforts that have led to the creation of a new undergraduate minor in children's studies at Brooklyn College. The approved program is coordinated by Professor Lenzer, who is expecting final approval from the CUNY Board of Trustees for the creation of a Children's Studies Center.

The program pulls together faculty and courses from various fields for an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children. Lenzer is quoted as saying: "The research that exists about children in many different disciplines is fragmented; we simply have not concentrated on children as a group ... Children's studies was really meant to bring about work and research in the social sciences, humanities, arts, health sciences and the law. The goal was to get a fuller understanding, a synthesized and holistic understanding of children." Such programs can enhance a liberal arts education as well as increase understanding and knowledge for teachers, nurses, social workers, lawyers, and anyone who will work with children in their careers. The Center will concentrate on curriculum development and research on children's issues.

National Symposium on Men in Families

Pennsylvania State University will host a national symposium designed to examine men's family roles and relationships is scheduled for October 31-November 1st. Sociology Professor Alan Booth and Human Development Professor Ann Crouter, organizers of the symposium, will address 4 major issues: (1) an historical and prospective look at men in families; (2) the conditions under which men form families and invest in parenthood; (3) men's contributions to marital relationships; and (4) men as fathers. Lead speakers include: Steven Mintz, Jane Lancaster, Hillard Kaplan, John Gottman, and Paul Amato. Discussants include: Linda Burton, Andrew Cherlin, Michael Lamb, Patricia Draper, William Marsiglio, Catherine Surra, Scott Coltrane, Myra Marx Ferree, Steven Nock, Jay

Belsky, Frank Furstenberg, and Judith Seltzer.

The symposium is organized for those who teach and conduct research, graduate students, and policy and program specialists. To obtain a brochure and registration materials, call or write:

Chuck Herd
409 Keller Conference Center
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802-1304
Ph 814-863-1744 Fax 814-865-3749

Teaching/ Learning, and Acting on the Children's Rights Agenda

Prior to Stand for Children day in Washington, D.C., children, students, and faculty at SUNY-Old Westbury worked cooperatively to prepare, ratify, and send a resolution on children's rights. Together with the campus children (ages 5-14) in the International Creative Child Education Center, students working on research papers with Sociology Professor Diana Papademas prepared the Resolution below that was ratified by the child representatives to their Model United Nations project and then unanimously endorsed by a voice vote at the College's final Faculty meeting. Sociology students in Papademas' courses on Culture as well as those active in the student Sociology Society, learn about the social history of children, the UN & UNICEF, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Volunteering at the children's center, students engaged in research papers and participated in field trips to the UN in New York and to Washington.

Resolution: We the students at SUNY-College at Old Westbury submit to the United Nations Secretary General and to the President of the United States and our many leaders this resolution in support of all children: We oppose the war against children and would like to see the speedy implementation of (1) childcare (2) healthcare (3) education, which includes more support of children's needs and learning about global problems that effect children. We support the value of more public money dedicated to programs for children. We resolve this because we support children's rights; children's rights are human rights.

The 1996 Annual Meeting, August 16

Section Program

7:00 a.m. Council Meeting

The council will meet at the New York Hilton and Towers coffee shop. Presider: Chair Peter Adler.

8:30 a.m. Session 18. Community, Parenting, and Children's Activities

Organizer: **Donald J. Hernandez** National Academy of Science

Presider: **Brett V. Brown** Child Trends, Inc.

It Takes a Village to Raise a Child: Parenting Networks in Urban Families. **Nancy Marshall** and

Fern Marx Wellesley College; **Kathleen McCartney** University of New Hampshire; and **Cynthia Garcia Coll** Wellesley College.

Parents' and Children's Community Resources and Children's Well-Being. **Patricia Voydanoff** and

Brenda W. Donnelly University of Dayton.

Come All of You Turn and Help One Another: Authoritative Parenting, Community Orientation, and Deviance among High School Students. **Pamela Bea**

Vergun and **Sanford M. Dornbusch** Stanford University; **Laurence Steinberg** Temple University.

Family Structure and Children's Use of Time.

Suzanne M. Bianchi and **John Robinson** University of Maryland, College Park.

Discussion: **Michael Shanahan**, Pennsylvania State University.

10:30 a.m. Session 37 Refereed Roundtables and Business Meeting

10:30-11:30 a.m. Refereed Roundtables:

Organizer: **Donald J. Hernandez** National Academy of Sciences

1. Childhood Friendships

Typologies and Patterns of Preadolescent Friendship Groups. **Patricia A. Adler** University of Colorado, Boulder; and **Peter Adler** University of Denver

Cultural Orchestration-Developing, Negotiating and Learning Friendship Norms Among a Group of Latino and Vietnamese Immigrant Children. **Susan Blank** University of California, Irvine.

Roundtables, *continued*

2. Child Care

Children, Child Care and the Public/Private Debate in a Global Context. **Diana Papademas** State University of New York-Old Westbury.

Paternal Child Care Preferences: The Importance of Individual Characteristics and the Degree of Residential Stress. **Cynthia Line** Holy Family College.

3. Child Abuse

Sexual Contact between Children and Adults: Tracking the Long-term Effects. **Christopher R. Browning** and **Edward O. Laumann** Ogburn Stouffer Center.

Making the Social Personal: The Media's Construction of Child Abuse. **Hyonsook Yoo** Florida State University.

4. Ethnicity and Child Development

Class, Race, and Gender Socialization in Black Families. **Shirley A. Hill** University of Kansas.

Ethnicity, Human Capital and Social Capital among Immigrant and Native Families with Children.

Lingxin Hao University of Iowa.

Minority Students' Academic Performance: The Interweave of Social Class and Ethnicity. **Sampson**

Lee Blair and **Marilou C. Legazpi Blair** Arizona State University; and **Anna V. Madamba** University of North Carolina.

5. Adolescent Development

Developing Competence: Neighborhood Influences on Adolescent Development. **Lori Kowaleski-Jones** Ohio State University.

Ethnic Similarities and Differences in the Consequences of Adolescent Emotional Autonomy.

Zeng-Yin Chin Texas A&M University.

6. Children and the Media

Conceptualizing Childhood in the Context of a Media Culture. **Joan Weston** and **Denise Bielby** University of California, Santa Barbara.

TV 101 - Media Literacy Training, Theory, and Social Change: An Overview. **Karen Sternheimer** University of Southern California.

Roundtables, *continued*

7. Children at Social Margins
Politics of Colorblind Advocacy of Transracial Adoption. **Enid Logan** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Children's Care: An Institutional Analysis of Psychoactive Drug (Ab)use and Its Alternatives. **Anamarie Oliverio** Stanford University; and **Pat Lauderdale** Arizona State University.
Attributes, Labels and Structural Opportunities: Predicting Positions in a Dominance Hierarchy. **Mim Thomas** and **Marion R. Hughes** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

8. Learning from What Children Say and Do
Television, Video Games and Literacy: Examining the Voice of Children through the Study of Stories. **Suellen Gawler Butler** Rosemont College.
Gender and Children's Conceptualizations of Death. **Kathryn Hornsby** Georgia State University.
Structural Ritualization in the Dance Studio. **Andrea Fisher Maril** University of Tulsa; and **J. David Knottnerus** Oklahoma State University.

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Section Business Meeting.

(Note Sessions 43 and 63 on Children and Youth below at 12:30 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m.)

4:30 p.m. Session 95 Family Income and Children's Lives

Organizer: **Donald J. Hernandez** National Academy of Sciences

Presider: **Lyne Casper** U.S. Bureau of the Census
Rapid Social Change and the Living conditions of Children: The Special Case of East Germany.

Bernhard Nauck University of Chemnitz.
Spatial Inequality and Poverty among Latino Children. **Nancy S. Landale** and **Daniel T. Lichter** Pennsylvania State University.

Do Income Sources Matter for Child Outcomes? **Jane Mosley** University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Discussion: **Wei-jung Jean Yeung** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

August 17 10:30 a.m. Thematic Session
(see next column)

August 18 8:30 a.m.

Section on Sociology of Children Table.

ASA orientation for New Section Officers.

August 17 10:30 a.m. Thematic Session 123

The Changing Nature of Childhood and Adolescence in American Society: A Panel Discussion.

Organizers: **Peter Adler** University of Denver; **Timothy J. Owens** Indiana University-Indianapolis.

Presiders: **Timothy J. Owens**; and **Laura Stepp**,
The Washington Post.

Panel: **Delbert Elliott** University of Colorado, Boulder; **Gary Alan Fine** University of Georgia; **Donald Hernandez** National Academy of Sciences; **John Modell** Carnegie-Mellon University; **Jeylan Mortimer** University of Minnesota.

August 16 12:30 p.m. Regular Session 43.
Children and Youth: Family Processes.

Organizer and Presider: **Virginia S. Cain** National Institutes of Health.

Presenters: **Susan M. Jekielek**; **Thomas L. Hanson**; **Elizabeth G. Menaghan**, **Frank L. Mott**, **Susan M. Jekielek**, and **Lori Kowaleski-Jones**; **Rebecca A. Nickoll**, **Toby L. Parcel.**

Discussion: **Judith A. Seltzer.**

August 16 2:30 p.m. Poster Session 63. Research on Children and Youth.

Organizer: **Dale A. Blyth** Search Institute, Minneapolis.

Presenters: **Kimberly Pettigrew Brackett**; **Pam Hunter**, **Greg Muller**; **Ju, Suetling Pong**; **Greg Muller**, **Ramdas Menon**, **Jeff Jordan**, **Paul Muller**; **George L. Wimberly**; **Nancy Leffert**, **Tom Berkas**, **Jean Wachs**; **Dale A. Blyth.**

August 15 SSSP Session 21. 2:30-4:15 p.m.
Rm#402-Park Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1605 Broadway (at 49th Street). ASA Section Members present:

Children's Issues: Perceptions and Solutions

Organizer: **Donna Lee King** University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Decision-Making Styles and Religiosity. **Charles H. Trent** Yeshiva University.

The Social Control of Childhood. **Mark D. Jacobs** George Mason University.

The Politics of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. **Diana Papademas** SUNY-Old Westbury.
Children's Property. **Frances Chaput Waksler** Wheelock College.

Excluded Identities. **Dalia Szulik** and **Silvia Kuasñosky** University of Buenos Aires.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Beyond the Blueprint: Directions for Research on Head Start's Families

Head Start is 30 years old. Enacted as part of the War on Poverty, Head Start is the nation's largest and oldest federal early childhood development program for poor preschool children and their families. Public acceptance of the program remains high, yet public understanding of what Head Start is and does remains low, and evaluation research is limited in quality and scope.

Since Head Start's inception, numerous social and economic challenges have rendered the lives of children in poverty more complicated and precarious than they have been in the past. At the same time, amid complex and shifting family structures, diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, and uneven education and employment histories, families' expectations for training, education, and employment are increasing. These new problems and expectations have complicated Head Start's job of providing high-quality services. Fortunately, we have learned a great deal about the needs of young children and the attributes of services and supports that can assist families living in highly stressful circumstances.

In this context, the Roundtable on Head Start Research, made up of representatives from government, universities, medicine, Head Start organizations, family support programs, and foundations, was convened in September 1994 under the auspices of the Board of Children, Youth, and Families. At the request of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Roundtable set out to provide a systematic analysis of research needs relevant to the changing context that Head Start faces as it moves into its fourth decade.

The Roundtable's creation was also a response to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion of HHS. In 1993, that body called for a long-term research plan for Head Start that places it in the broader context of research on young children, families, and communities; ensures a commitment to ongoing themes; and has the flexibility to respond to new and emerging issues.

The Roundtable's specific charge was to focus on the implications of the changing family, community, and policy contexts within which Head Start now operates for future research on the children and families it serves. Roundtable members attached great importance to investigations that can contribute significantly to increasing the quality and effectiveness of the program in furthering children's development.

Beyond the Blueprint: Directions for Research on Head Start's Families is the report of the first three meetings of the Roundtable. The report points to a set of research options that hold the potential to reinvigorate Head Start's role as a national laboratory, link research on Head Start to other developments in allied fields of research. Among the issues the report addresses are: 1. the challenges posed to Head Start by the increasing ethnic and linguistic diversity of the families it serves 2. the need to embed research on Head Start within its community context, paying specific attention to the effects on Head Start and its families of violent environments; 3. the implications of the changing economic landscape and the structure of income support policies for the poor for how Head Start works with families, and what it means to offer families a high-quality program.

The first two chapters of the report provide a synthesis of the deliberations of the Roundtable as well as a conceptual framework for approaching Head Start families from a research perspective. The remaining chapters focus on specific issues and suggest next steps for research. These research options are organized in terms of three types of research agenda: 1. a descriptive agenda focused on understanding who is served by Head Start and what Head Start programs do in their day-to-day interaction with children and families 2. an agenda of ways to mount quality programs 3. an outcome agenda. The publication costs \$17 plus (\$4 for the first copy, \$.50 for each additional copy) from the National Academy Press; ISBN # 0-309-0585; Call 1-800-624-6242. Contact Anne Bridgman for further information on the Board CYF; call: 202-334-1935; fax: 202-334-3829; e-mail: abridgman@nas.edu.

Publications & Media, continued

Book note: *The Little Trials of Childhood and Children's Strategies for Dealing with Them.* Frances Chaput Waksler (1996) Falmer Press/Taylor & Francis. Contents: What are the Little Trials of Childhood and Children's Strategies for Dealing with Them? Whose Body is it? Presenting One's Self. Activities. Emotions Ignored, Minimized, Distorted, and Denied. Knowledge. Knowledge: The Case of Santa Claus. Teachers and School. Crying and Temper Tantrums, Lying and Subterfuge, and other Strategies for Dealing with the Little Trials of Childhood. What Can Be Learned?

Book note: *Learning the Rules: The Anatomy of Children's Relationships.* Brian J. Bigelow, Geoffrey Tesson, and John H. Lewko (1996) Guilford Publications. Contents: 1. Social Competency and Friendships in Middle Childhood: *Lord of the Flies* Revisited 2. Social Rules and the Implicate Order: Toward a Sociology of Childhood 3. Phenomenology and Relationships: The Birth of Social Rules 4. The Rules and with Whom They Are Used: Compliance and Autonomy 5. The Rules and with Whom They Are Used: Self-Control and Conflict Management 6. The Rules and with Whom They Are Used: Mutual Activities and Obligation 7. Social Competency and the Sorcerer's Apprentice: The Importance of Parents 8. Siblings: The Relationship You Don't Have to Earn to Keep 9. Social Rule Rationales: The Child as a Relationship Philosopher 10. Concluding Remarks. Appendix 1: Extracting the Social Rules from Interviewing; Appendix 2: The Recursive Interview Protocol; Appendix 3: Data Analyses.

Book note: *The Economics of Child Care.* David M. Blau, Editor (1995 paper; 1991 cloth) Russell Sage Foundation. A description of child-care policy from an economic perspective, the book provides an assessment of child care policy issues.

Special Issue of Childhood Announced: "Children Out of Place", a focus on globally comparative perspectives on street children. Contents: Introduction (Mark Connolly and Judith Ennew); Youthwork on the Street: A Community's Moral Compact with its Young People (Michael Baizerman); Theory, Method and Triangulation in the Study of Street Children (Riccardo Lucchini); Methods Used in Research with Street Children in Nepal (Rachel Baker, Catherine Panter-Brick and Alison Todd); A Plea for a Child-centred Approach in Research with

Street Children (Henk van Beers); The Reality of Child Participation in Research: Experience from a Capacity-building programme (Firew Kefyalew); Street Children: An Excluded Generation in Latin America (Irene Rizzini); The Street and its Image (Riccardo Lucchini); Finding Care on the Street: Processes in the Street Careers of Sri Lankan Boys (Einar Hanssen); Programme Note: Realities and opportunities in Ho Chi Minh City (Chi Ngyen Franchet); Programme Note: Street Children in Bucharest (Gabriela Alexandrescu); Participatory Research is the First Step Towards Political Action: The Case of Young Maids in Dakar, Senegal (Bamba Diaw); Poverty and Uneven Development: Reflections from a Street Children Project in the Philippines (Teresita Silva); Urban Children: A Challenge and an Opportunity (Fabio Dallape).

Book note: *First Things First In Child Labour: Eliminating Work Detrimental to Children.* Assefa Bequele and William E. Myers (1995) International Labor Office Publications Center and UNICEF. Contents: 1. Defining the Problem of Children in Hazardous Work 2. Approaches to Protecting Children from Work Detrimental to Them 3. Levels of Intervention: Mobilizing Society Against Child Labour 4. Establishing a Government Policy for Eliminating Hazardous Child Work 5. Child Labour Legislation and Enforcement 6. Public Education 7. Protective and Welfare Services. Epilogue. Bibliography.

Book note: *In the Twilight Zone: Child Workers in the Hotel, Tourism and Catering Industry.* Maggie Black (1995) International Labour Office Publications Center. Contents: 1. Children in Tourism and Entertainment: An Overview 2. Why Do Children Work in Tourism and Hotels? 3. The Impact of Their Work Experience on Children in Hotels and Tourism 4. Responses to the Predicament of Children in Travel and Entertainment 5. Towards an Agenda for Action. Bibliography.

Articles and Resources: For a selection of articles and resources on child labor, write:

Child Labor
AFT International Affairs Department
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2079
Fax: 9202) 879-4502
E-mail: iadaft@aol.com

ASA's Director of Public Affairs and Communications Urges Members to Contact Legislators now to Defeat H.R. 1271.

The Family Privacy Protection Act, H.R. 1271 could seriously impede research efforts involving minors by hampering research aimed at understanding and improving the welfare of children, without enhancing privacy protections for families. On April 18, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved the Family Privacy Protection Act by a 7 to 5 vote. The measure, which passed the House as part of the Republican's "Contract with America," now goes to the full Senate. Because this measure can be brought up for consideration anytime, Senators need to be contacted immediately.

H.R. 1271 requires prior written consent from a parent or guardian for any minor to participate in federally funded survey research, if the survey contains questions in seven categories. These categories include sexual behavior or attitudes, illegal and antisocial behavior, religious affiliations or beliefs, and mental or psychological problems. Currently, Institutional Review Boards may waive written consent provided an appropriate mechanism for protecting the children is substituted and after carefully weighing the nature and purpose of the research and the risk and anticipated benefit to the research subject. By removing flexibility from the human subjects protection process, this bill will undermine our nation's ability to monitor the level of risk to children and youth from violence, substance abuse, and other risky behaviors.

Other points of information include: 1. Over the past 20 years, the federal government has approved and strengthened regulations governing

parental consent for children who are research subjects. Current regulations, for example, rightly require that a parent or guardian be notified if their child is being asked to participate in federally funded research and that he or she be given the opportunity to refuse the child's participation. 2. Before a study involving human subjects can be funded by any federal agency, it must pass review by an Institutional Review Board; written consent is the standard for any research with minors, but the IRB may grant a waiver under certain circumstances, or approve other procedures that may be more appropriate to the research or the study population. 3. Informed public policy depends on reliable information. Research data on issues affecting children, such as substance abuse, violence, and adolescent pregnancy will become more difficult to obtain. Without this research, it will be difficult for families, educators, and policy makers to make informed decisions concerning the safety and welfare of children and youth.

Consider a letter to your Senator; also call (202)224-3121 to ask to be connected to your Senator's office; ask to speak to the staff member who handles the issue. Letters should be sent to the Senator, c/o the staff member, and mailed to: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Letters should include a return address and be written in your own words. If you can give personal examples based on your own experiences of how H.R. 1271 would harm your research, do so. **Ed Hatcher** the ASA director of public affairs and communications can be contacted at (202)833-3410, Ext. 320; fax 202-785-0146 or by e-mail at hatcher@asnet.org.

1996

Sociology of Children Section Membership Form

(Please note that you must be a current ASA member to join.)

_____ I am already an ASA member and wish to join the Sociology of Children Section for 1996. Enclosed is my check (payable to ASA, RE: Children Section) for \$8. Students pay \$5.

_____ I want to join the ASA and the Children Section. Please send a 1996 application to me.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-Mail: _____

Mail to: American Sociological Association, Membership Services, 1722 N Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-2981. (Please note that new and renewal memberships notices for 1997 will be sent in October at the new rate of \$12 and \$6, for regular members and students respectively. Join now; 20 additional members by September 30 will increase our newsletter pages and will add a third session for the 1997 meetings.)