

For four years it was my dream to make available the rather rare and expensive *Projecting Science and Engineering Personnel Requirements for the 1990s: How Good Are the Numbers?*, the record of Rep. Howard Wolpe's hearing of 8 April 1992 on the bogus analyses of the National Science Foundation (NSF) used from 1984 to 1990 to create the myth of an imminent shortage of US scientists and engineers that could be best remedied by doubling NSF funding and allowing US business to import large numbers of scientists, technicians, and engineers on work visas. NSF also got a rake-off for fees from each H-1B visa applied for. Twenty years later the same fraudulent arguments are treated as established fact, partly because the hearing was not to undo the destructive effects of the scam but merely to restore faith in the reliability of NSF reports, on which much legislation rested, and partly because the "remedy" implemented to solve the purported problem will inevitably create the problem it was alleged to repair.

In the interim the primary documentary evidence has been thrown down the Orwellian memory hole for a variety of reasons: acute embarrassment to the NSF, lack of shelf space, downsizing, the age of the documents, the fact that many of the primary documents were never working drafts, and the fact that professional self-defense is unnecessary after retirement. The closest we can now get to primary documentary evidence is a few dusty 1336-page paper-bound copies of the Wolpe hearing record aging in Federal depository libraries, not easily accessed and requiring more time than most people have to sit in the library and peruse them. Four years ago I paid \$100 and was delighted by the contents and the convenience of having my own copy; last year the only copy I saw on the market was going for \$225, a sum hard to justify even though my copy is on the verge of falling apart.

This spring I persuaded a computer programmer, Scott McCandliss, now working as an Atlanta taxi driver when he could no longer find a job in the profession for which he prepared in college, of the value of the seeming arcana of the Wolpe hearing by posting a dozen select pages from that volume. His enthusiasm stoked, a few weeks later after completing a night on duty, he drove to a college library in western North Carolina, where he spent the entire day making flash-drive images of the entire document, and that night drove back to Atlanta for duty. After experimenting with page registration, clean-up, and compression, he created the following pdf image (i.e. non-text) files of the hearing record. Meanwhile, I prepared two documents to assist researchers: a detailed 12-page table of contents (called **WolpeTOC.doc**) and an incomplete transcription of hand-written annotations, unreadable text and graphs, and remarks on various mistakes in the book (called **WolpeObscura.doc**), with the aim of eventually making the entire hearing record and annotations text-searchable.

The reader can find excellent summaries of what happened and how it happened in the following places:

Chapters 7-9 of Washington investigative science-reporter Daniel S. Greenberg's *Science, Money, and Politics: Political Triumph and Ethical Erosion* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001). One can read chapters 8 and 9 by Googling "Erich Bloch" and "Peter House" and NSF.

Dr. Eric R. Weinstein gives a good economic and historical overview in his unfinished essay “How and Why Government, Universities, and Industry Create Domestic Labor Shortages of Scientists and High-Tech Workers”,

<http://www.nber.org/~peat/PapersFolder/Papers/SG/NSF.html> .

Professor Norm Matloff of the University of California – Davis (<http://www.cs.ucdavis.edu/~matloff/h1bwritings.html>,) has worked tirelessly and unselfishly to fight for correction of these frauds, as have Rob Sanchez, Gene Nelson and many others.

Unfortunately expenses for lobbying and political contributions have proven to be highly profitable corporate “investments.” After twenty years of this cycle investment cycle, the high-tech worker victims struggle to stay fiscally afloat while the corporate beneficiaries pay for ever more benefits. The requirement for the original H-1B visa for persons of extraordinary ability in the arts, athletics, science, and business was re-assigned to the new the O-1 visa, and the H-1B visa became a visa for fashion models and those in a specialty occupation. In recent years the L-1 (intracompany transfer) visa has been used as an alternative to the H-1B visa for the technically skilled. These visas have been joined by the TN visa for Canadians and Mexicans, the E-3 visa for Australians who qualify for the H-1B visa, and an alphabet soup of other work visas that displace American workers who sacrificed their youth to mastering a technical specialty only to be deprived of their livelihood at age 50. Then the instigators of this policy – who probably never learned any technical skill – have the gall to suggest that the techies just need to re-train in another field, as if they could find a job till retirement or achieve the same mastery of a new field that they achieved in their chosen field; to suggest that those technical people were dead wood or sluggards; and to justify their further importation of cheaper labor on work visas as necessary because American kids are not majoring in those fields – as if American students are supposed to ignore the years of hard study, low pay, long hours, diminished job prospects, and early career termination induced by the proponents of expanding technical work visas like the H-1B.

What is the NSF doing for America today?

Read <http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/Archive/ScienceProfile.txt> and judge for yourself.

To receive Matloff’s offshoring newsletter, <mailto:matloff@cs.ucdavis.edu>.

To receive Rob Sanchez’ Job Destruction Newsletter, e-mail a request to

<mailto:News@JobDestruction.info> .