

# **ALA WASHINGTON OFFICE**

## **A CHRONOLOGY OF ITS FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS, AND USERS OF AMERICAN LIBRARIES**

By  
Lawrence E. Molumby

American Library Association  
Washington Office

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## INTRODUCTION

As ALA celebrates the 50th anniversary of its Washington Office, it faces an exciting future from the launch pad of its Goal 2000 initiative. It is a time to look ahead with well founded high hopes. But it is also worth a brief look back at the accomplishments wrought by visionary library leaders at the grassroots, in the states, in the Association and in the Washington Office.

Although I have been a member of ALA for 28 years, I am still an outsider when it comes to the legislative activities of the Association. In the course of doing this project, at the kind invitation of Carol Henderson, I have been awed by the extraordinary skill and savvy of those whose activities are outlined in these pages. Most librarians know in a general way that the Washington Office has served us, our institutions and our patrons very well. But I doubt that many of us have any inkling of the wide variety of issues - issues that affect us profoundly - that are monitored and acted on by the Washington Office. There have been spectacular successes - sometimes achieved only after years of effort, false starts and disappointments. The beneficiaries have been not only our institutions many of which have been constructed, equipped and stocked by federal, state and local funds resulting from ALA activity, and not only ourselves, who now, for example, are covered by FLSA, Social Security and Medicare, but also the users of libraries who can today make a photocopy of printed material and who can tomorrow be assured of access to information in all its new forms.

This is not about the whole American Library Association; it is only about the Washington Office; it is not a history; it does not tie things together or develop themes or provide a coherent narrative. It is simply a chronological list of some of the more important activities of the Washington Office. Facts and events are recounted as and when they happened. But if readers want to know their full context and how they relate to one another and what it all means, they will have to dig deeper on their own. Citations in the text give sources and the print index will help one find specific information in the text. The entire text is searchable in its digital form.

Thanks to Ray Fry, my fellow volunteer, who helped me with this while doing lots of more important work. And thanks especially to Carol Henderson and her staff for the opportunity as well as the office space, equipment and support to do this very gratifying volunteer project.

Lawrence E. Molumby





## Events Leading to the Formation of the Washington Office

# 1943

**Federal Responsibility for Libraries Acknowledged.** *Postwar Standards for Public Libraries* was published by ALA in June, 1943. This report was significant not only for its content, but because it was done at the request of and under contract with the federal National Resources Planning Board. Its principal author, Carleton B. Joeckel, who was also chairman of the ALA Committee on Postwar Planning, stated that this relationship with the federal government "may be the most significant result of the entire study." The standards were also included in a federal government manual on city planning. Further, the Board affirmed the necessity of federal financial responsibility in equalizing the tax burden for education among states. (Bul 1943, 267) The ALA Committee on Postwar Planning had been established in June, 1941 by action of the Executive Board (Bul 1941, H39).

Although the need for federal assistance to library development had been raised many times in the past, it was the issuance of the *Postwar Standards* that seems to have led, step by step, to the establishment of a Washington Office and the beginnings of major federal involvement in library development in the US.

*"This report is the first of three steps in planning for the improvement and extension of public library service. Work on the second step, checking existing library facilities against the standards, is already under way. The third step is the formulation of a plan for future library development."* (Bul 1943, 267)

**ALA Issues Publication on Functions of State Library Agencies.** Inasmuch as state library agencies would play a key role in future federal library programs, it is noteworthy that ALA issued the fourth edition of *The State Library Agency, Its Functions and Organization* at this time. (Bul 1943, 297)

**Paul Howard Goes to Washington.** Paul Howard took a leave of absence from his position as director of the Gary, Indiana, Public Library to become chief of the Library Program Division of the Office of War Information. (Bul 1943, 299)

**ALA Leaders Visit Capitol Hill.** ALA President Althea Warren and Federal Relations Chair W.A. Moon spent three days on Capitol Hill visiting House members to get support for a proposed bill for federal aid for libraries. Rep. Graham Barden (D-NC), Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, assured them that if the large national organizations interested in education and rural welfare supported federal aid to libraries, he would put his strength behind it. (Bul 1943, 415)

# 1944

**Postwar Planning for Public Libraries.** Paul Howard prepared an action plan for public library development for the ALA Committee on Postwar Planning (Bul 1944, 282)

**Federal Relations Committee of ALA.** The major effort this year was to find an approach to federal aid to libraries that would carry conviction in war times. Meanwhile, state library associations were being called upon to appoint federal relations representatives so as to be ready to go into action when needed. (Bul 1944, 336)

Concerns arose in Congress over what would happen to rural libraries when WPA was discontinued. The discussions on federal aid to libraries “have centered around one idea, namely, the establishment of public libraries in the areas now without them. . . . No specific proposal has yet been agreed upon. There appears to be a little more interest in Congress than formerly but it also appears that any proposal made will have to be a modest one and one which has some emotional appeal.” (Annual Report of the Executive Secretary of ALA. ( Bul 1944, 419)

As Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee, Paul Howard was in Washington working on plans for how libraries could benefit from the distribution of surplus books and equipment from Army libraries under the Surplus Property Act. “It is proposed that these books be used for the extension of library services to people and areas which are now without it or which receive very inadequate service.” (Bul 1945, 18)

Paul Howard begins monthly reports from Washington in the *ALA Bulletin*.

**Council Sees Immediate Need for Washington Representative.** The Council decided in October that there was an immediate need for an ALA representative in Washington. Since no funds were available in the budget, it was decided to begin a fund-raising campaign. Contributions were sought from all librarians and trustees; the publishing, bookbinding and library supply trades; and interested citizens. Carl Vitz, Chairman of the Campaign Committee, outlined the objectives of the Washington representative as follows:

- 1) To maintain a representative of library interests in Washington under the direction of the ALA:
  - a) To help secure Army camp library books and equipment for rural library service, when this property is no longer needed by the Army
  - b) To help make other appropriate surplus property, including books, available to college and university libraries, school libraries, public libraries, state library extension agencies, and other publicly supported or tax-exempt libraries

c) To provide government agencies with information concerning the nation's needs for improved and extended library service.

2) To enable the American Library Association to carry on a national public relations program in support of the above objectives. (Bul 1945, 19)

"The story goes that it was Carl Vitz who exploded with frustration over a limited budget, and certainly it was he who became the driving force behind the campaign." (Final Report of the Library Development Fund, Bul 1946, 308)

## 1945

**Library Division of Office of Education Expanded in Roosevelt Budget.** The President recommended a reorganization and increased budget for the Office of Education which would double the budget of the Library Services Division. (Bul 1945, 48)

**Plan to Support Representation in Washington.** Library representatives from 32 states and DC met in Chicago at the invitation of the ALA President to plan for a campaign to support representation in Washington. Presentations were made by Paul Howard and Ralph Dunbar (Chief, Library Services Division, USOE). It was decided to rename the campaign the "Library Development Fund", to set suggested goals for the states and to conduct an intensive campaign in April. One ALA Headquarters staffer commented that this meeting was "the most amazing in her experience, for enthusiastic response, for spirited discussion, and for unanimity of purpose." (Bul 1945, 54) A serviceman wrote, "Here's to four years of activity . . . Enclosed is a check for five dollars." The North Carolina Negro Library Association sent contributions amounting to over \$500. A library director got \$100 each from the local newspaper editor, the banker, and a department store, and \$5 from the governor. (Bul 1945, 241)

**Surplus Property.** ALA submitted a detailed request for special consideration for libraries with the Surplus Property Administration. (Bul 1945, 209)

## WASHINGTON OFFICE OPENS

**Paul Howard Selected as ALA representative in Washington.** (Bul 1945, 281 & 333) After considerable difficulty in crowded Washington, Howard located a suite of offices at 1709 M Street "strategically located between Connecticut Avenue and 17th Street, one block from the Mayflower Hotel and four blocks north of the White House. (Bul 1945, 473) The office was to be called the National Relations Office and Mr. Howard was to use the title "director." (Bul 1945, 495) The office was established October 1, 1945. (Julia Bennett Armistead, "Practicing What

We Preach," *Public Libraries*, November 1952, 79)

**A Program for Action and Charter** for the National Relations [Washington] Office was formulated by the Federal Relations Executive Committee on November 3 and 4 at meetings held at the new office on M Street. (Bul 1946, 340):

*The primary purpose of the ALA National Relations Office is to advance and protect the interests of libraries and of the people who use libraries, insofar as those interests may be helped or hurt by legislation, regulation or other government action.*

*The program of activities must at all times remain flexible, because the Office will have to concern itself much of the time with the library implications of proposals made by others without due recognition of those implications.*

*One principle will, however, control all action. The ALA, through this Office, will seek no advantage for itself, no special privileges for its members; it will work for the improvement of libraries as agencies for the dissemination of information, the diffusion and advancement of knowledge, and for the extension of library service to all of the people of the United States.*

*Important planks now in the Association's platform are:*

- 1.) Disposal of surplus property to educational agencies including libraries with such priorities and special price concessions as are specifically provided for in the Surplus Property Act (Public Law 457).*
- 2) Transfer of surplus Army and Navy library books (if there is any surplus) to the states for use primarily in extending library service to the rural areas.*
- 3) Recognition by government of the essentiality of library materials and service in any research program.*
- 4) Inclusion of library employees in Federal Social Security.*
- 5) Adequate provision for libraries in any public works proposals which may be advanced.*
- 6) Maintenance of low postal rates on books shipped to or by libraries.*
- 7) Federal aid for demonstrations of public library service as a first step toward Federal assistance in the establishment, maintenance, improvement and equalization of library service for all of the population.*

*8) An improved program of document distribution which will recognize libraries as primary outlets for the dissemination of information and as the best repositories for reference and research materials.*

## 1946

**State Federal Relations Committees.** The Executive Board of ALA endorsed Harold Hammill's plan for establishing committees in every state to publicize and support the work of the National Relations Office, beginning February 1, 1946. (Bul 1946, 64) They would typically consist of the president of the state association, the head of the state library extension agency, a coordinator appointed for four years by the president of the state association, and a publicity director appointed by the coordinator. (Bul 1947, 43)

**Library Development Fund Ends Successfully.** The fund-raising campaign concluded at the Buffalo Annual Conference on June 22. The Library Development Fund had raised \$88,438 (of the \$105,000 goal) in donations from more than 8,000 librarians, trustees, and friends. This would support the National Relations office in Washington for four years. (Bul 1946, 310)

**Surplus Property.** It appeared that there may have been 150 Army libraries available and a plan was drawn for their allocation to state library agencies based on their share of the rural population. (Bul 1946, 5) Surplus Property has been transferred to War Assets Corporation. All libraries in cities of 25,000 will get notices of offerings. Smaller libraries will be notified through state education agency for surplus property. (Bul 1946, 101) The director of the National Relations Office was appointed to USOE's Advisory Committee on Surplus Property. (Bul 1946, 73) Based on a survey of libraries, it was clear that the program was not working very well for libraries. Of the respondents, 37 libraries had tried to purchase surplus but only 11 were successful and they received a total of only \$1,700 worth of property. Six of the 11 successful libraries were of the opinion that further efforts would not be worthwhile. More than half of the librarians in the country were definitely of the opinion that attempts to purchase surplus would not be worthwhile. Only 12% thought it might be worthwhile. . . .the amount of property received has been extremely small. The director of the Washington Office concluded that while large libraries may have come chance of receiving small quantities of surplus property, "No library should plan any operation on the hope of obtaining surplus." (Bul 1946, 480)

**WO Program for Action Endorsed by ALA Council.** At the Midwinter meeting, the Council gave approval to the plan for action and charter for National Relations Office that had been drawn up by the Federal Relations Committee. (Bul 1946, 64)

**Public Library Services Demonstration** bill was drafted by the National Relations [Washington] Office, with the assistance of USOE, the Library of Congress and several members of Congress. It was introduced in Congress on March 12. The Senate sponsor was Lister Hill (D-AL); the House sponsor was Emily Taft Douglas (D-IL). The legislation would have provided federal grants of \$25,000 to each state to demonstrate how good library service and permanent libraries could be established in rural areas with only a modest tax outlay. The bill included no funds for land or buildings. (Federal Relations News 3/18/46) Despite favorable Senate and House reports, the bill was not considered before adjournment of 79th Congress. (FRN 7/16/46)

**Booklists on Rural Life.** The USDA library was preparing a bibliography. "Realizing that such lists are of little value unless the books themselves are available," USDA was anxious to work with State library Agencies. (FRN 3/18/46)

**Librarians as Professionals.** The Civil Service Commission found that "library training is essential to the performance of professional library work and has ruled that 30 semester hours of library science in a recognized college or university will be required for appointment to positions in the professional series." - or its equivalent. (FRN 4/16/46)

**Public Library Statistics.** It is very important that all states get this data to USOE to support Library Demonstration Bill (FRN 6/7/46)

## 1947

**State Federal Relations Committees.** In the last year 44 state federal relations committees were formed. The state committees met at Midwinter (Dec 28, 1946) and expressed great enthusiasm for the federal relations program in Washington, especially the Public Library Services Demonstration Bill. They stressed that it is not a federal aid bill, but a bill to stimulate state and local governments to establish library service from their own resources. (Bul 1947, 46)

**Major objectives for 1947.** The ALA Federal Relations Committee adopted three principal objectives for the coming year:

- 1) The Library Services Demonstration Bill;
- 2) Support of the Library Service Division of the USOE; and
- 3) The establishment of the Library of Congress as a national library of the United States.  
(Bul 1947, 43)

**Public Library Services Demonstration Bill Reintroduced.** The bill was introduced in the

Senate on January 6 as S. 48 by Lister Hill (D-AL) and George Aiken (R-VT) and referred to the Senate committee on Labor and Public Welfare chaired by Robert Taft (R-OH) (FRN 1/7/47). An identical bill was introduced in the House on March 10 by Thomas Jenkins (R-OH). Congressman Jenkins became interested as a result of library problems in his home county. (FRN 3/12/47) The House bill went to the House Committee on Education and Labor chaired by Fred A. Hartley (R-NJ). It incorporated amendments made by the Senate last year, i.e.: the program would last five years instead of four, and states could match funds up to \$75,000 rather than \$50,000. (Bul 1943, 44) A favorable report was issued by the Senate committee. Further action was held over until next session. "Chances for passage in the second session are fair. It should be borne in mind that we are working directly against a trend in Congress, but we are making progress." (Report of Federal Relations Committee, Bul 1947, 349)

**Lobbyist?** At House hearings on December 9, Congressman Ralph Gwinn (R-NY), the most active opponent of the bill on the Committee, asked Paul Howard, "Are you a registered lobbyist?" To which Mr. Howard replied: "Yes, but that registration is like a fishing license; it doesn't always guarantee results." (FRN 12/12/47)

**Librarian of Congress supports Library Services Bill.** In a written statement to the Senate Committee on Education, Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans endorsed the bill and characterized it as "a temporary demonstration, it is moderate in amount, it is self-terminating, and the amount of control which the federal government would exercise is at a minimum." (Bul 1947, 108)

**Postal rate increase.** Reacting to a proposal to increase the book rate and library book rate, ALA argued that there would be no benefit to taxpayers, because the additional cost of supporting libraries would offset any savings in the Post Office Department. (FRN 3/20/47) The Post Office and Civil Service committee was persuaded to drop the increases that would have cost libraries \$200,000 to \$250,000 annually. (FRN 6/12/47)

**Booklists on Rural Life.** USDA's bibliography in draft form was made available for review and criticism by state library agencies. (FRN 4/24/47) The lists were in print by December and available to states for imprint of individual state library associations. (FRN 12/4/47).

**Overseas Libraries Lose All Funding.** Following recent attacks on foreign information programs, the House denied the entire \$31 million appropriation for the 70 US libraries abroad. (FRN 6/12/47)

**Army Libraries' Funding Slashed.** First, the Bureau of the Budget cut the budget from \$1.5 million to \$600,000; then, the House Appropriations Committee reduced it to zero - on the theory that Army libraries could be funded by profits from PXs. (FRN 6/12/47) In the end \$300,000 was appropriated. (FRN 7/31/47)

# 1948

**Agriculture Department Helps ALA Reach Rural Families.** By providing mailing lists of state extension and county agents, 4-H club leaders, etc., USDA made it possible for ALA to reach virtually every farm family with information about the Library Services Demonstration Bill. (Bul, 1948, 30)

**Public Broadcasting.** The ALAWO director participated in talks in New York on experiments in non-commercial broadcasting, which might be provided by libraries and educational institutions. (FRN 1/9/48)

**Public Library Statistics** for 1944-45 were sent out by USOE, the first such compilation since 1938-39. (FRN 2/10/48) Bookmobile Statistics were very useful in preparing publicity for the PLSD Bill. (FRN 3/24/48)

**Public Library Services Demonstration Bill.** Senator Robert A. Taft (R-OH) said that he would not agree to a vote on the bill because he believed that the states could finance the program for themselves. Despite his opposition, his committee voted 11 - 2 in favor. (FRN 2/24/48) The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on February 25. (FRN 2/26/48) On the following day the bill was reported favorably by House Subcommittee on Education, but died when not reported out by the full Committee on Education and Labor by the time Congress adjourned on June 21. (FRN 9/15/48) (Bul 1948, 69)

**Depository Libraries.** A bill was introduced to designate the public library of every city over 100,000 (in which there is no depository) as a depository of government publications. (FRN 3/24/48)

**Both ALA Offices in Washington Running Out of Funding.** The Rockefeller Foundation grant, which had been financing the International Relations Office, would expire at the end of 1948. And the Library Development Fund which had been supporting the National Relations Office would be expended by June, 1949. As a short term measure, both offices were consolidated. (Bul 1948, 413) After surveying 500 State Library Association officials, State Federal Relations committees, and others, the ALA executive director, Executive Board, the Federal Relations Committee and the International Relations Board recommended that another fundraising campaign should not be undertaken and that a combined National-International Relations Office be funded "out of the budget of the ALA." This was based on a strong reluctance among survey respondents to accept fundraising campaigns as a means of financing activities which should be permanent. (FRN 9/15/48)

**Library of Congress' Role.** The House Appropriations Committee had been asserting that many Library of Congress activities had never been authorized by substantive legislation: "The library



should be held to its current level until such time as the Congress, by appropriate legislative action, comprehensively spells out the future role and status of the Library." In view of this situation, the Chairman of the House Committee on the Library of Congress asked ALA to submit a resolution clarifying the status of the Library of Congress and to define its functions in relation to other libraries. National library associations and ALA Divisions held a major meeting in Washington on October 15 and 16 to develop a resolution. (Bul 1948, 417)

"**The Publicity Assistant** for the National Relations Program was transferred from Chicago to Washington in order to maintain a closer integration with the National Relations Office and to take advantage of publicity facilities in the Capitol [sic]." (Bul 1948, 419)

## 1949

**Now It's Officially "THE WASHINGTON OFFICE."** By action of the Executive Board, the Federal Relations Office and the International Relations Office were combined into the Washington Office of the ALA as of 1/1/49. The Office would continue to perform both functions. (FRN 1/6/49) (Bul 1949, 149)

Approved priorities for 1949 for the Washington Office were:

- a) legislation to promote libraries;
- b) maintenance of low postal rates;
- c) support for legislation to clarify role of the Library of Congress;
- d) assistance in the Exchange of Persons Programs; and
- e) assistance to visiting foreign librarians. (Bul 1949, 71)

**The Library Demonstration Bill** was reintroduced with three changes:

- 1) Provided for training of personnel at the beginning of the demonstration;
- 2) Minimum state grant raised from \$25,000 to \$40,000; and
- 3) Mechanism established for withdrawal of federal funds if a state decides to reduce or withdraw from the program.

The Senate sponsors were Lister Hill (D-AL) and George Aiken (R-VT); the House sponsor: Ray Madden (D-IN). Both bills were introduced on the second working day of the new Congress! (FRN 1/6/49) The Senate bill was reported out of Committee on January 21, the first Bill reported by the committee this session. (Newsl 1/27/49) Senator Taft asked that the Library bill be passed over on the Senate calendar. (Newsl 2/16/49) He objected to the Federal government interfering in matters which he felt were within the constitutional power of the state and local governments. The ALA Washington Office director commented: "But he felt the same

way last year and the bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent anyway.” (Newsl 3/20/49)

**Louisville Public Library gets FCC permit** for a new non-commercial FM radio station - the first grant of its type. (Newsl 2/16/49)

**Television and Libraries.** The Washington Office was beginning to get inquiries about the impact of television on libraries; it sent out a questionnaire to librarians to begin gathering data. (Newsl 2/16/49)

**Washington Office has new address.** In March 1949 the Office moved to 1722 H Street, NW. (Newsl 3/10/49)

**The ALA Washington Newsletter** began publication as the successor to the *Federal Relations News* and the monthly report of the International Relations Board. It would be on a subscription basis at \$7 per year except for members of Federal Relations Committees, International Relations Board and a selected list of others contributing directly to the work of the Office. (Newsl 1/27/49)

**Move ALA HQ to DC?** The transfer of all Headquarters operations to Washington, as recommended by the ALA Activities Committee, was discussed at Midwinter. The Federal Relations Committee went on record recommending moving ALA Headquarters to Washington “thinking that it would facilitate Federal relations work.” (Newsl 1/27/49)

**Social Security.** The Truman administration was pushing a bill to expand Social Security coverage to 20 million who were not yet covered. This would benefit librarians many of whom were not already covered by federal or state retirement plans. (Newsl 3/10/49)

**Postal Rates.** New legislation to raise an additional \$25 million would have raised all rates and abolished the special library rate for books. (Newsl 3/10/49) This could have cost public libraries alone at least \$500,000 per year. ALA testified in favor of maintaining low rates for books sent to and from libraries. (Bul 1949, 167)

**States Begin Preparing to Receive Federal Library Funds.** Gradually the states were passing enabling legislation to allow state library commissions or other entities to administer any federal funds that might be forthcoming. North Dakota, for example, had just done so. (Newsl 3/10/49)

**Librarians as Professionals.** The Civil Service Commission announced an exam for librarian positions in the DC area at the Grade P-1 level (\$2,974 per year). Four years college and 30 hours of library science - or the equivalent - were required. (Newsl 5/16/49)

**Federal Aid to Education.** ALA supported the pending plan “as a means of getting aid for school libraries and of equalizing educational opportunities.” (Newsl 5/19/49)

**Books and Records for the Handicapped.** A bill was introduced to add \$1,125,000 to the Library of Congress budget for this purpose. (Newsl 5/19/49)

**Tax-free Typewriters for Libraries.** A bill was introduced to exempt libraries from paying the manufacturer's excise tax on typewriters. (Newsl 5/19/49)

**Cost of LC Cards.** Congress began requiring the Library of Congress to include cataloging costs in the price of the cards. Previously, the price included only the actual cost of printing and distribution plus a 10% profit to US Treasury. All other government publications were sold for just the cost of printing and distribution. Librarians argued that LC needed to do the cataloging anyway for its own purposes. This policy led to a decrease of 1 1/4 million cards sold in FY 1949 and added 20-25% to the price of the cards. Unless changed, this policy would have cost library budgets an additional \$200,000. (Newsl 5/23/49) The policy was rescinded by the Appropriations Committee on June 9. "This Committee is of the opinion that this activity, which has approximately 8,300 customers, should not be singled out for separate and distinct treatment." (Newsl 6/9/49)

**Washington Office Cut Back; Paul Howard Leaves.** The Library Development Fund would run out in 1949 and the ALA Budget Committee could recommended only a \$7,000 budget (of which \$2,000 would stay in Chicago to support the international relations operations). The previous year's budget was \$21,000. There were hopes for a little additional funding from *Newsletter* subscriptions and Division contributions. As a result of the diminished funding, the office on H Street would close by October 31. Paul Howard would leave by August and two secretarial staff would stay until October. According to the Budget Committee "Any greater support would require very unwise further reduction in the Chicago staff." The International Relations work would be picked up by the Chicago staff. (Newsl 7/15/49) Paul Howard accepted appointment as the Librarian of the US Department of the Interior effective August 1. In the interim the Washington Office would be under the direct supervision of the ALA Executive Secretary who would spend as much time as possible in Washington during August and September to work on the Library Demonstration Bill. (Newsl 7/28/49) At the meeting of the Executive Board in September, much concern was expressed about the status of the Washington Office. In order to have a full-time director by January, 1950, a plan was developed for a budget of \$5,000 from ALA operating budget; \$5,000 to be raised by a campaign; and \$5,000 in matching funds from ALA endowment. (Newsl 11/8/49)

**Mrs. Aubrey Lee Graham,** formerly librarian of New Rochelle, NY and Chattanooga, TN, agreed to head the Washington Office on a part-time basis beginning October 1. She would work out of her home in Falls Church, Virginia. (Newsl 8/22/49) She was not interested in the full-time position if established in January, but would continue to serve until that time. (Newsl 11/8/49) (Bul 1949, 261)

# 1950

**Washington Office Gets Strong Support at Mid-Winter.** “Miss Essae M. Culver, State Librarian of Louisiana, brought down the house by offering her shoes, whereupon President Milton Lord opined that he would rather have her give the price of a pair of her shoes.” At the Saturday session some \$145 in cash, checks and pledges was dropped into two hats that were held at the doors. (Newsl 2/7/50)

**Margie Sornson Malmberg**, of Big Island, Virginia, was appointed full-time director of the ALA Washington Office on February 1 for six months to cover the duration of the 81st Congress. She had her residence and office in the Hotel Congressional. (Bul 1950, 91)

**The Washington Office Restored.** On February 1, when it became clear that the campaign to raise funds would succeed, the Washington Office was restored to full-time status. The States were asked to contribute \$100 each. (Bul 1950, 89)

**Library Demonstration Bill Defeated by 3 Votes.** After five hours of debate in the House on March 9, the Library Demonstration Bill was defeated on a vote of 164 - 161. (Bul, 1950, 107) Among those speaking against was John F. Kennedy (D-MA) who said “the true function of the national government is to do what the people in the various states cannot do for themselves.” (Newsl 3/10/50) It was decided that the next time around the bill should be modified to strengthen the state extension role and permit each state to use funds to develop a pattern most useful to it - further protection from federal control. (Newsl 4/26/50)

**Social Security Legislation Passed.** Public employees not already under a federal, state or municipal retirement system could now be covered if the state would enter into an agreement with the Federal Government. (Newsl 8/18/50)

**USIS Libraries Abroad Given \$1.2 Million Increase.** (Newsl 9/29/50)

**White House Conference on Children and Youth** held December 3-7. Many librarians were in attendance. (Newsl 9/29/50)

**War Mobilization.** ALA liaison with the war mobilization activities of the Federal Government was increased under a grant from endowment capital. Alice Dunlap, editor of *ALA Bulletin*, went to Washington as associate director for this purpose, while retaining her editorial duties. The Washington Office got a larger suite in the Congressional Hotel. (Bul 1950, 444)

# 1951

**Library Services Bill.** On May 9, Sen. Lister Hill (D-AL) introduced the Library Service Bill S.1452) for himself, Sen. Aiken (R-VT) and Sen. Douglas (D-IL). It was a new bill that differed from the Library Demonstration Bill in several respects: it would give the states greater freedom of action; it would have a five-year time limit and would authorize \$7.5 million annually.. Because some states do not have annual sessions of the legislature, there would be a one-year carryover provision in the Federal grants. In addition to the basic \$40,000 grant, there would be additional matching funds based on the ratio of a state's rural population to the total rural population. The amount of the required match depended on the state's per capita income. So wealthier states would pay a higher match. (Newsl 5/9/51) Companion bills were introduced in the House on August 17. (Newsl 8/17/51) No action taken this year.

**Impact Aid.** A bill was introduced to provide \$100,000,000 to support facilities in areas suddenly overcrowded with defense and military institutions. Libraries were specifically added to the authorization bill which passed in August, but ALA could not get earmarked funds for libraries in the FY 1952 appropriation. (Newsl 8/17/51)

**Oil for Education.** A Senate bill declared all land from the low water mark to the three-mile limit to be federally owned. Sen. Lister Hill (D-AL) proposed an amendment that would allocate 37.5% of oil revenue from these lands to the individual states and the rest to the US Treasury for use in all the states for education (estimated value \$40 - 100 billion). ALA took no position on the basic ownership question, but supported the amendment. If the US owns it, the funds should go to education. (Newsl 9/21/51) The bill was defeated and the issue settled in favor of the states 4/2/52.

**Consumer Reports a subversive publication?** The ALA Committee on Intellectual Freedom found the current effort to ban *Consumer Union Reports* from libraries to be unwarranted. To remove the magazine would be a violation of the Library Bill of Rights. One local Better Business Bureau had called the publication "a very subtle way of discrediting the American way of doing business." (Bul 1951, 311)

**Malmberg resigned** September 1 as director of the Washington Office and **M. Alice Dunlap** was appointed to succeed her one-third time. (Bul 1951, 237)

# 1952

**Julia D. Bennett** became director of the ALA Washington Office on February 1, upon the

resignation of M. Alice Dunlap. (Bul 1952, 4)

**Veterans Bill.** ALA was concerned that benefits would not include funds for college textbooks. This could have caused a major drain on college library book budgets. (Newsl 1/4/52)

**Library Services Bill.** The 82nd Congress adjourned without voting on the Library bill. (Newsl 7/11/52)

**A Lesson in Effective Lobbying.** In a lengthy interview with James Healey for his book on Rep. John Fogarty (D-RI), Julia Bennett Armistead recounted that when she became director of the Washington Office, she immediately contacted the two committee chairs who were key to passing the Library Services Bill that had already been introduced. Sen. Lister Hill (D-AL), a safe supporter of libraries, urged Ms. Bennett:

*“to work on the members of the House since that was where the library program had its most difficult time. Consequently, I worked very hard on convincing Mr. Barden [chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor]. Mr. Barden was not unfavorable to libraries. Yet, he was opposed to the extension of federal aid to one more program. I worked diligently with Mr. Barden during 1952. Gradually, he began to change his mind. I think that two factors which influenced his change of mind were first that his wife was a library trustee, and second I was a Southerner who could and did speak his language. Eventually he changed and became a strong supporter of library legislation.”* (Healey, *John E. Fogarty: Political Leadership for Library Development*, Scarecrow 1974, 19)

**Building Materials Restricted.** Because of wartime needs, no building materials were available for library construction. (Bul 1952, 9) ALA pointed out that libraries were, in fact, a part of national defense. Just since the Korean emergency, 300,000 Americans had been rejected for military service because they could not pass the Selective Service educational tests. (Newsl 3/30/51) Later, libraries were told that they could apply for materials through the Library Services Section of USOE. (Newsl 9/15/52).

## 1953

### **Dwight D. Eisenhower Inaugurated 1/20/53**

**Library Services Bill** introduced again in same form as last session.

Senate cosponsors:

Lister Hill (D-AL)  
George Aiken (R-VT)  
Paul Douglas (D-IL)  
Frank Carlson (R-KS)  
Irving M. Ives (R-NY)

Mike Mansfield (D-MT)  
John Sherman Cooper (R-KY)  
William Langer (R-ND)  
Henry M. Jackson (D-WA)

House cosponsors:

Carl Elliott (D-AL)  
Wright Patman (D-TX)  
Harold C. Hagen (R-MN)  
Charles R. Howell (D-NJ)  
Thomas A. Jenkins (R-OH)  
Charles J. Kersten (R-WI)  
Chester E. Merrow (R-NH)

Carl D. Perkins (D-KY)  
Thor C. Tollefson (R-WA)  
Cleveland M. Bailey (D-WV)  
Tom Steed (D-OK)  
Ruth Thompson (R-MI)  
Elizabeth Kee (D-WV)

Progress was slow through Spring because of the debate over Taft-Hartley. (Newsl 4/21/53)  
Despite an excellent group of congressional sponsors, the fate of the Library Services Bill in the 83rd Congress was sealed by the following piece of legislation (LR 8/54):

**Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.** President Eisenhower got Congress to establish a Commission to study all Federal grant programs to states. (Newsl 4/21/53) This was of critical importance to ALA. All action on the Library Services Bill came to a stop pending the study. There began, in effect, a moratorium on all federal grants-in-aid that would last until 1955. (Healey, *op.cit.*, 17)

**Federal Security Agency Becomes the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.** (Newsl 4/21/53)

**Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-WI)** began looking into tax-exempt foundations. (Newsl 4/21/53)

**Gathings Committee Reports on Pornography in Books, Comic Books, etc.** The record of hearings conducted by the Gathings Committee was released on February 23. Rep. E.C. Gathings (D-AR) was chairman of a select committee appointed in the 82nd Congress "to conduct a study and investigation of current pornographic materials." (Newsl 1/23/53 and 3/6/53)

**Oil for Education Amendment Back Again.** Again ALA took no position as to sovereignty over the lands, but supported use of royalties for education. The amendment was defeated; all revenue would go to the general fund of the US Treasury. (Newsl 8/4/53)

**Postal Rates.** Again, the Postmaster General wanted to raise postage; would have quadrupled

the cost of mailing library books. (Newsl 5/13/53) ALA testified that the book rate had already gone up 300% in the last 11 years. (Newsl 8/4/53)

**Customs Simplification.** Books imported by libraries had been duty free; but if the value was over \$100 it was necessary to fill out complicated customs declarations or even hire brokers to handle the paperwork. This bill would remove those requirements regardless of the valuation. (Newsl 5/29/53) It passed in both houses and was sent to the President for signature. In a related matter the Association of Research Libraries received a favorable interpretation from the Bureau of Customs that educational microfilms were to be treated like books. (Newsl 8/4/53)

**LC cards.** Another attempt was made to cut the Library of Congress budget for the catalog card distribution service. (Newsl 5/13/53). Cuts were restored thanks to Sen. Karl Mundt (R-SD). (Newsl 8/4/53)

**Maps available.** Official 5' x 7' wall maps of the United States were made available to schools and libraries through Congressional offices as a result of a congressional concurrent resolution on June 4. (Newsl 8/4/53)

## 1954

**Funding for Washington Office.** The ALA Executive Secretary had this good news: "Contributions to the Library Development Fund supported the Office from 1945 to 1949. During 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, and 1953-54, the Office was maintained by a combination of General Funds and Capital. In 1952-53, it was supported entirely by General Funds. It is a pleasure to report to the membership that the Board has found this again possible for 1954-55." (Bul 1954, 589)

**Retirement Income Tax Exemption Bill.** ALA supported a bill to exempt from taxation up to \$1,200 in retirement income for those 65 and older who had actually earned at least \$600 in ten consecutive years. (Newsl 2/26/54) The final version, enacted during the summer, included a recommendation by the Senate Finance Committee to extend coverage to those persons under the age of 65 who retired under State and local public retirement programs. (Newsl 7/1/54 and 9/28/54)

**Depository Libraries Protest Postage Increase.** PL 286 required all Federal agencies to reimburse the Post Office for all mail charges. Accordingly, the Superintendent of Documents informed all depository libraries that they would have to start paying postage on what they got. (Newsl 2/26/54) Ditto for LC cards. (Newsl 3/24/54)

**Library of Congress Budget Cut Severely.** The House Appropriations Committee report said



that LC “is the instrument and the creature of the Congress. Its duties historically have been to meet the needs of the Members of Congress first . . . .The reductions are due to the Committee’s feeling that the Library has gone far beyond the functions for which it was originally created.” ALA responded that LC also serves as the national library. Since the Civil War it has built up special research collections not directly related to needs of Congress. US libraries look to LC for leadership in library methods, technical services and collections of materials. (Newsl 5/28/54) The Senate got part of the cuts restored, but salaries and the Card Division were hard hit. (Newsl 7/1/54)

**Library Services Bill.** The 83rd Congress adjourned without acting on the Library Services Bill. (Newsl 8/13/54)

**McCarran Amendment** to the Tax Bill, which would have denied tax exemption to organizations making contributions “to subversive organizations and individuals”, was stricken from the bill in the final day of Conference. (Newsl 7/23/54)

**Copyright Bill enacted.** This modification of US copyright law was necessary to implement the Universal Copyright Convention agreed to by 40 nations at Geneva in 1952. This “brings to a successful conclusion the long and arduous efforts on the part of many library, publishing and literary personalities to improve American copyright relations with the rest of the world.” (Newsl 9/28/54) Americans will now have international copyright protection for their works. (LR 8/54)

**Congressional Record Slimmed Down.** By resolution of the Joint Committee on Printing, bound sets of the Congressional Record would no longer include much of the appendix material that was included in the daily versions, nor would the index in the bound set make any reference to the missing material. (Newsl 12/10/54)

## 1955

**Library Services Bill.** Sen. Lister Hill (D-AL) introduced the Library Services Bill as one of the seven points of his legislative program to deal with “the most pressing and important problems affecting the health and education of the American people.”

Senate cosponsors:

Lister Hill (D-AL)  
George Aiken (R-VT)  
Paul Douglas (D-IL)  
Frank Carlson (R-KS)

Mike Mansfield (D-MT)  
Dennis Chavez (D-NM)  
William Langer (R-ND)  
Henry M. Jackson (D-WA)

Irving M. Ives (R-NY)  
Herbert H. Lehman (D-NY)  
Estes Kefauver (D-TN)  
J. William Fulbright (D-AR)  
James E. Murray (D-MT)

Matthew M. Neely (D-WV)  
James O. Eastland (D-MS)  
Olin D. Johnston (D-SC)  
Gordon Allot (R-CO)  
Clifford P. Case (R-NJ)

House cosponsors:

Carl Elliott (D-AL)  
Wright Patman (D-TX)  
Cleveland M. Bailey (D-WV)  
Thomas A. Jenkins (R-OH)  
Elizabeth Kee (D-WV)  
Carl Albert (D-OK)  
Thomas L. Ashley (D-OH)  
Martha W. Griffiths (D-MI)  
Robert H. Mollohan (D-WV)  
Clifton Young (R-NV)  
E.Y. Berry (R-SD)  
Hamer H. Budge (R-ID)  
Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)  
Lee Metcalf (D-MT)

Carl D. Perkins (D-KY)  
Thor C. Tollefson (R-WA)  
Tom Steed (D-OK)  
Ruth Thompson (R-MI)  
Chester E. Merrow (R-NH)  
Eugene J. McCarthy (D-MN)  
Frank Thompson, Jr. (D-NJ)  
Edith Green (D-OR)  
Frances P. Bolton (R-OH)  
Peter Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)  
Stuyvesant Wainwright (R-NY)  
M.G. Burnside (D-WV)  
Frank E. Smith (D-MS)

(Ltr from Julia Bennett Armistead)

The Library Services bill was not changed from the one introduced in the previous session, except that, for purposes of this bill only, the term "rural" was defined as the population living outside incorporated towns of 10,000 or more. The standard Census Bureau definition was 2,500. House Subcommittee hearings in May, conducted by Phillip Landrum (D-GA) went on for three days; 35 witnesses from many states and various walks of life spoke for the bill. The only witness against the bill was the administration representative, the Commissioner of Education, who said: ". . .we would not regard this as a priority measure." (News1 6/1/55) The bill was reported favorably by the subcommittee by a 3 - 2 vote and by the full Education and Labor Committee by a vote of 20 - 9 on July 26. But the 1st session adjourned without action. No problem; the same 84th Congress would resume in January, 1956. The Library Services Bill got increased support from the NEA, AAUW, the National Grange and other national groups. (News1 11/17/55) (News1 12/13/55)

**Intergovernmental Relations Commission.** The *NY Times* quoted from an unpublished report of one of the committees of the Intergovernmental Relations Commission: "Having decided that . . . public libraries are primarily a state and local responsibility . . . we have concluded that there is not a compelling national interest to justify Federal participation." (News1 3/2/55)

**Statistical Abstract for 1953** was made available by the Census Bureau for free distribution to libraries through the Washington Office. (Newsl 3/2/55)

**Congressional Record.** ALA succeeded in getting the index of bound volumes to include items omitted from the daily record. (Newsl 3/26/55)

**Books for the Blind** - A bill was introduced in the House to increase funding for the distribution of books and other special instructional materials for the Blind. (Newsl 7/20/55)

**Postal Classification Bill** - to allow additional materials to go through the mails at the book rate or the library book rate - passed the Senate in June. (Newsl 7/20/55) But the House took no action in this session. (Newsl 8/10/55)

**White House Conference on Education** held Nov 28 - Dec 1. There were only a few (7) librarians attending as participants. Several mentions of libraries were made in final reports. (Newsl 12/13/55).

## 1956

**Library Services Bill.** As the bill appeared closer to passage, many state associations were sending in additional contributions to the Washington Office. (Bul 1956, 140, 204, 268, 334)

**ALA Delegation Meets with HEW Secretary.** The Washington Office took a delegation of six library representatives to try to gain administration support for the Library Services bill. The Secretary was a no-show. They met with an Undersecretary instead. (Newsl 2/24/56).

**President's Committee on Education Beyond the High School** appointed in April. (Newsl 10/17/56).

**National Library of Medicine.** Senators Lister Hill and John F. Kennedy introduced a bill to create the National Library of Medicine, incorporating the collections of the Armed Forces Medical Library. (Newsl 5/4/56). It was signed into law by President Eisenhower on August 3. Because of strong pressure to move it to Chicago, pressure which threatened passage of the bill, it was decided to drop the words "in or near the District of Columbia" and leave its location in the hands of the Board of Regents. (Newsl 8/14/56).

**Library Services Bill Passed!** On April 18 the House Rules Committee gave the rule allowing the Library Services Bill to come to a vote. After passing the House on May 8 on a voice vote after 2 ½ hours of debate (Newsl 5/9/56), the bill went to Senate hearings on May 23. After the Chairman's opening statement, Senator George Aiken (R-VT) spoke

“splendidly for the bill which he stated he had co-sponsored for ten years.” Others who spoke were the President of ALA, a businessman trustee from Ohio, a rural Tennessee librarian, and a representative of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. Next day the full Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee reported the bill favorably without amendment to the Senate. (News 5/25/56). At 5:00 PM on June 6, 1956 the Senate passed the Library Services Bill by unanimous consent.

ALA Washington Office director Julia Bennett described these historic events in an editorial in the July-August issue of *ALA Bulletin*, 406:

*The House passage of the bill on May 8 climaxed a ten year effort for passage of this legislation. As I sat there during that 3 ½ hour period of debate on the Library Services Bill . . . I could not help but reflect on my predecessors who had sat in the gallery on other occasions when the bill was up - Paul Howard who saw the Senate pass the bill in 1948 . . . only to have the House take no action, and Margie Malmberg who saw the House defeat the bill in 1950 by only three votes. . . . Almost all of our 27 sponsors were on the floor during the whole period, ready to help . . . . It was glorious to see the bill go through under such excellent guidance. There was indeed much rejoicing in the Capitol corridors and in the ALA Washington Office following that favorable Voice Vote.*

*The Senate passage was so different. In the first place, there was only a chance that the bill might come up on June 6 . . . . I sat through the debate and vote on legislation pertaining to Great Lakes Bulk Cargo vessels, the Independent Offices appropriation, and a resolution to the American Red Cross in honor of its 75th anniversary. . . . It seemed most unlikely that our bill would see action that day as the hour hand on the Senate clock approached five. Then suddenly one of the Committee clerks . . . gave me a signal from the floor and I knew we were in! What a feeling! Here it comes at long last. Senator Lyndon Johnson (D-TX), the majority leader, moved “to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 2089, HR 2840.” The Chief Clerk read the bill by title and action came. Senator Lister Hill (D-AL), our chief sponsor, spoke briefly on the bill. . . . Senator Gordon Allott (R-CO), another sponsor, spoke in behalf of the bill’s passage. And then it was passed, quickly, under an unanimous consent agreement at 5 PM. Immediately after this action, the Senate adjourned. What a day it was. I shall never forget it.*

*I felt as though I should yell out “Hip, Hip, Hurray!” but somehow I was able to restrain myself. I am sure I would have created quite a scene, for there were many people in the gallery who did not realize what a momentous occasion it was. I felt they should all know and rejoice too, but that is the way with legislation.*

*No rest for the weary - now we must secure the funds to implement the legislation”.*

On June 19, 1956, as President Eisenhower signed the Library Services Act into law, he

remarked:

*"The Library Services bill, which I have today signed into law, represents an effort to stimulate the States and local communities to increase library services available to rural Americans. It shows promise of leading to a significant enrichment of the lives of millions of Americans, which, I am confident, will be continued by the States when this limited Federal program comes to an end."* (Newsl 6/29/56)

**LSA Appropriation.** The Conferees allowed LSA to begin operation on July 27 but on a reduced scale. Only \$2,050,000 was appropriated to be spent by the end of the calendar year. Only the basic \$40,000 for each state and \$140,000 administrative costs for federal administration were allowed. The administrative appropriation allowed for 4 regional conferences. Congressional friends warned that the fate of the full appropriation in future years would depend on how well this initial funding was used. State plans needed to be sent immediately to the Services to Libraries Section, DHEW (Newsl 7/27/56).

**Guam Inadvertently Omitted from LSA.** Because Guam had been omitted from the Act, its \$10,000 (same as Virgin Is., Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico) had to come from the \$2,050,000. (Newsl 8/14/56).

**Postal Classification Bill Dies as Congress Adjourns.** (Newsl 8/14/56).

**Other bills not passed:** Rep. Eugene McCarthy's (D-MN) attempt to amend the IRS Code to allow increased deductions for gifts to libraries; and the Foreign Agents Registration amendments that would have made almost all foreign publications "propaganda" and would have required librarians to register as foreign agents in order to get materials. (Newsl 8/14/56).

**LSA Regulations Published.** Three lawyers on HEW staff were assigned to work with the Library Services Section and with library consultants to establish the basic rules for administering LSA. (Newsl 10/17/56). The Regulations were published in the Federal Register on 12/6/56. (Newsl 1/10/57)

## 1957

**First Checks Go Out.** The first state plans approved under LSA were those of Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota. The first checks went out to the states on January 1. (Ltr fr Julia Bennett Armistead)

**Advisory Committee on LSA.** The Commissioner of Education appointed an Advisory Committee on LSA which met in Washington in January. Members of the Advisory Committee

were: Julia D. Bennett, David H. Clift, John T. Eastlick, Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, Paul Howard, Lowell A. Martin, Mrs. Merlin M. Moore, L. Quincy Mumford, Irving A. Verschoor, and Estellene P. Walker. 16 states and one territory had submitted state plans by January 15. (Bul 1957, 76)

**Library Services Section, USOE.** An increase of \$140,000 was added in order to administer LSA. John Lorenz, assistant state librarian of Michigan, was added to staff as assistant director in charge of the LSA program. Additional staff will be added. (Bul 1957, 17)

**President Requests Only \$3 million for LSA in FY 1958** instead of the authorized \$7.5 million. (Newsl 1/18/57). In a near "miracle," the House Appropriations committee added \$2 million to the President's request, bringing it to \$5 million. (Newsl 3/21/57) The full House then sustained the \$5 million, the only increase in the entire appropriations bill. (Bul 1957, 442). The *New York Times* 3/30/57 carried the headline: "Economy Spree Hits House Snag - \$2 Million Rise Voted Rural Libraries." An attempt to keep the number at the administration level "drew angry protests from rural legislators, many of whom had been in the forefront of the economy drive before it struck home." (Newsl 4/4/57) HEW Secretary Folsom testified against increase in Senate hearings. (Newsl 4/25/57) On June 12 the Senate voted to uphold the \$5 million. (Newsl 6/14/57) Eisenhower signed the HEW appropriation including \$5 million for LSA. (Newsl 7/19/57).

**Move HQ to DC?** At Midwinter the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Headquarters Location to move to Washington on or before January 1, 1959. (Bul 1957, 357) At the annual Conference in Kansas City, Council voted 82-34 to approve the move. 65 members of Council did not vote. But a petition to set aside this decision was made and accordingly a mail vote of the membership was held. (Bul 1957, 488) Membership voted 5749 - 2199 to keep HQ in Chicago. (Bul 1957, 740)

**ALA Was Invited to Work with President's Committee on Education Beyond the High School.** (Bul 1957, 72)

**Postal Classification Bill** (identical to the one in the last Congress) reintroduced by Sen. Olin Johnston (D-SC) (Newsl 1/18/57).

**Bill to Increase Deduction for Gifts to Libraries.** Rep. Eugene McCarthy (D-MN) introduced a bill requiring IRS to treat gifts to libraries the same as gifts to educational institutions. Deductible gifts to libraries had been limited to 20% of adjusted gross income, whereas gifts to educational institutions could go up to 30%. The problem was that IRS defined an educational institution as one that had a faculty and student body. (Newsl 3/6/57)

**Postal Rate Legislation** The pending bill would raise the book rate by 25%, but the list of items entitled to the book rate would be substantially increased (added: bound typewritten theses, sheet music, bound periodicals). (Newsl 6/14/57)

**Microfilming Presidential Papers.** A bill to organize and microfilm the papers of US Presidents in the Library of Congress passed in both houses. Positive prints were made available for purchase by public libraries. (Newsl 8/21/57)

**Depository Libraries.** A bill was introduced in the House by Wayne Hays (D-OH) to increase the number of Federal depository libraries based on present day needs. (Newsl 8/21/57)

**Germaine Krettek becomes Director of ALA Washington Office.** Ms. Krettek, librarian of the Council Bluffs, Iowa, Public Library, went to Washington in October to work with Julia Bennett who would be resigning on November 1. Ms. Bennett married John M. Armistead of Knoxville, TN (Newsl 10/31/57)

**Appointment with HEW Secretary.** A small ALA delegation met with Secretary Folsom. Outgoing ALAWO director Bennett and incoming director Krettek attended.

**Metropolitan Area Library Service.** City officials in Philadelphia raised the issue of federal help for metropolitan areas, many of which were facing crises of growth and reorganization (Bul 1957, 762) Rep. William Green (D-PA) introduced a resolution authorizing the Committee on Education and Labor to "study the problems of providing adequate public library services to our metropolitan areas." (Newsl 10/31/57)

**HEW Secretary Folsom** "has assumed an attitude of righteous resistance to Budget Bureau cuts in his Department's programs." (Newsl 12/9/57)

## 1958

**LSA Appropriation.** "... it was a bitter blow to discover that in spite of the tremendous accomplishments under the \$5 million appropriation for LSA during the first six months of the current fiscal year, the amount recommended by the President [for FY 1959] was again only \$3 million. (Newsl 1/14/58) The House restored the \$5 million. The Committee report said "These funds are being fully utilized, and the effective and much needed program envisioned by the basic legislation is now in being." (Newsl 3/27/58) The Senate Appropriations Committee voted \$6 million. (Newsl 6/19/58) Conferees upheld the \$6 million appropriation (Newsl 7/17/58) and it was signed by President on August 1. (Newsl 8/26/58)

**State and Local Support for Libraries.** USOE figures showed that in FY 1958 the total State-Federal-Local expenditures under LSA came to \$15,434,924. [Federal appropriation was \$5 million] (Bul 1958, 586) Hawaii used LSA to buy a new bookmobile "Holoholo Akamai", which means "traveling knowledge." (Bul 1958, 708)

**The Library Services Section of USOE** was upgraded to the Library Services Branch , an independent branch in the Office of Education. The staff had grown from 7 in 1956 to 24 in 1957 and was now “a strong, effective unit comparable to the best of our state libraries.” (Bul 1958, 24) John Lorenz took over as head of the Branch on 1/31/58 following the retirement of Ralph Dunbar.

**Postal Rates.** In congressional testimony, ALA expressed gratification that no increase was recommended for the library book rate and that this rate was extended to cover other library materials not presently covered. Opposition was voiced against the 25% increase in the book rate and also against the permit provision. Sen. Olin Johnston (D-SC) got the Post Office Department to drop a requirement that libraries furnish evidence of their non profit status. (Newsl 3/4/58) The President signed new postal rates, including a book rate increase from 8 cents to 9 cents per pound. (Newsl 6/19/58)

**Community Facilities.** Libraries were included among the public facilities for which loans would be available under the Housing Act. (Newsl 6/19/58) The bill was defeated in the House. (Newsl 8/26/58)

**National Defense Education Act Passed.** NDEA was a general education bill introduced originally by Rep. Carl Elliott (D-AL). Since ALA has consistently supported Federal aid to public education without Federal control, it supported this bill. It included funds for printed materials other than text books for science, math and modern foreign languages and minor remodeling of space for such materials. (Newsl 7/3/58). It also provided for library materials to support guidance programs and college loans for prospective school librarians (Newsl 11/13/58). The Washington Office warned, however, that NDEA could help school libraries, only IF they got written into the state plans which should specify books on science, mathematics and modern foreign languages. (Bul 1958, 802)

**National Library Week.** The first NLW was held March 16-22, 1958. *Publishers' Weekly* calls it “the biggest reading promotion ever started.” (Bul 1958, 111)

**Films for the Deaf.** A bill was passed to set up loan service of captioned films for the deaf in HEW (Newsl 8/26/58)

**Washington Office Moves to New Address.** Beginning August 27, the new location was The Coronet, 200 C St. SE. (Newsl 8/26/58)

**Science Books Donated to High Schools.** The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Science Foundation, and publishers provided collections of 200 science books for high school students. Another 4 sets were loaned to county public library systems for circulation in bookmobiles. (Newsl 11/13/58)

**NLM to be built on NIH campus.** \$6.95 million was appropriated for construction of the



National Library of Medicine on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. (Newsl 7/25/58)

**Librarian of Congress Authorized to Procure Foreign Books** for deposit in libraries and research centers in the US. The existing Agricultural Trade Development Act was amended to permit the use of foreign currencies received in payment for commodities provided by the US for the purchase, cataloging, indexing, etc. of foreign publications. (Bul 1966, 160)

## 1959

**LSA Appropriations.** The President requested \$5,150,000 for FY 1960 on the theory that the \$850,000 remaining unspent last year would carry over making this appropriation equivalent to the previous year's \$6 million. But this was not the case, since the states had 2 years to spend their allotment. No state had certified that it would not be using its 1959 funds. (Newsl 1/20/59)

The House voted \$6 million (Newsl 5/4/59) and the Senate voted the full \$7.5 million (Newsl 6/26/59) But the Conferees settled on the House number, while making allocations to the states based on the full \$7.5 million. (Newsl 8/3/59) The President signed the bill on August 14. (Newsl 8/17/59)

**NDEA.** ALA produced a brochure on how schools, colleges and state library agencies could participate in NDEA funding. (Newsl 1/20/59)

**Surplus Property.** In an effort to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act to permit donations of surplus property to "public libraries which are tax supported" (Newsl 2/20/59), ALA provided a memorandum to the House Ways and Means Committee explaining how public libraries are in fact educational institutions (LR 11/6/59). The bill died with the end of the 86th Congress. (LR 10/28/60)

**Additional Building for Library of Congress.** A bill was introduced to authorize preliminary plans for an additional LC building. A \$75,000 appropriation was sought. (Newsl (5/27/59)

**Libraries in Metropolitan Areas.** ALA worked to see that libraries were included in the Study on Problems of Metropolitan Areas. (Newsl 8/3/59) Sen. Lyndon Johnson (D-TX) offered a technical amendment that would specifically include public libraries as one of the public services to be studied. (LR 11/6/59)

**Salute to the Congress.** On June 26, ALA held a luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel as the "Librarians' Salute to the Congress." Over 900 people attended including 23 Senators and 118 Representatives. [The Program Booklet is in the files under "Congressional luncheon - 1st ALA"]

**Library Service to the Blind.** Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-MN) introduced a bill to establish a Presidential commission to study the needs of the blind, including an appraisal of “books for the blind in raised print and recorded form.” (Newsl 6/19/59)

**National Cultural Center.** A bill was introduced to call it the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Hall. (Newsl 6/19/59)

## 1960

**LSA Extension.** On the first day of the session identical bills were introduced in both houses to extend LSA for another 5 years. The House sponsor was Carl Elliott (D-AL); the Senate sponsor was John Sherman Cooper (R-KY). The only change was the elimination starting in FY 1962 of the carry-over provision of the funds. 1950 census figures were to be used in determining “rural areas.” This legislation had administration support for the first time since 1946 when the original bill was introduced. The bill sailed through the Senate without a dissenting vote, but got bottled up in the House Rules Committee. Under the “drastic procedure” of a suspension of the rules and after an intense debate, the House passed the bill by a vote of 190-29. Rep. Elliott received a special message from Senator John Kennedy supporting the bill. Vice President Nixon also sent a letter endorsing the bill. (Newsl 8/24/60) The President signed the bill on August 31 and “to the astonishment of some” LSA was extended until June 30, 1966. (LR 10/28/60) Rep. Graham Barden (D-NC) said during the debate, “Now I am sometimes known as a fairly conservative fellow; in other words, I am pretty tight with taxpayers’ money, and I am, except when I see the evidence of a reasonable amount of money spent for a good purpose and for a good cause for the good of our own people . . .” (Bul 1960, 820)

**Another Lesson in Effective Lobbying.** As a result of the passage of LSA, the State of Rhode Island established in 1958 an office of Public Library Services in Rural areas and appointed Elizabeth G. Myer as director. She immediately began writing her congressman, John E. Fogarty (D-RI), to keep him informed of the effects of federal aid in their state. On October 28, 1958, he accepted her third such invitation and agreed to spend a day on the bookmobile with her.

*“We went on our regular route for that day and made our regular stops. While we were stopped, I worked with patrons stamping books out; Jim discharged books; and Mr. Fogarty talked to patrons about library services. When it came time to stop for lunch, I pulled out the picnic basket I had packed. Congressman Fogarty said that he had planned to take us out to lunch. But I told him ‘No!’ for we did not have time. We ate on the bookmobile and talked shop right through lunch. We ate and then finished up our usual day. The Congressman seemed impressed.” (Healey, *op.cit.* 79)*

He was indeed impressed. Two years later, in the 1960 debate over extending LSA, when many

were questioning the need for another five years of federal aid and questioning the need for suspending the rules to get it, Congressman Fogarty argued on the floor of the House:

*"Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Utah and others have said here this afternoon, if we would only take the time to go out and spend the day on one of these bookmobiles, our minds would be made up, as mine and others have been in the past 2 or 3 weeks. I would not believe it unless I had seen it with my own eyes. Where no books are available to the people, in order to get books to read, young children and adults walk a mile to a crossroad or to a gas station."* (Healey, op.cit., 82)

**LSA Appropriations.** The President asked for \$7.3 million, but the House raised it to the full \$7.5 million on assurances from several Indiana Congressmen that their state (the only one not then using LSA) would join the program for FY 1961. (Newsl 5/12/60)

**Results:** In the first 3 years after LSA was enacted, local appropriations for public libraries in rural areas went up 45% and state appropriations went up 54% (Bul 1960, 18)

**Support for Libraries in Platforms of Both Parties.** ALA was represented before the platform committees of both political parties, and both platforms did include statements acknowledging the need for improvement and extension of American libraries. (Bul 1960, 644) Both presidential candidates favored extension of the Library Services Act. (Bul 1960, 737)

**Postal Legislation.** ALA succeeded in getting language in the law allowing the use of the library rate by cooperative processing centers and for unbound as well as bound periodicals. (LR 10/28/60)

**Censorship.** A bill was introduced to amend the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 to include even domestic publications in the definition of foreign political propaganda. (LR 10/28/60) In the 10/29/60 issue of *Saturday Review*, President-elect Kennedy was quoted as saying: "If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all - except the censor." (Bul 1961, 21)

**Depository Library** legislation died with the end of the 86th Congress (LR 10/28/60)

## 1961

**LSA Appropriations.** For the first time, in Eisenhower's final budget message, an administration requested the full \$7.5 million for LSA. (LR 7/5/61)

## John F. Kennedy Inaugurated 1/20/61

**LSA Appropriations.** The House agreed with the \$7.5 million request and included the following statement in its report:

*For the small amount of Federal funds involved this has been not only one of the most popular, but one of the most worthwhile programs of the Federal Government. Since this program was instituted, over 100 rural counties and an equal number of New England towns formerly without any public libraries are now receiving library service. More than 6,000,000 books and other informational materials have been added to the resources of the rural communities. This has not been done just with the Federal funds. This program is a fine demonstration of Federal leadership, and the local interest and contributions that can result from such leadership. Since this program started, State funds for the development of rural public library service have increased 75% and local appropriations for rural libraries have increased 50%.*

The Senate approved the appropriation bill on August 2. (LR 10/61)

**Washington Office gets an Assistant Director.** The Executive Board of ALA, recognizing the increased workload, authorized a new professional position effective January 1, 1961. The Washington Office also continued to get contributions from state and regional library associations - a total of \$4,475 since 1958. (Bul 1961, 221)

**Library Services Branch.** ALA urged an increase in the budget for needed additional staffing in the Library Services Branch, USOE. (LR 7/5/61) \$20,000 and three positions were added to Branch budget. (LR 10/61) At a conference on the first 5 years of LSA, Lowell Martin, who had chaired the Committee that produced the 1956 Public Library Standards, said that LSA had produced three results:

- 1) State Library Agencies had been strengthened;
- 2) Traditional patterns of service by means of bookmobiles and county libraries had been extended; and
- 3) There had been experimentation with new ways of improving rather than extending service. (Bul 1962, 21)

**Aid to Education.** Three bills sponsored by the administration, and supported by ALA, including NDEA improvements, were stalled in the Rules Committee for the rest of the session (LR 10/61)

**Indiana State Plan Approved on March 1** - making 100% participation of states and territories

in LSA. (Bul 1961, 406)

**Public Library Buildings.** Grants for public library construction appeared doomed in this session, but two bills passed that could provide long term low interest loans for library construction in distressed areas. (LR 7/5/61)

**Interstate Compacts.** Identical bills in both houses would approve interstate agreements “for the purpose of developing or operating library facilities and services.” Since no appropriations were involved, it did not appear to be controversial. (Bul 1961, 307) But strong opposition developed to any blanket approval of interstate compacts. There were indications, however, that specific compacts would be approved without difficulty. (LR 10/61)

**Surplus Property.** Current bill included “public library”, defined as “a library that serves free all residents of a community, district, State, or region, and receives its financial support in whole or in part from public funds.” (LR 7/5/61)

**NDEA.** ALA supported extension of the 1958 Act and proposed amendments designating funds for school and college libraries. Language was written for a separate title for libraries that would authorize \$30 million for materials, equipment and minor remodeling in public elementary and secondary schools; \$7.5 million for training school librarians; and \$10 million for college and university books and materials (LR 7/5/61), but NDEA was extended for two years with no changes. (Bul 1961, 866)

**Censorship.** A Senate bill to establish a Commission on Noxious and Obscene materials had strong support. “Seeing no hope of deterring passage of this bill in the Senate, ALA efforts, along with those of other organizations opposing the legislation, centered on composition of the Commission.” Sen Mundt (R-SD), chief sponsor of the bill, expressed the hope that ALA would have a member on the commission. (LR 7/5/61) No further action was taken this session (LR 10/61)

**Postal Rates.** After ALA and others testified, a bill that would have increased the library rate by 20 -65% was tabled. (LR 7/5/61) An amendment was added forbidding the Post Office from delivering any mail found by the Postmaster General to be communist propoganda. The whole bill was withdrawn for this session. (LR 10/61)

**ALA Legislation Committee** formed to replace the former Federal Relations Committee. This took place by action of Council at the 1961 annual conference in Cleveland. (Bul 1961, 926)

**Depository Libraries** legislation introduced again. Twice in the past the House has passed bills which did not get Senate approval. (LR 10/61)

**Books for the Blind.** The appropriations ceiling of \$400,000 for materials for the blind was lifted and wider distribution of books promoted by PL 87-294. (LR 10/61)

# 1962

**Amendments to Library Services Act.** The chief event of the second session of the 87th Congress was the introduction on May 21 of a bill to make major changes to the rural LSA. The population ceiling of 10,000 on communities eligible for matching grants would be lifted, the authorized amount for public libraries would go to \$20,000,000; and additional matching grants would be provided for elementary and secondary school libraries, for college and university libraries, and for Library training institutes. There were extensive hearings with substantial support, but the bill did not get beyond approval by the House subcommittee in this Congress (LR 10/17/62) The Commissioner of Education spoke of the desirability of extending the Library Services Act to urban areas. (Bul 1962, 500) There was sharp questioning of ALA witnesses centering chiefly on the possibility that rural public libraries would be overlooked by state agencies. (Bul 1962, 631) Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI) introduced a companion bill in the Senate on 9/21 but there was no further action this session. (Bul 1962, 989)

**LSA Appropriation.** The full \$7.5 million for FY 1963 passed without any opposition. (LR 10/17/62)

**LSA extended to American Samoa.** This Act did not authorize any additional funding. (LR 10/17/62)

**Depository Library Law revision finally enacted** after many years of effort. Current law has changed little since it was enacted in 1895. (Newsl 3/20/62) The new law, signed by President Kennedy on August 9, increased the number of depository libraries which may be designated by Members of the House of Representatives, set up a system of regional depository libraries, and brought into the system publications of government agencies other than GPO. This last provision was strongly opposed by the Public Printer and the Superintendent of Documents. (LR 10/17/62)

**Educational Television.** In the Educational Television Facilities Act, \$32 million was authorized over 5 years for matching grants for television transmission facilities in public institutions. According to a FCC memo, public libraries were included among the categories of qualified applicants. (Newsl 4/23/62)

**Surplus Property.** Legislation was enacted on September 29 making public libraries eligible for the Federal surplus property program. (LR 10/17/62)

**Children's Librarians approved for LC.** Congress approved funding for three positions to work with the Library's extensive collection of children's literature. (LR 10/17/62)

**Postal Rate.** New increases left the library book rate untouched. (LR 10/17/62)

**Censorship.** The bill to prevent the Post Office from delivering communist propaganda passed but was substantially limited in its application. Only mail from foreign countries was to be covered. Excluded would be all sealed correspondence, mailings to government agencies, public libraries, colleges, scientific organizations, and to people who chose to subscribe to the publication. (LR 10/17/62)

**Public Library Buildings.** The Public Works Program enacted on September 14 provided opportunities for matching grants for public library construction in areas of "economic stress." (LR 10/17/62)

**Library Services Branch** got more staff. \$50,000 and 3 new professional staff positions were added in HEW appropriations for 1963. (LR 10/17/62)

**All three major education bills**, including revisions to NDEA, died at the end of this Congress (LR 10/17/62)

## 1963

**Kennedy Mentions Libraries in Message to Congress.** For the first time in history an American President made specific mention of libraries in a message to Congress. In his special message on Education on January 29, President Kennedy said:

*"Education is the keystone in the arch of freedom and progress . . . For the individual, the doors to the schoolhouse, to the library, and to the college lead to the richest treasures of our open society." (Bul 1963, p. 216)*

*"The public library is . . . an important resource for continuing education. But 18 million people in this nation still have no access to any local public library service and over 110 million more have only inadequate service. . . .The public library building is usually one of the oldest governmental structures in use in any community. [Carnegie Funds stopped 40 years ago]."*

*"I recommend enactment of legislation to amend the Library Services Act by authorizing a 3-year program of grants for urban as well as rural libraries and for construction as well as operation." (Bul 1963, p. 309)*

**The President's Education Bill** would remove the 10,000 population ceiling and make public libraries in communities of all sizes eligible for federal funds. The authorization for services would rise from \$7.5 million to \$25 million, and for the first time \$20 million in matching grants would be made available for public library construction. Because of Church-state considerations

there would be no funds for school library construction. Training funds would be available for school, public and college librarians. (Bowker 1964, 111)

**Commissioner of Education Keppel** testified that “The public library is a basic educational resource. . . . Our national investment in good public library service is a direct and highly productive contribution to the intellectual life of our Nation” (News1 4/16/63)

**ALA Council unanimously endorsed President’s Education Bill.** (Bul 1963, p. 310)

**First Six Years of LSA.** 38 million rural residents had new or improved library services; 10 million books had been added to rural communities; 350 bookmobiles had been placed in operation. State and local appropriations skyrocketed. (Bul 1963, 393)

**Antisegregation Amendment Attached to Public Library Bill.** “Historically, antisegregation amendments have been attached to bills as a device to kill a proposal without actually voting against it, since there is little possibility of a bill so amended gaining approval of the House Rules Committee and reaching the floor for a vote.” (Bul 1963, 635) Because of a possible threat that all education legislation would be killed by this tactic, specific bills were introduced to guarantee that all educational programs would be non-discriminatory. This specific anti-segregation provision in LSCA was eventually voted down because it would kill chances of passage and because it was no longer necessary since all federal grants would be covered in the pending civil rights legislation and USOE had issued an administrative directive that federal funds would go only to those libraries which serve all members of the area without discrimination. (Bowker 1964, 112)

“In the nation’s capital as July approached, all previously high priority matters faded before the issue of civil rights. . . . the whole program appeared to be overshadowed by the looming battle on the segregation question.” (Bul 1963, 717)

Both houses took LSCA out of the comprehensive education bill and treated it as separate legislation. The House amended the bill to include the District of Columbia. In its first official action after the assassination of President Kennedy, the Senate passed the LSCA bill 89-7. (Bowker 1964, 111) LBJ personally intervened to get the Rules Committee to let the LSCA bill out for a vote. The overwhelming Senate vote also was a factor. (LR 1963) \$7.5 million was appropriated for the Library Services Act for FY 1964.

**Senate Debate on LSCA Interrupted by News of Assassination.** “This afternoon [November 22] in the Senate of the United States, with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) presiding, debate was well under way on S.2265, the Library Services and Construction Act, when the floor speech in support of the bill by Senator Winston Prouty (R-VT) was interrupted because of a ‘grave emergency.’ Senator Kennedy was quietly escorted from the Chamber.’ [the assassination of President John F. Kennedy] . . . For the first time in history a President of the United States lent the prestige and power of the presidential office to the support of legislation to benefit libraries.



In addition, through numerous pronouncements, President Kennedy gave increasing status to books and reading and to libraries as a major agency for the dissemination of education. . . . Unexpectedly, the Library Services and Construction Act has been caught in a great national tragedy, which may or may not affect its passage in this session.” (Bul 1963, 1014)

## **Lyndon B. Johnson sworn in on death of JFK**

**Higher Education Facilities Act.** Libraries were not specifically mentioned, but were eligible for grants. Funds were not allowed for books. (Bowker 1964, 113) In signing the Bill, President Johnson explained how it would help college and university libraries. He also referred to the public library bill which he expected to be passed by Congress “shortly.” (LR 1/64)

**Vocational Education.** Library work was not spelled out in the bill, but the scope of existing legislation may have been broadened enough to include funds for training of nonprofessional or technical library assistants. (Bowker 1964, 113)

**Medical-Dental Libraries.** A bill was passed which authorized matching grants that could be used for construction of libraries for medical, dental and other health personnel. (Bowker 1964, p. 113)

**Depository Libraries.** \$206,000 was appropriated for the Government Printing Office to implement the new Depository Library Act. This would permit the distribution to the newly designated libraries of the material printed by the GPO. Funding was denied for distribution of government publications printed elsewhere. (Bowker 1964, 114)

**Tax Deduction for Donations to Public Libraries.** The Revenue Act of 1963 extended the full 30% deduction for gifts to public libraries. (Bowker 1964, 114)

# 1964

**For the First Time in History,** libraries were mentioned in a State of the Union message. On January 8, President Lyndon Johnson presented his plan for a war on poverty and mentioned libraries three times as important elements of the plan. He said,

*“Let this session of Congress be known . . . as the session which helped build more homes, more schools, more libraries and more hospitals than any single session of Congress in our nation’s history.”* (Bul 1964, 77)

**LSCA Signed into Law.** After a hard-won victory in the House on January 21, the Senate voted nine days later to accept the House version. (LR 6/23/64) Twelve days later, librarians were

jetting into Washington to accept LBJ's invitation to witness the signing ceremony in the White House on February 11. (LR 6/23/64) As he signed the bill, the President said,

*"There are few Acts of Congress which I sign with more pleasure, and certainly none with more hope, than this new Library Services and Construction Act.*

*A 'true university,' observed Carlyle, 'is a collection of books.' This wise Englishman never wrote a truer statement. Anything that we can do to enlarge the number and quality of libraries is, I think, an act of national achievement.*

*Good public libraries must be placed within the reach of all of our people."* (Bowker 1965, 154)

Main features of LSCA compared to the original LSA of 1956:

- 1) Beginning in Fiscal Year 1965 coverage was extended to all areas of the country regardless of size and was no longer limited to rural areas.
- 2) Title II was added for construction.
- 3) Authorization for Library Services was raised from \$7,500,000 to \$25,000,000 for FY 1964 and to whatever amount Congress decided for FY 1965 and FY 1966.
- 4) Authorization for the new Construction title was \$20,000,000 for FY 1964 and whatever amount Congress decided for subsequent two years. The administration was seeking \$30,000,000 for FY 1965.
- 5) The District of Columbia was brought within the coverage of the Act. (Bul 1964, 181)

**Civil Rights Act of 1964.** This law provided among other things that public facilities like libraries must provide equal access. (LR 6/23/64)

**NDEA amendment passes.** The 88th Congress earned its title as the "Education Congress" by passing the long-deliberated legislation to amend and extend for three years the National Defense Education Act, including institutes for school library personnel. (LR 12/4/64) NDEA Title III regulations were written to include the purchase of professional reference materials for teachers in the fields of math, science and modern languages. (Bul 1964, 23)

**Juvenile Delinquency.** Libraries with young adult programs aimed at combating juvenile delinquency could be eligible for grants under PL 88-368 enacted July 9. (LR 12/4/64)

**Office of Economic Opportunity Established.** Pursuant to the Equal Opportunity Act signed into law on August 20, R. Sargent Shriver was sworn in on October 16 to head the new OEO.

(LR 12/4/64) The Community Action Program (CAP) legislation specifically suggested special library services in these areas. (LR 6/23/64) The new Job Corps and Work-Training Program for unemployed youth offered opportunities for libraries to extend service to young people. (Bul 1965, 45)

**LSCA Appropriations.** \$25 million was appropriated for public library services and \$30 million for public library construction (Title II) on September 3. (LR 12/4/64) Lowell Martin noted, however, that although the \$25 million for services was triple the amount previously authorized, the number of people covered by the law had increased even more. The previous authorization amounted to 18 cents per capita for rural residents; the new authorization amounted to 13 cents per capita for the entire population. (Bul 1964, 689)

**Higher Education Facilities Act.** \$463 million was appropriated. Construction of college and university libraries now became possible when included in an approved state plan. (Bul 1964, 762)

**Postal Obscenity.** The bill to protect postal patrons from “morally offensive” mail died with this Congress. (LR 12/4/64)

**US Historical Documents.** Congress authorized \$500,000 annually for five years for grants to support the collection, reproduction and publication of documentary source material significant to US history. (Bowker 1965, 157)

**Water Resources Research Act** was enacted to promote research in this area and to support research centers at land grant institutions. Libraries were not mentioned in the legislation, but they should be eligible to buy materials to support water research centers. (Bowker 1965, 158)

**Depository Libraries.** Congress appropriated \$57,000 this year to begin on an experimental basis a limited distribution of government documents published outside the GPO. (Bowker, 1965, 158)

**IRS Changes Benefit Librarians and Libraries.** The Revenue Act of 1964 included two provisions of special interest: 1) gifts to public libraries were now included among those given a 30 per cent deduction allowance; 2) increased child care deductions were allowed for working parents. (Bowker 1965, 159)

**Copyright Revision.** Bills were introduced in both houses, but no action was expected during this Congress. (Bowker 1965, 159)

**Appalachian Regional Development Act.** This \$1 billion program passed the Senate but failed to get House approval before adjournment. (LR 12/4/64)

# 1965

**President Johnson** delivered a special message on Education on January 12 in which emphasis was given to library needs at all levels of learning in terms of materials, facilities, training, and research in library science. The Congress then proceeded to enact two major education bills of great significance to school and college libraries.

**The Elementary and Secondary Education Act** was introduced in January and signed into law on April 11 at the one-room Texas schoolhouse where Lyndon Johnson first attended school. (Bul 1965, 460) Title II, "School Library Resources and Instructional Materials," authorized \$100 million for school library materials the first year, and such sums as Congress may authorize in each of the next four years. At the signing ceremony, the President said:

*"Thomas Carlyle once said, 'All that mankind has done, thought, gained, or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books.'*

*Yet our school libraries are limping along. Almost 70 per cent of the public elementary schools have no libraries. Eighty-four per cent lack librarians to teach children the value of learning through good books.'"* (Bul 1965, 183)

**The Higher Education Act** of 1965. Of the seven titles in this major piece of legislation, the most significant for college and university libraries was Title II which had three parts:

Part A, "College Library Resources," authorized \$50 million in FY 1966 for grants to institutions of higher education for books, periodicals, and other library materials. The basic institutional grant was \$5,000.

Part B, "Library Training and Research" authorized \$15 million in grants to institutions for the training of persons engaged in or about to engage in the practice of librarianship in public, school, academic or special libraries; and for research on improving libraries and librarian training.

Part C, "Strengthening College and Research Library Resources," authorized \$5 million for acquisitions and cooperative cataloging by the Library of Congress. The Act authorized similar amounts in the second year and such sums as Congress saw fit to appropriate in the final three years. (LR 6/30/65)

**Higher Education Facilities.** These provisions were incorporated as Title VII of HEA, which doubled the authorization for construction grants and deleted restrictions on categories of construction. (LR 11/28/65)

**Medical Libraries** were strengthened by passage of the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965 authorizing \$105 million over 5 years. (LR 11/28/65) Grants would be available for up to 75% of the cost of renovating or constructing medical libraries; training medical librarians; and establishing branches of the National Library of Medicine. (Bowker 1966, 147)

**LSCA Funding.** Although USOE and HEW had requested, and ALA had lobbied for, an increase of \$20 million for FY 1966, Congress sustained the \$55 million figure requested by the President. (LR 6/30/65)

**LSCA state plans.** By March of this year 54 of 55 eligible states and territories had submitted state plans, and all but two had been approved for funding. (Bul 1965, 352)

**Public Library Construction.** The first public library construction project under LSCA was completed this year. A small building in Wheatland, Wyoming, constructed in 1917, now has 5,000 square feet of additional space under a Title II LSCA grant. (Bul 1965, 611) Public Libraries may also be able to benefit from two other new programs enacted this year: the Housing and Urban Development Act, Title VII, Community Facilities; and the Public Works and Economic Development Act. (Bowker 1966, 148)

**Third Building for Library of Congress.** ALA testified before a Senate Committee in support of a proposal to build a James Madison Memorial Building to be constructed on a 2 block site directly across the street from the present Main Library Building. (LR 6/30/65; Bul 1965, 613) The Senate Committee on Public Works waited until after the House of Representatives took action, since the building was to be on the House side of the Capitol. (Bul 1965, 701) In September the Senate accepted the House version and the President signed the bill on October 19. An appropriation of \$500,000 for preliminary planning was passed the next day. (Bul 1965, 991)

**Appalachian Regional Development Act,** signed on March 9, authorized \$90 million to supplement aid to economically depressed areas in 11 states. Up to 80% federal support would be made available under existing programs including LSCA, NDEA and others. (LR 6/30/65)

**Noxious and Obscene Matters.** Congress took no action on a proposal to create a Commission. ALA opposed such legislation pending careful study of research undertaken "under unimpeachable auspices." (LR 11/28/65)

**Copyright Revision Proposed.** The term of copyright would be extended to the life of the author plus fifty years - to bring the US into line with the copyright laws of most other countries. "Fair Use" would be specifically recognized, but left undefined. (LR 6/30/65)

**Arts and Humanities Endowments.** ALA supported legislation to establish a National foundation on the Arts and Humanities, but was not able to get specific language included for libraries. (LR 6/30/65)

**Florence Agreement.** The President urged Congress to pass implementing legislation to eliminate tariffs on educational, scientific, and cultural materials published in foreign countries according to an international agreement made in Florence in 1950 and ratified by the US Senate in 1960. (LR 6/30/65)

**The Older Americans Act,** passed by both houses, established an Administration on Aging within HEW. (LR 6/30/65)

**Surplus Property.** ALA supports continuation of the donable surplus property program, "which has benefitted public libraries since the enactment of the law." (LR 6/30/65) Through October, 1965, 51 transfers of real property had been made to public libraries at a total acquisition cost of \$3.1 million. (Bul 1966, 146)

## 1966

**A Year of Major Library Legislation.** By mid-1966 legislation passed or pending in the 89th Congress would authorize over \$1 billion solely for libraries over the next five years! While actual appropriations would not always be up to the authorized amounts, this demonstrated "gratifying confirmation of the increasing recognition of the contribution of library service to national progress and educational excellence." (LR 7/6/66) ALA representatives were prominent among witnesses supporting both basic legislation and appropriations.

**LSCA extended for five years and greatly expanded.** The vote in the House was 336 - 2. (Bowker, 1967, 150) In addition to increased authorizations for Titles I and II, two new titles were added: Title III to promote interlibrary cooperation through the establishment and operation of systems or networks of libraries; and title IV for specialized State library services to institutions and to the physically handicapped. (LR 7/6/66) For FY 1967 Titles I and II were funded at their full authorized amounts of \$35 million and \$40 million respectively. Title III (authorized at \$5 million) received \$375,000, and Title IV (also authorized at \$5 million) received \$625,000. (LR 1/3/67)

**ESEA extended for two years** with a new Title VI, education of handicapped children. Title II, Library Resources, was funded for \$105 million in FY 1967. (LR 1/3/67)

**Higher Education Facilities** legislation was extended for three years and funded at \$453 million for FY 1967. (LR 1/3/67) HEA Title III, Developing Institutions, was extended for two years and funded in FY 1967 at \$30 million. (LR 1/3/67)

**NDEA Title XI** received appropriations of \$30 million for FY 1967. (LR 1/3/67) Under this program 26 institutes for about 1,000 school librarians were held around the country in the

summer of 1965. (Bul 1966, 163)

**Other FY 1967 Appropriations.** \$13.8 million for medical libraries; and \$1 million for Arts/Humanities educational activities. (LR 1/3/67)

**Copyright Revision.** An amended bill was reported by House Judiciary Committee after 51 executive sessions. But no further action was taken in this Congress. (LR 1/3/67)

**Florence and Beirut Agreements** were implemented. The Florence Agreement removing tariffs on imported books, scientific instruments, etc. and the Beirut Agreement removing import duties on audiovisual materials used for educational purposes were passed and signed by the President in October, 1966 (LR 1/3/67)

**National Library Commission.** Following up on his promise when he signed the expanded LSCA on July 19, LBJ appointed a 14 member Commission headed by Douglas Knight, President of Duke University, to "provide a national perspective on the problems that confront our nation's libraries." (LR 1/3/67)

**Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act** passed in the closing days of the session and provided some funding opportunities for libraries. The purpose of the program was to assist cities in revitalizing slums and blighted areas, and to encourage planned metropolitan development and housing programs. (Bowker 1967, 152)

Title I: Model Cities Programs - financial and technical aid to develop comprehensive model cities programs. In combination with other Federal grants (e.g., LSCA Title II) up to 80% of costs could be federally funded. \$11 million was appropriated for FY 1967.

Title II: Planned Metropolitan Development - grants to State and local bodies for projects, including libraries. No funds were appropriated for FY 1967

Title III: Urban Renewal. No funds were appropriated for FY 1967. (LR 1/3/67)

**LC Books-for-the-Blind** program was expanded to include the Physically Handicapped. (LR 7/6/66)

**First Library Project Approved Under Appalachian Regional Development Act.** A new building in Clanton, Alabama will serve as the Chilton County Library and HQ of the regional library serving Antauga, Bibb and Chilton counties. Funding sources were: \$46,000 local; \$150,000 LSCA; and \$32,000 Appalachian aid. (Bul 1966, 146)

# 1967

**In the words of the ALA Washington Office Legislative Report, 1967** “was not a business-as-usual year. Each money measure provoked the conservatives more and brought forth increasing support for retrenchment in the proliferation of federal programs and rescission in appropriations.” (LR 1/5/68)

**Appropriations** for library-related programs in ESEA, NDEA, HEA, Medical Library Assistance, and Arts/Humanities remained the same as or slightly less than the previous year. LSCA Title I remained the same, Title II was cut from \$40 million to \$27 million, and Titles III and IV received more than the preliminary planning amount of the previous year, but only half of the authorized amount for FY 1968. Library of Congress appropriations jumped from \$30 million to \$37 million, including a doubling of the budget for automation. (LR 1/5/68)

**ESEA extended for two years.** Authorizations for Title II programs for school library books, etc. were increased to \$163 million in 1969 and \$200 million in 1970. Final action came with Senate adoption by a 63 - 3 vote. (Bowker 1968, 182)

**Model Cities.** The first year of the Model Cities program was funded at the level of \$312 million. (LR 1/5/68)

**Obscenity Commission.** After years of consideration, and opposition by ALA, Congress passed a bill authorizing the President to appoint an 18 member Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. The purpose of the Commission was to conduct a thorough study of the effect of obscenity and pornography upon the public and its relationship to antisocial behavior. In addition to the study, the Commission was required:

*“with the aid of leading constitutional law authorities, to analyze the laws pertaining to the control of obscenity and pornography; and to evaluate and recommend definitions of obscenity and pornography;*

*to ascertain the methods employed in the distribution of obscene and pornographic materials and to explore the nature and volume of traffic in such materials;*

*to recommend such legislative, administrative, or other advisable and appropriate action as the Commission deems necessary to regulate effectively the flow of such traffic, without in any way interfering with constitutional rights”.* (LR 1/5/68)

**Copyright Revision.** ALA was alarmed over recent changes in proposed legislation that would deny “fair use” whenever copying may displace “what might have been a sale, no matter how minor the amount of money involved.” ALA also wanted to include librarians among those who



statutorily would have the benefit of the doubt in cases of “innocent infringement,” and opposed extending the term of copyright from the present 28 years, once renewable, to the proposed life of the author plus 50 years. (LR 6/20/67) Complications arising from uncertainty about new technologies caused the Senate to propose the establishment in the Library of Congress of a National Commission on New Technological Usages of Copyrighted Works (CONTU). Passage of the bill appeared unlikely this session. ALA expressed opposition to such a commission “until all of the problems which must be referred to it for study are isolated and identified. In the Association’s view, such identification cannot occur until the Congress takes action on the copyright legislation now pending before it.” (LR 1/5/68)

**Postal Rates.** ALA opposed a proposal to double the 4th class library book rate from 4 cents to 8 cents for the first pound. The Post Office calculated additional revenue of almost \$2 million from this increase alone. (LR 6/20/67) A 5 cent rate was settled upon in the bill as enacted. (LR 1/17/69) However, a rider was attached which, in the words of the Senate Committee report, would give “to each mail recipient the means to prevent the repeated mailing to him of advertisements that offer for sale matter which in the sole discretion of the recipient is erotically arousing or sexually provocative.” ALA joined the Justice Department, the Post Office Department, the ACLU and other groups in raising a concern about possible infringement of free speech. (Bul 1968, 29)

**Public Broadcasting.** On November 9, President Johnson signed the Public Broadcasting Act which extended the Educational Television Facilities Act for three years and established a new non-profit Corporation for Public Broadcasting to improve the quality of educational and cultural programs and make them available to local stations. (LR 1/5/68)

LSCA was amended to provide 100% federal funding for Titles III and IV instead of the previously required 50-50 match.

**Move ALA HQ to DC?** Once again the ALA Council voted to move the headquarters to Washington. Once again a mail vote of the membership was conducted. (Bul 1967, 796) Once again the move was defeated by a large margin, 9,824 to 6,955 (Bul 1967, 1148)

**ALAWO Director praised** on the Senate floor by Senator Wayne Morse (D-OR). During hearings on ESEA on August 15, the Chairman of the Education Subcommittee, said, “. . .many of us on this committee have probably said in floor debate and elsewhere that in our judgment we wouldn’t have passed the various pieces of legislation . . .that have resulted in aid to school libraries in this country, had it not been for the work of the American Library Association.” Later he added, “. . .I want to say that in my opening statement when I was speaking about the contributions that the American Library Association has made to this committee, the legislative battles we have had in recent years and getting into the legislation the need for the support for the libraries, that we owe you, Miss Krettek, a vote of thanks.” (Bul 1967, 1027)

**The year ended with protracted wrangling** over spending cuts. For months after the end of the

fiscal year there was no agreement on a continuing resolution. Finally on December 18, 1967, the President signed a resolution requiring that all civilian agencies of the Executive Branch reduce spending by 2% of the amount appropriated for FY 1968 for personnel compensation and 10% for all other controllable items. (LR 1/5/68)

## 1968

**Bare Bones Budget for FY 1969.** The budgetary requirements of the Vietnam war overrode the nation's educational needs. (Bul 1968, 243) The lean administration budget request together with an austerity minded Congress suggested a dismal outlook for Federal assistance for libraries this year. For example, although LSCA was authorized at \$140 million, the President requested less than \$50 million. The Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of 1968 called for a 10 per cent surtax and a \$6 billion reduction in Federal spending. (LR 6/18/68)

**Higher Education.** The Higher Education Act was extended for three years. This was especially significant because it continued the three-part Title II program to fund college library resources, training and research in librarianship, and cooperative cataloging by the Library of Congress. Funding for FY 1969 under this title was almost \$42 million with much higher amounts authorized in the next two years. Also extended were NDEA (in time to mark the 10th anniversary of this major beginning of federal aid to education at all levels), the Higher Education Facilities Act and other higher education programs. (LR 1/17/69)(Bowker 1969, 84)

**Vocational Education Act.** Public Law 90-576 extended the vocational education programs for four years at greatly increased authorizations totaling \$3.1 billion. Although a specific library component to this program, advocated by ALA, was not included, it should be assumed that the term "ancillary services" would cover library services. (Bowker 1969, 86)

**Forward Funding.** Included in amendments to the Vocational Education Act was an important provision that programs administered by USOE could have funds appropriated the year before they have to be obligated. This was to alleviate difficulties caused when appropriations bills are enacted long after the beginning of the fiscal year they are to cover. This would apply to the major programs affecting libraries such as LSCA, ESEA and HEA. (LR 1/17/69)

**ESEA results.** 90% of US schoolchildren were aided by materials purchased during the first year of Title II funding - the 1965-1966 school year. (Bul 1968, 134)

**USOE programs exempted from mandatory cuts.** In a sign of the importance of concerns about education, all programs administered by the US Office of Education were exempted from the cuts required by the Revenue and Expenditure Act. (LR 1/17/69)

**Historical Publications.** First authorized in 1964, the National Historical Publications Act was extended for five years with an annual authorization of \$500,000 to assist the collection and publication of documentary sources significant to US History. (Bowker 1969, 86)

**Arts/Humanities Endowments** authorized for another two years. (LR 1/17/69)

**Copyright.** All copyrights due to expire in 1968 were extended through 1969. This stopgap measure was needed when it became clear that the general revision of copyright law would not be completed this year. Senate Subcommittee Chairman John L. McClellan (D-AR) stated:

*"I believe that considerable progress has been made in resolving certain issues, most notably the copyright implications of information storage and retrieval systems. However, new issues have also arisen. Earlier this year the American Library Association suggested certain important and highly controversial amendments relating to the photocopying of copyrighted works."* (LR 1/17/69)

Copyright is important to librarians because they want to preserve the integrity of their collections, they don't want to be held responsible for infringements over which they have no control, they want to preserve "in-library" photocopying as an essential service, and they want to be able to take advantage, on reasonable terms, of technological advances in information storage and retrieval. (Bul 1968, 358)

**White House Conference on Aging.** Congress voted to ask the President to convene in 1971 a conference to make recommendations for further action and research in aging and related fields. ALA, which had been a participant in the 1961 WH Conference on Aging, strongly endorsed the proposal and pledged to engage librarians in all types of libraries in supporting it. (LR 1/17/69)

**National Advisory Commission on Libraries'** 63 page report was presented to the President on October 15, the day after Congress adjourned. The report urged:

- 1) the establishment of a National Commission on Libraries and Information Science as a continuing Federal planning agency;
- 2) Strengthening the role of the Library of Congress as the National Library;
- 3) the establishment of a Federal Institute of Library and Information Science as a research center;
- 4) Recognition of the critical role of USOE in meeting needs for library service; and
- 5) Strengthening State library agencies. (LR 1/17/69)

**James Madison Building of the Library of Congress.** ALA supported the request for \$2.8 million for final plans and specifications for the new third building. (Bul 1968, 244)

**LSCA Results to be Evaluated.** While USOE has contracted for an independent study of the effect of federal funds on the improvement and expansion of public library service, it also announced that in the last 12 years well over \$500 million had been expended under LSCA Title I. \$166 million were federal funds. (Bul 1968, 955)

## 1969

### **Richard M. Nixon Inaugurated 1/20/69**

**Washington Office Vigilance.** The June Legislative Report says “If the ALA Washington Office were to be given a mascot, we’d choose a combination watchdog and bird dog cuz the name of the game is vigilance.” (LR 6/18/69)

**On April 15, President Nixon proposed “shocking budget cutbacks”** which would “reduce or entirely eliminate library and education program funds.”(LR 6/18/69) This led ALA to become a founding member of the Emergency Committee for Full Funding of Education Programs, headed by former HEW Secretary Arthur Flemming; and of the National Citizens’ Committee to Save Education and Library Funds, chaired by Dr. Detlev Bronk, past president of the National Academy of Sciences. (LR 6/18/69)

**Trustees March in Washington to Protest Cuts in Library Funding.** In an effort organized by the American Library Trustee Association, more than 150 leaders from 33 states and DC convened on July 9, the day of the scheduled markup of the HEW budget, to protest administration cuts in library funding. The delegations were welcomed by Virginia Young, a past president of ALTA and leader of SELF, Save Education and Library Funds. Germaine Krettek, director of the ALA Washington Office, told the group that many members of Congress were not aware of the depth of the proposed cuts. She told them that librarians and interested citizens “have a duty to continually inform. Something can happen from this effort.” The delegation was warmly received by Rep. Carl Perkins (D-KY) chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee and by Sen. Yarborough (D-TX), chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. (Bul 1969, 907)

**Library Leaders Meet with President.** Following up on the American Library Trustee Association’s July march, ALTA President Dorothy McAllister arranged a visit with President Nixon through her congressman, Gerald Ford (R-MI). Former ALTA President Virginia Young served as spokesperson for a group that included, in addition to Rep. Ford and Ms. McAllister,

ALA President William Dix; Washington Office director Germaine Krettek; Alex Allain, Jeanerette, LA; Judge Story Birdseye, Seattle, WA; Mrs. Ruth Caldwell, Oakland, CA; Raymond Brown, Ohio State Library Board; Mrs. Evelyn Younger, Los Angeles, CA; Charles Reid, Paramus, NJ; John S. Robling, SELF, Mrs. Carl Steiger, Oshkosh, WI; Mrs. Donna Thomas, Deer Park, TX; Mrs. Alice Wallace, Fitchburg, MA; Mrs. Irene Waller, Katonah, NY; and Mrs. Margaret Warden, Great Falls, MT. Seated in front of the fireplace in the Oval Office, the President turned to Virginia Young and said, "Mrs. Young, I think you might be interested to know that the Shah of Iran was sitting in the chair where you are less than an hour ago." The meeting, scheduled for 15 minutes, lasted 45 minutes. (Ltr. From V. Young; Krettek Christmas Letter)

**Graduate Fellowships in Library Science** available. 592 graduate fellowships for the 1969-70 academic year were available in 56 colleges and universities under grants from ESEA. This made a total of 1,941 fellowships funded since the program began four years ago. (Bul 1969, 576)

**James Madison Building.** ALA supported the request for \$18 million to begin work on the new building of the Library of Congress. (LR 6/18/69)

**NCLIS.** Both houses approved bills to establish a National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The House version would establish NCLIS as an independent agency; the Senate version would place it in HEW. (LR 6/18/69) The Conference accepted the House version and an annual budget authorization of \$750,000, but final action was deferred until next session. (LR 1/15/70)

**Copyright Revision.** The Senate still had not acted on the House bill passed in April, 1967. But an entirely new section was added which was totally unacceptable to the Library community. It stated that before a library can make a copy of a copyrighted work for a user of the library, such user must establish that an "unused copy cannot be obtained at a normal price from commonly known trade sources." Another stopgap measure was enacted to extend expiring copyrights for one year. (LR 1/15/70)

**Older Americans Act** was extended for three years; Economic Opportunity Act and Appalachian Regional Development Act were extended for two years. (LR 1/15/70)

**Housing and Urban Development Act** of 1969, signed December 24, extended Model Cities programs and provided other implications for library programs in urban renewal areas. (LR 1/15/70)

**Tax Reform.** The Tax Reform Act of 1969 was the most comprehensive revision of the income tax since 1913. Earlier versions of this bill would have been very harmful to ALA by putting it in the category of Private Foundation which would have prohibited all legislative activities and made it subject to a tax on investment income. Fortunately, the House considered ALA's

position and specified that any organization that derives more than one-third of its support from any combination of gifts, grants, contributions, or membership fees is not to be considered a private foundation. (LR 1/15/70)

**Funding for Library Programs in USOE** in 1970 was still in limbo, since appropriations for the Fiscal Year that began July 1969 had not been passed by the end of the calendar year. A coalition of education and library supporters in the House overruled the “usually untouchable” Appropriations Committee recommendations and added \$1 billion over the President’s recommendations for education and library programs. (Bul 1969, 1069) On October 28, a majority of Congressmen rallied behind Rep. Jeffery Cohelan (D-CA) to amend the continuing resolution to allow spending for education at the House-passed level. This would release an additional \$649 million (Bul 1969, 1536) But a White House veto appeared likely. (LR 1/15/70)

## 1970

**Nixon Vetoes Funding for Education and Libraries.** The HEW appropriation for FY 1970 (which began 7 months ago) was vetoed as “inflationary.” But the President did sign a substitute bill on March 5 which provided \$42.5 million for ESEA Title II (compared to the administration’s original zero funding request); \$43.3 million for LSCA (more than twice the original request). HEA and Medical Libraries funding ended up a little lower than the President’s original budget request. (LR 6/24/70)

**The Administration budget for FY 1971**, submitted February 2, 1970, would have cut library programs about \$2.5 million below the devastating budget request of last April. (AmLib 1970, 250)

**ESEA extended for 3 years;** The President reversed himself and sought an increase in funding. It took a year to accomplish, after the Nixon administration had assigned “low priority” to ESEA and tried to consolidate it with NDEA programs. But on February 19, Congress extended it for three years and maintained Title II as a separate program. Moreover, in March the President announced his “right to read” program and said that he would “ask Congress to appropriate substantial resources for the two programs that can most readily serve to achieve this new commitment - the program that assists school libraries to obtain books, and the program that provides funds through the States for special education improvement projects.” In fact he did recommend \$80 million for ESEA Title II in 1971 (up from \$42.5 million the year before) and both Appropriations Committees agreed. (LR 6/24/70) The only other significant increases in library funding over 1970 were an increase of \$5 million in LSCA Title I and \$6 million in the College Library Resources title of HEA. (AmLib 1970, 659)

**Public Library Construction.** 298 construction projects involving new buildings or renovating older library buildings were under way in 1969. \$26.6 million of federal funding under LSCA Title II accounted for about 25 % of the total cost of these projects. (AmLib 1970, 146)

**Arts/Humanities.** In requesting a 3 year extension and \$40 million in new funds for the endowments, President Nixon said:

*“The attention and support we give the arts and humanities - especially as they affect our young people - represent a vital part of our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Americans. The full richness of this nation’s cultural life need not be the province of relatively few citizens centered in a few cities; on the contrary, the trend toward a wider appreciation of the arts and a greater interest in the humanities should be strongly encouraged.”* (AmLib 1970, 147)

**LSCA extended for 5 years.** The final version, signed by the President on December 30, 1970, was a compromise between the simple four-year extension recommended by Sen. Pell’s bill and the administration’s desire to consolidate programs. LSCA would now have only three titles. Title IV was merged into Title I; and Title I was enlarged to include (1) services to the disadvantaged, (2) strengthening state library agencies and (3) strengthening metropolitan libraries. (LR 1/02/70) The new act required formation of a State Advisory Council on Libraries for each state. (AmLib 1971, 176)

**NCLIS established.** After sitting on the shelf in the House Rules Committee for nearly a year, legislation establishing the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 259-11 after Chairman Carl Perkins got it to the floor under a suspension of the rules. (LR 6/24/70) Senate agreement soon followed and the bill became law on July 20. (AmLib 1970, 772)

**James Madison Building.** The House increased the authorization for construction of the new LC building from \$75 million to \$90 million. (AmLib 1970, 354)

**Postal Reorganization Act Enacted.** In a move to increase efficiency and remove the postal service from politics, bills were introduced to remove the Post Office Department from the Cabinet and put it under an independent Board of Governors. A presidentially appointed Postal Rate Commission would determine rates. The danger for libraries came from a desire to abolish all “preferential” classes of mail, including fourth class book rate and library book rate. (LR 6/24/70) As passed, the bill did not establish any rates but allowed changes “to the extent Congress fails to appropriate sums equal to revenue forgone for public services purposes.” Library rates could not be raised in the future beyond their directly attributable costs. (AmLib 1970, 773)

**Washington Office Moves to New Location.** After being denied a waiver to remain in a residentially-zoned location, the ALA Washington Office moved to space in the Methodist

Building at 110 Maryland Avenue, NE , between the Supreme Court and the Dirksen Senate Office Building. (AmLib 1970, 961)

**Social Security Amendments.** The House passed an ALA-supported provision which would benefit retired librarians and others not currently under Social Security. Participation in Medicare would be made available to those who worked in states and municipalities where Social Security was never available to them. (LR 6/24/70)

## 1971

**Federal Library Budget at Rock Bottom.** The President's FY 1972 budget request for libraries was well below the austerity level of the previous year. This would be the third year in a row that library programs were crippled by huge reductions in funding. The administration request would maintain ESEA funding, but would slash HEA funding for college library resources and training from \$19 million to \$7 million and cut LSCA Title I from \$35 million to \$16 million. LSCA Title II would receive no funding at all. The rationale for these cuts was expressed in an HEW briefing:

“This budget reflects the view that general support of public libraries is primarily a state and local responsibility . . . Assistance for college libraries will be reduced substantially in recognition of the marginal effect the wide distribution of these funds has had.”  
(AmLib 1971, 276)

**Congress Protects Library Funding.** On April 7, by an overwhelming vote of 354 - 7, the full House added \$40 million in library funding. With the exception of college library resources and training, which would be cut from \$19 million to \$12 million, all major federal library programs would get small increases over the previous year. An amendment by Rep. William Hathaway (D-ME) that would have added another \$30 million for libraries was narrowly defeated 191-187. (AmLib 1971, 490) By the time the appropriations bill was signed in July, another \$16 million had been added to library programs. (AmLib 1971, 840)

**James Madison Building Survives Last Minute Threat.** An unexpected move to stop construction of the new Library of Congress building, led by Speaker of the House Carl Albert who wanted to reserve the site for a fourth House Office Building, was defeated by the House. An appropriation of \$71 million was approved for construction of the library. (LR 6/16/71)

**Postal Rates.** ALA filed a petition with the new Postal Rate Commission strongly opposing the drastic rate changes proposed by the US Postal Service, particularly the 130% increase in the library rate and the 83% increase in the special fourth-class rate. (LR 6/16/71)



**Cable Television.** One of the factors holding up copyright legislation was uncertainty about what to do with CATV (Community Antenna Television). A Senate bill would have amended the Communications Act of 1934 to give the Federal Communications Commission authority to regulate cable systems. The ALA Washington Office and the Joint Council on Educational Telecommunications, of which ALA was a member, urged that 20% of the spectrum space be made available without charge for educational uses. Local libraries were urged to get involved in local franchising activities. After extensive hearings, the FCC decided to stay out of the copyright question and leave that to Congress. It did, however, propose regulations requiring cable systems to provide free of charge one channel each for public use, educational use, and local government use. (LR 6/16/71)

**Copyright of Sound Recordings.** The only voice against the current bill to protect against piracy was that of Sen Philip Hart (D-MI). He said:

*“ . . . I am not an expert on copyright or the music industry. However, the extension of copyright protection should not be lightly taken since it has the effect of carving out an exclusive monopoly over the expression of an idea.”* (LR 6/16/71)

ALA succeeded in getting language added that would exempt libraries from the proposed limitation on the lending of copyrighted sound recordings. (AmLib 1971, 1072)

**Copyright Coverage Extended.** In what was becoming an annual ritual, copyrights expiring this year were renewed until December 31, 1972 pending the long delayed general copyright revision. (LR 1/13/72)

**Williams and Wilkins.** The National Library of Medicine was sued by publisher Williams and Wilkins for alleged violation of copyright over NLM's photocopying of their scientific publications. ALA filed an *amicus curiae* brief in the US Court of Claims in support of NLM. In explanation of its interest in this case, ALA pointed out the potential harmful ramifications for all libraries if the plaintiff were to prevail in this case:

*“Any restrictions, whether injunctive or monetary, imposed on the traditional photocopying rights of libraries would effectively curtail the practice. This would have a severely damaging effect on the ability of ALA's member libraries to disseminate recorded knowledge to the public. Such a radical departure would be an unheralded step backward in the present era of information explosion.”* (LR 6/16/71)

**Impoundment of Appropriations.** Sen. Sam Ervin (D-NC), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Separation of Powers, introduced a bill that would enable the Congress to deal with the Nixon administration's recent practice of withholding funds already appropriated for specific purposes. At least \$15 million, out of the total of \$12 billion impounded, was for college library resources. Ervin said that the President's impoundment is “an illegal exercise of the power of his office [and] flies directly in the face of clear constitutional provisions to the

contrary.” The Ervin bill would empower Congress to disapprove by joint resolution any impoundment within 60 days of receipt of the President’s Special Message notifying the Congress of the proposed impoundment. (LR 6/16/71)

**NCLIS.** On May 19, 1971, nearly a year after the enabling legislation, the President announced his 14 nominations for membership on the Commission. The Librarian of Congress serves *ex officio*. (LR 6/16/71) All 14 were confirmed *en bloc* by the Senate on July 15. (LR 1/13/72) The President requested only \$200,000 for NCLIS operations instead of the authorized \$750,000. ALA filed a statement with the Senate Committee requesting that the full amount be approved, but was unsuccessful. (LR 1/13/72)

**General Revenue Sharing.** President Nixon announced a new initiative in February “to strengthen State and local governments - - by providing them with new sources of revenue and a new sense of responsibility.” The premise was that federal revenues were growing fastest at the federal level, while needs were growing fastest at the local level, especially in the major cities. “What is needed, in short, is a program for sharing Federal tax revenues with State and local governments.” The General Revenue Sharing Act of 1971 introduced by Sen. Howard Baker (R-TN) would give the state .96 per cent of total reported federal income tax revenue in the first year and 1.3 per cent in subsequent years. (LR 1/13/72) Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-AR) introduced an alternative to the administration’s proposal. He would have the funds shared not in proportion to the funds raised by local governments, but according to their needs. He would also limit the use of the funds to programs which have high national priority. Unfortunately, neither the administration bill nor the Mills bill mentioned education as a priority. (LR 1/13/72)

**Special Revenue Sharing for Education.** ALA fought for earmarked school library funds. In testimony opposing the administration’s bill on special revenue sharing for education, ALA’s position was stated as follows:

*“Our strongest objection to S.1669 in its present form concerns the curious fifth category - “Supporting Materials and Services.” Library services have been included in this category with an unlike and disparate group of other programs such as school lunches, counseling and guidance. This categorical conglomeration is totally unjustifiable in our judgment . . . It must be kept in mind that the school library media center serves the entire school, it cuts across all subject areas, it serves the students and teachers alike. It is not a narrow, categorical-type program; it serves the entire institution, just as the public library serves the entire community . . . So essential is the library to the school that ALA urges separate earmarking of funds authorized for libraries, rather than consolidation with the programs proposed in S. 1669.”* (LR 1/13/72)

**International Book Year.** By joint resolution of December 15, 1971, Congress authorized the President to declare 1972 as International Book Year. In introducing the measure, Sen John McClellan said:

*“Many of us in the United States tend to take books and libraries for granted. It is fitting, therefore, that during the International Book Year, we remind ourselves of their importance and our dependence on them and that we direct the attention of others to the benefits to be gained from their use.”* (LR 1/13/72)

**Private Pension Plans.** At the President’s urging, both houses introduced legislation permitting employees to save independently for their retirement. A limited amount of income would be set aside before tax; and taxes on the earnings on the savings would be deferred. (LR 1/13/72)

**Public Service Jobs.** The Emergency Employment Act of 1971, signed into law on July 12, provided \$1 billion for jobs in public service, such as libraries. Its provisions would go into effect whenever the national unemployment rate reached at 4.5% or higher for three consecutive months. (LR 1/13/72)

**Social Security Amendments.** There was no action in the Senate on the House amendments, but the majority leader promised early action in 1972. (LR 1/13/72)

**Equal Employment Opportunity at the Library of Congress.** Del. Walter Fauntroy (D-DC) introduced a bill on 9/13/71 “to Establish an EEO Program for the Protection of Employees of the Library of Congress.” (AmLib 1971, 1027) Two months later, on November 26, the ALA Black Caucus sent a letter to the ALA President alleging that the Legislative Committee, meeting in Washington, as well as the ALA Washington Office, had been less than cooperative in dealing with Del. Fauntroy. In their replies, the ALA President and the Legislative Committee Chairman denied that there had been any attempt to avoid meeting with Del. Fauntroy and cited ALA’s testimony in favor of the pending Equal Employment Opportunities Enforcement Act which would to extend EEO programs on a much broader scale. (AmLib 1972, 111)

## 1972

**The Committee for Full Funding** of Education Programs, including ALA, appeared to have scored an important victory in the House by getting appropriations for library programs set at a level more than twice what had been recommended by the President and substantially higher than what had been recommended by the House Committee. LSCA, for example, would get \$84.5 million instead of the \$32.7 in the administration request. \$28.5 million would go to NLM and the Medical Library Assistance program and \$406,000 to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. (LR 6/21/72) These increases were sustained by the Senate (AmLib 1972, 882) But . . .

**Nixon’s Double Veto Severely Reduces Library Funding.** Despite favorable congressional

action, presidential vetoes kept 1972 spending at previous year levels, or, worse, at the levels of the administration's FY 1973 budget requests. As a result, LSCA funding dropped to an all-time low of \$32.7 million, down \$25 million from the previous year. There was no funding at all for title II, library construction. (LR 11/30/72)

**HEA Title II Escaped the Knife.** Appropriations for college library resources and training in librarianship were raised by \$2 million over the previous year. (Bowker 1973, 344)

**James Madison Building.** LC's FY 1973 appropriations included \$4 million for compact shelving and other furnishings for the new building. (LR 11/30/72) Completion of the building was scheduled for February 1975. (AmLib 1972, 513)

**Postal Appropriations.** ALA testified in favor of sufficient appropriations to offset the increased postal rates on book and library rate mailings under the new Postal Reorganization Act. (LR 6/21/72)

**General Revenue Sharing.** Amid fanfare, the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 was signed into law in Philadelphia on October 20. Local governments would share \$3.5 billion for FY 1972 to be spent on specified "priority expenditures" which would include libraries. No priorities were established, however, for state governments which would share \$1.8 billion. There was some apprehension in the library community about the effects of revenue sharing on libraries. (LR 11/30/72)

**The Older Readers Services Act,** which had been included as one of the amendments to the Older Americans Act and which would have added a new Title IV to LSCA, was vetoed by the president. (Bowker 1973, 347)

**New Rules on Cable Television.** The Federal Communications Commission issued new regulations designed to "open the way for full development of cable's potential" on March 31. Cable operators were required to make available free of charge a public access channel, an educational channel and a local government channel. Cable operators were prohibited from censoring or exercising any control over the content of the programming on these channels. The FCC's general authority to regulate cable was upheld in a Supreme Court decision of June 7. ALA actively participated in Publi-Cable, a consortium of educational, public service and community groups advocating greater awareness of the public service potential of cable. (LR 6/21/72)

**Copyright Law.** A US Court of Claims Commissioner issued an opinion in the Williams and Wilkins case on February 16 recommending, as a conclusion of law, that the plaintiff is "entitled to recover reasonable and entire compensation for infringement of copyright . . ." The opinion was strongly contested by the Federal Government, ALA, ARL, the Medical Library Association and many other educational groups who made every effort to persuade the Court of Claims not to accept the Commissioner's opinion. (AmLib 1972, 386) Meanwhile, the proposed copyright

legislation was still bogged down by complications related to cable issues and library photocopying issues. Accordingly, Sen. McClellan introduced a joint resolution, which was passed and signed by the President, to extend existing copyrights another two years - to December 31, 1974. (LR 11/30/72)

**Correctional Reform.** Libraries were specifically mentioned in two pending bills aimed at reforming correctional rehabilitation programs. (LR 6/21/72)

**Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972,** signed by the President on March 24, extended coverage of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to employees of government at all levels, as well as to the employees of the Library of Congress and educational institutions. (LR 6/21/72)

**Education Programs Extended.** An omnibus education bill extended for three more years the Higher Education Act, the Vocational Education Act, the Higher Education Facilities Act, and the National Defense Education Act, as well as a new National Institute of Education and programs of consumer and ethnic heritage education. (LR 6/21/72)

**Standing Orders Still Stand.** ALA testimony prompted the Federal Trade Commission to reverse an earlier regulation on negative option sales plans that would have prohibited library standing-order arrangements with publishers. (LR 6/21/72)

**Pension Reform.** ALA testified against the exclusion of public employees from proposed reform legislation. (LR 6/21/72)

**White House Conference on Libraries.** Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) prepared legislation for the 93rd Congress to call the first ever White House Conference on Libraries to be held in 1976, the centennial year of the ALA and the bicentennial year of the US. In announcing his plans, Sen. Pell said that the proposed conference was in line with a recommendation made by the ALA Council at its 1972 midwinter meeting and that it would ensure widespread consideration of the recommendations of NCLIS. (LR 11/30/72)

**Flood Damaged Libraries.** Hurricane Agnes caused widespread damage to libraries in June, 1972. The Washington Office provided information about various disaster relief programs of the federal government. (AmLib 1972, 881) \$2 billion in supplemental appropriations was made available even to libraries in private schools. (Bowker 1973, 347)

**Eileen D. Cooke Becomes ALA Washington Office Director** upon the retirement of Germaine Krettek. Ms. Krettek announced her decision at the Chicago Annual Conference where she was formally honored with a standing ovation. The change took effect December 1, 1972. (AmLib 1972, 890)

*American Libraries'* editor Gerald R. Shields wrote of Germaine Krettek:

*After fifteen years as director, she hangs up the track shoes which sent her dashing from congressional hearing to office conference; she gives up the damp sandwiches, paper-cup coffee, and the nights of little rest and less relaxation. Her voice will no longer answer the steady flow of questions that come from state and local library supporters longing to plug into her legislative know-how . . . she made herself the acknowledged and trusted authority on the library service picture in the US. Congressmen and their staffs knew it was a non-nonsense affair with her. She wasn't tough so much as dedicated, and right in her knowledge that libraries could emerge from the dark age of little support if the word could be delivered. She delivered, and her work covers a fifteen year span that is one of the most significant in library development anywhere. (AmLib 1973, 31).*

## 1973

**A year of substantial compromises** between the executive and legislative branches. By the end of FY 1973, there was considerable uncertainty about library funding for the year that was ending. A dispute about the nature of the continuing resolution left it uncertain, for example, whether LSCA was funded at \$84.5 million (the lower of the Senate/House appropriation) or \$32.7 million (the administration request). And the President's request for FY 1974 included zero funding for library programs. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-MT), who had voted for the first federal funding in the 1950s, said of the administration budget for libraries, "They cut it to hell and back. I intend to look into it and do something about it." (AmLib 1973, 187) In reaction, ALA launched the "Dim the Lights" campaign to call attention to the proposed cutoff of all federal funds for libraries and succeeded in getting network television coverage on NBC and CBS. (AmLib 1973, 409) On May 8, 1973 lights were dimmed in libraries.

Finally, in December 1973 the President signed the Labor-HEW appropriations bill providing for \$191 million for library programs in FY 1974. This was below the congressional mark, since, in a compromise with the President, he was allowed to cut 5 per cent from all programs where Congress had appropriated more than he had requested, i.e. all library programs. The next day the administration released \$122 million in impounded FY 1973 funds for library programs, it now being half-way through FY 1974. In cases brought by various states, federal courts had uniformly found the impoundment of library funds to be illegal. (LR 1/15/74)

**LSCA FY 1974 Appropriations.** Title I funding was increased significantly over the previous year; Title II was unfunded on the expectation (correct as it turned out) that sufficient impounded funds would be available; Title III remained stable; and the new Title IV for Older Readers was unfunded. (LR 1/15/74)

**ESEA, HEA, NDEA 1974 appropriations** were substantially the same as the previous year. (LR

1/15/74)

**Congressional Budget Control.** Although the year ended without final action, both houses were working on measures to provide congressional review and control over the impoundment process, as well as to rectify what the House Rules Committee called the “dangerous mismatch in executive and legislative resources. Where the President has a large and powerful budget staff, Congress has to make do with the overburdened staffs of the individual committees.” Both bills would establish Budget Committees in the House and Senate, establish deadlines for budget action and change the beginning of the Fiscal Year to October 1. (LR 1/15/74)

**Copyright Revision.** There were more hearings, but no definitive action. ALA and ARL offered an amendment to allow single copies to be made for teaching or research, particularly interlibrary loan. (LR 1/15/74)

**Williams and Wilkins.** By a 4-3 vote, the US Court of Claims overturned its commissioner’s preliminary recommendation and ruled that making single photocopies of journal articles by the National Library of Medicine did not violate copyright laws. The court said that medical research would suffer if such photocopying were banned since “the supply of reprints and back numbers is wholly inadequate,” and it is “wholly unrealistic to expect scientific personnel to subscribe regularly to large numbers of journals which would only occasionally contain articles of interest to them.” The ruling also said that it would be up to Congress to draw the line between “fair use” and infringement. (LR 1/15/74)

**Ethnic Heritage.** Despite the administration’s recommendation of zero funding, Congress appropriated \$2.4 million for grants for ethnic heritage studies programs in schools and colleges. (LR 1/15/74)

**Fair Labor Standards.** The President vetoed a bill which would have extended federal minimum wage and overtime standards to state and local government employees (including library employees not then covered). (LR 1/15/74)

**Rehabilitation Act of 1973.** After two vetoes, a compromise bill was passed which replaced the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and continued grants to states for services, research and training for handicapped individuals. The ALA Washington Office solicited librarian comments on the draft regulations, since it would have an opportunity to testify before final regulations were issued. (LR 1/15/74)

**Independent Research Libraries Included in LSCA.** As part of legislation extending the National Endowments on Arts/Humanities, the definition of “public libraries” for LSCA purposes was broadened to include independent research libraries that were not parts of universities, that had humanities collections not normally found in public libraries, and that made their services available to the public free of charge. Specifically, these libraries were:

American Antiquarian Society  
American Philosophical Society  
John Crerar Library  
Folger Library  
Linda Hall Library  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
Henry E. Huntington Library  
Library Company of Philadelphia  
Massachusetts Historical Society  
Pierpont Morgan Library  
Newberry Library  
New York Academy of Medicine  
New York Public Library (LR 1/15/74)

**White House Conference on Library and Information Services.** Vice President Gerald Ford signed on as a sponsor of the resolution introduced by Sen. Pell. On the House side the resolution was sponsored by Rep. Brademas (D-IN), chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over library legislation. (LR 1/15/74)

**Aging.** Although he had vetoed a similar measure in 1972, the President signed a compromise version of the Older Americans Act which included a new Title IV in LSCA for Older Readers. However, passage occurred so late in the Fiscal Year that no money was appropriated for FY 1973. (LR 1/15/74)

**Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA).** In a compromise between the administration's request for special revenue sharing for manpower and the existing, more generous, Emergency Employment Act of 1971, the President on December 28, 1973 signed off on a program that would provide a minimum of \$250 million in FY 1974 and \$350 million in FY 1975 for public service employment in parts of the country where unemployment rates reached or exceeded 6.5 per cent for three consecutive months. (LR 1/15/74)

**Medical Library Assistance Act.** No agreement was reached on extending federal assistance to medical libraries beyond FY 1974. (LR 1/15/74)

**Pension Reform.** Two committees in each house had jurisdiction and they all worked on the issue, but there was no final action. (LR 1/15/74)

**Tax Deduction for Manuscript Donations.** ALA presented evidence of the sharp decline in donations of manuscripts to libraries after the Tax Reform Act of 1969 which specified that donors could deduct only the value of the paper and ink and could not deduct the value of their creative contribution based on fair market value. Bills were introduced, but no action was taken this year. (LR 1/15/74)



**Volunteers.** Various domestic volunteer programs were consolidated under the ACTION agency. Of special interest to libraries: \$25 million was appropriated for the Foster Grandparents Program and \$15 million for RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). (LR 1/15/74)

**Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA).** While extensive debates took place, with the administration favoring “no strings” revenue sharing for law enforcement and the House insisting on continuation of the existing block grant approach, the ALA Washington Office reminded librarians that they had an educational task to let local corrections and law enforcement officials know about the value of library service in prisons. In some areas of the country, librarians were able to tap LEAA funds for a variety of prison library projects. (LR 1/15/74)

**Postal Rates.** Rep. William Ford (D-MI) introduced a bill to extend to ten years the transitional period for the increased rates on library materials. This measure called attention to the severe financial hardships imposed upon libraries by the disastrous rate increases proposed by the Postal Rate Commission. (AmLib 1973, 160) No final action this year.

## 1974

### **Gerald Ford succeeds to presidency on Nixon’s resignation 8/4/74.**

The budget submitted by President Nixon in February included only \$25 million for LSCA Title I and no funding for any other titles of LSCA and no funding for ESEA II or HEA II. The sharply reduced LSCA amount was explained by HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger as “the first step in a phase-down of federal support for this type of aid to public libraries.” (Bowker 1975, 125) Although President Ford signed the FY 1975 appropriations bills in December, 1974 (half-way through FY 1975) at levels which Congress had managed to raise far above Nixon’s original requests, he released funds only at the level of the administration’s request and deferred releasing the rest of the money. Under the terms of the new Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act, a “deferral” differed from a “rescission” in that the delay in funding was only for a specific time. However, Ford’s action did not comply with the law in that it did not specify a time for the deferral. (LR 1/7/75)

**Library Partnership Act.** In his education message to Congress in January, President Nixon mentioned this discretionary program as one of his “new initiatives for 1975” and as an alternative to the current categorical grants to the states. But details of the proposal were not released by the administration until summer when it was too late for Congress to take any action. (Bowker 1975, 125)

**White House Conference on Library and Information Services.** Two years after being introduced by Sen. Pell, the joint resolution calling for the first ever such Conference - to occur "not later than 1978" - was passed and signed into law by President Ford on the last day of the year while he was on a ski vacation in Colorado. An attempt to bypass the Rules Committee and expedite passage under a "suspension of the rules" failed in June and final passage of the resolution in both houses did not occur until November. This law calling for state conferences prior to the White House Conference, provided the library community and the American public an unprecedented opportunity. According to the intent of Congress, a wide segment of the American public must be involved to reassess their view of libraries. Members of the library community, by and large, must take a back seat, serving as facilitators and resource persons rather than as conference participants. (LR 1/15/75)

**Education Amendments of 1974.** Under strong pressure from the administration and from local and state school officials, Congress passed legislation which would phase in over two years a consolidation of existing categorical programs under ESEA II, ESEA III and NDEA III into a new "Libraries and Learning Resources" program. The new program would give local educational agencies wide discretion in spending the funds. ALA and school librarians had opposed the consolidation, preferring the existing categorical grants, because under the consolidation each local agency would be free to use the money for library/media purposes, or for educational equipment, or for testing, guidance and counseling. (LR 1/15/76) A skeptical Congress built some important conditions into the act: 1) appropriations had to be enacted one-year in advance so that educators could plan ahead, and 2) appropriations could not fall below a specified level in any given year. If either condition were not met, then the existing categorical grants would automatically remain in full effect. At least school library services were no longer grouped under "support services" as in the original version of the proposal. (LR 7/1/74)

**Service to Persons of Limited English Speaking Ability Added to LSCA.** Under the educational amendments cited above, LSCA programs must henceforth give priority to projects which serve persons of limited English-speaking ability. (LR 7/1/74)

**Office of Libraries and Learning Resources Mandated in USOE.** Although Congress is normally reluctant to legislate staffing patterns, this action was considered necessary because of continual downgrading of the library unit within USOE. This legislation raised the unit one level from a Division to an Office. In proposing that the unit be raised to the even higher level of a Bureau, Senator Eagleton (D-MO) said, "In light of this [Nixon] administration's record of dismal disregard if not outright hostility toward library programs, Congress has no choice but to provide such statutory authority." (LR 1/7/75)

**Child and Family Services.** The top priority of the 1970 White House Conference on Children had been the provision of "comprehensive, family-oriented child development programs including health services, day care, and early childhood education." ALA had consistently supported earlier unsuccessful attempts to enact such legislation. But new congressional interest gave some hope for action in 1975. (LR 1/7/75)

**Community Development Block Grants.** Were libraries eligible? This huge \$2.5 billion program under the new Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 did not specifically mention libraries. Library supporters were stunned when the implementing regulations issued by HUD specifically mentioned libraries as “ineligible activities,” unless “undertaken as part of a neighborhood facilities project.” In declaring libraries generally ineligible, the regulations characterized them bizarrely as places “used by the general public primarily as spectators or observers . . .” like “stadiums, sports arenas, auditoriums, concert halls, cultural and arts centers, convention centers, museums . . .” and similar facilities. ALA Washington Office wrote to HUD protesting this characterization and the exclusion of libraries from the block grant program. (LR 1/7/75)

**Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act** was signed into law on July 12. In addition to the provisions outlined above in the 1973 version, the law established a Congressional Budget Office to serve as full-time, year round staff to the new House and Senate budget committees. (LR 1/7/75)

**Copyright.** Although the general copyright revision was not passed, there was some progress from the Library point of view. The Senate bill would permit photocopying of archival material and the copying of material for preservation. It would also free libraries from liability for copies made by patrons on coin-operated machines in libraries, and would allow making single copies for normal interlibrary loan work. However, the troublesome ban on “systematic reproduction” remained in the bill. This term was left undefined and could hurt library networks or systems where one library discontinues a subscription and depends on another to supply photocopies. (LR 1/7/75)

**William and Wilkins.** Arguments were heard by the full Supreme Court on December 17 in the appeal brought by the company. Arguing for the government was Solicitor General Robert H. Bork. (LR 1/7/75)

**Fair Labor Standards.** Nonsupervisory employees of public libraries came under the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Most other librarians had been covered since 1966, but public libraries had remained outside the scope of the Act until these 1974 amendments. But the National League of Cities and the National Governors’ Conference mounted a strong challenge to the constitutionality of the 1974 amendments on the grounds that “there can be no rational basis for federal legislation which will bankrupt states and cities and usurp control of state and city budgetary, scheduling, and other decisions regarding the provision of essential government services. . .” Meanwhile, municipal and teacher unions lined up to oppose the challenge. Expedited consideration by the Supreme Court was expected at year’s end. (LR 1/7/75)

**Public Service Jobs.** Faced with growing unemployment across the country, Congress moved fast in the last weeks of the year to add a new title to the CETA program authorizing the expenditure of \$2.5 billion in the next six months to create approximately 330,000 public service

jobs at annual salaries averaging \$7,800. (LR 1/7/75)

**Revenue Sharing.** It was not clear how the first two and a half years of general revenue sharing had affected libraries. A report of the Office of Revenue Sharing covering the period through June, 1974 showed that \$101 million or 1 per cent of total revenue sharing funds had been spent on libraries. But this was not necessarily “new” money. It is more than likely that a large percentage of this was revenue-sharing money that had been substituted for other funding the libraries would have received anyway. (LR 1/7/75)

**Freedom of Information Amendments.** In November Congress overrode President Ford’s veto of major amendments to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967. Federal agencies must now index certain of their material, publish such indexes at least quarterly, and make them available to the public by “sale or otherwise.” The amendments also made clear that “search and copying” fees must not exceed the direct cost of search and duplication. The “fees should not be used for the purpose of discouraging requests.” (LR 1/7/75)

**Postal Rates.** Under legislation signed by the President while in the Soviet Union on June 30, postal rates for libraries would increase at a lower rate than would otherwise have been the case. The transition period for phasing in the new book rate was stretched from 5 to 8 years and the period for the library rate was extended from 10 to 16 years. (LR 7/1/74)

**Folklore.** The director of the Washington Office testified in favor of the proposed American Folklife Preservation Act which would authorize the Library of Congress to develop activities to encourage the appreciation, study and preservation of the folk traditions of the American people. Most public libraries consider it one of their particular responsibilities to collect local history, including legends, lore, music and tales from the early days of the community. This was widely supported on both sides of the aisle, but there was no action this year. (LR 7/1/74)

**Pension Reform.** The four relevant Congressional committees produced compromise legislation which was signed by the President on Labor Day, 1974. The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 did not cover government plans but it did bring them under Congressional scrutiny by mandating a study. The legislation also authorized Individual Retirement Accounts separate from regular retirement plans. (AmLib 1975, 42)

## 1975

**President Ford’s First Budget a Big Disappointment.** It requested only \$10 million for LSCA title I and zero for all the other titles. Zero also for HEA Title II. Of the \$137 million requested for the new ESEA Title IV B program, probably not all of that would go for library programs. For this year, half of that amount would go into the new consolidated program which

would allow local school authorities to spend the funds on educational purposes other than library programs. (LR 1/15/76)

**Congress to the Rescue.** Once again Congress, with a lot of help from the Committee for Full Funding (of which ALA Washington Office director Eileen Cooke was Vice President), came to the defense of library programs. Funding for FY 1976 Library programs under USOE was finally appropriated on September 10 when the House overwhelmingly overrode President Ford's veto by 379-41. The final figure for all education programs was \$1.5 billion over his budget request, but \$400 million below the congressionally approved budget number. (LR 1/15/76)

**Library Legislative Day Begins.** In what was to become an annual event, the first Library Legislative Day was held during National Library Week.

**Funding for NLM and NCLIS** was not included in the override and their FY 1976 appropriations were still uncertain at the end of 1975. (LR 1/15/76)

**The Government Printing Office** received an appropriation of \$794,000 to begin automating the *Federal Register* and the *Code of Federal Regulations*. (LR 1/15/76)

**Arts/Humanities Endowments** would expire at the end of FY 1976 unless reauthorized. In Congressional testimony, ALA expressed particularly strong support for the National Endowment for the Humanities which has channeled a number of projects through libraries to improve scholarly access to underutilized research collections, to create needed reference tools, and to promote the use of humanities material in public libraries. (LR 1/15/76)

**Age Discrimination Banned.** The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, signed November 28, prohibited age bias in programs and activities receiving federal aid. It was a companion piece to the 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which applied only to the workplace. (LR 1/15/76)

**Copyright Revision.** Another year with no final action. The House Judiciary Committee did hold 18 hearings and library representatives continued to meet with publisher and author groups to find some agreement on the library photocopy issue. (LR 1/15/76)

**Copyright Commission (CONTU).** Implementing PL 93-573, President Ford appointed a 12 member National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works. Appointees included representatives of publishers, authors, attorneys and consumer groups. Library representatives included: William S. Dix, Librarian emeritus, Princeton University; and Robert Wedgeworth, ALA executive director. The Librarian of Congress was on the Commission *ex officio*, in addition to the 12 appointees. The first meeting was in October 1975 and a report was due one year later. (LR 1/15/76)

**Williams and Wilkins.** On February 2, the US Supreme Court announced that it was equally divided on the case and therefore the decision of the US Court of Claims was sustained. In other words, the making of single copies of journal articles by NLM and NIH did not violate copyright laws. (LR 6/25/75) Judge Harry A. Blackmun, who would have been the swing vote, disqualified himself. One newsletter suggested that he still owned stock in IBM which made copy machines. (AmLib 1975, 209)

**School Libraries and Learning Resources,** the new consolidated federal program under ESEA Title IV-B, began to take effect in FY 1976. School librarians would have to make a convincing case to the local school administrator for committing these funds to libraries. (LR 1/15/76)

**ALA and Ralph Nader** were instrumental in defeating a Senate proposal to make the *Federal Register* self-sustaining by raising the annual subscription from \$45 to \$200. This would have reduced public access to information about government by pricing the *Register* out of the range of many public libraries. (LR 1/15/76)

**American Folklife Center** to be established in the Library of Congress. The measure resulted in part from dissatisfaction on the part of folklorists with the National Endowment for the Arts' performance in this area. NEA opposed the legislation as duplicative; ALA supported it. (LR 1/15/76)

**Indian Education.** Draft regulations circulated by USOE on new Indian education programs gave no specific mention to libraries and left library workers to be identified under the heading "ancillary educational personnel." ALA, working with the National Indian Education Association, submitted a series of proposed revisions to the draft regulations. (LR 1/15/76)

**Japanese Library Collections.** A new Friendship Act to promote scholarly and cultural activities between Japan and the United States provided \$18 million in trust funds in Japan for major Japanese library collections at American colleges and universities. (LR 1/15/76)

**Boorstin confirmed as 12th Librarian of Congress.** Despite an ALA Council resolution opposing the nomination, as well as opposing testimony by the ALA executive director, the immediate past president and the president-elect of ALA, and by LC employee groups, the Senate unanimously confirmed Dr. Boorstin's appointment. (LR 1/15/76) The editor of *American Libraries* wrote, ". . . it did appear that Boorstin's towering stature as an American historian would mitigate some of the disappointment felt by those who wished for a professional librarian in the profession's top post." (AmLib 1975, 325)

**James Madison Building Saved.** About the time Dr. Boorstin was confirmed, there surfaced a move by the House leadership to convert the building to additional office space for House members. ALA was part of a loud and immediate chorus of protest. This apparently unforeseen wave of nation-wide negative publicity had its effect and hearings on the proposal were never scheduled. (LR 1/15/76)

**LSCA Extension.** Since authorization was to run out after FY 1976, hearings were held by Rep. Brademas (D-IN), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Select Education, on a proposed extension. ALA, NCLIS and the Urban Libraries Council all supported extending the program, while USOE officials presented the administration proposal to abolish LSCA and replace it with a proposed Library Partnership Act. ALA proposed amendments including a 5 year extension, a requirement for a state (rather than local) match for Titles I and III, a limit of 10% on the amount that could be used for state-level administrative overhead costs, and forward funding. The Association also called attention to the special needs of central city library systems. Despite strong bipartisan support in Congress, it required a very strong vote in order to remove any temptation to veto the bill. (LR 1/15/76)

**Postal Rates.** The Library book rate went up another penny a pound on December 31, 1975. ALA was a "limited intervenor" in the postal rate proceedings and protested the continual increases for the library and book rates. (LR 1/15/76)

**Corporation for Public Broadcasting.** A maximum of \$634 million was authorized over five years, but the actual authorization would be dependent on the amount of non-federal financial support. Federal funds would be authorized at a rate of \$1 for each \$2.50 raised privately. The appropriations committees agreed to provide forward funding for up to three years. (LR 1/15/76)

**Public Library Construction.** Although no funds had been appropriated in LSCA Title II since 1973, library construction was now possible under new HUD regulations for Community Development Block Grants. The amended regulations stated that in larger cities neighborhood libraries are eligible and in communities under 10,000 population, even central facilities are eligible. (LR 6/25/75) HUD acknowledged that this change was a direct result of ALA Washington Office intervention. (AmLib 1975, 283) Appalachian development funds also continued to be available in eligible states and localities. Since 1965 there had been 117 public library projects funded under the Appalachia program. (LR 1/15/76)

**Book Distribution for Children.** The President signed legislation authorizing federal support for programs like Reading is Fun-damental which purchase and distribute inexpensive books to children. No appropriation as yet. (LR 1/15/76)

**General Revenue Sharing.** Despite USOE's claim that LSCA was no longer needed since public libraries had received large amounts of Revenue Sharing funding, ALA found, and has so testified, that at the local level revenue sharing funds got intermixed with other funds to the extent that USOE figures were meaningless. In fact, libraries were receiving no more than they did previously from state and local sources. (LR 1/15/76)

**Museum Services Act.** Included in the Arts/Humanities bill of 1975 was a provision to establish within HEW an Institute for the Improvement of Museum Services and to authorize \$30 million annually in grants to museums. No final action this year. (LR 1/15/76)

**Civil Rights Enforcement.** In June, 1975, HEW published regulations establishing uniform procedures to enforce the various non-discrimination requirements applicable to programs administered by that Department:

Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination in any federally assisted program on grounds of race, color, or national origin;

Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in federally assisted education programs and activities;

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of handicap in any federally assisted program or activity; and

Section 799A of the Public Health Service Act, which concerned sex discrimination in admission to medical and related health sciences schools. (LR 6/25/75)

## 1976

**Federal Library Programs Get Modest Increases.** Congress once again overrode presidential vetoes to assure required funding for FY 1977. The House vote was 312-93 and the Senate vote was 67-15. (LR 1/26/77) President Ford's budget had proposed consolidated block grants to replace 27 categorical federal programs for education, and had zeroed out existing library programs. (AmLib 1976, 119)

**ALA Washington Office Gets \$1,550 in Midwinter Gifts** from the library associations of Oklahoma, Arizona, South Dakota, Oregon, Michigan, Minnesota, Georgia and Hawaii (AmLib 1976, 122)

**Federal Register.** When a new move was made to cover the full cost of the *Federal Register* through increased subscription fees, the Senate Appropriations Committee, while approving the cost recovery, added the following language:

*"The Committee notes the testimony of the American Library Association of the effect on libraries if the subscription rate is raised. The Committee would have no objection to an exception that would continue the present rate for libraries and schools."* (LR 1/26/77)

**Arts/Humanities.** Both Endowments were reauthorized through 1980. The new law also established state humanities councils and authorized federal funding of at least \$200,000 per year for each of them. Libraries were eligible for new challenge grants in which one federal dollar would be available to match three nonfederal dollars in approved humanities programs. (LR



1/26/77)

**An Institute of Museum Services** was established within HEW to assist museums in their educational role and to ease their financial burdens through operating grants. (LR 1/26/77)

**ALA Archives Enhanced by NEH Grant.** The University of Illinois received a 3 year grant in the amount of \$45,296 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to improve bibliographic control of the ALA Archives which had been kept there since 1973. (AmLib 1977, 36)

**Copyright Revision Passed at Last.** In the first comprehensive reform of laws governing intellectual property since 1909, PL 94-553 was signed into law on October 19. Most provisions became effective in 1978. By extending copyright through the life of the author plus 50 years, US law came into conformity with international practice. The traditional convention of "fair use" was now stated in the law. It permitted copying of a limited amount of material without permission from, or payment to, the copyright owner where the use is reasonable and not harmful to the rights of the owner. In addition to "fair use," the statute also recognized certain other specific types of library copying. Some guidelines were developed to help educators and librarians comply with the law, but they did not cover all kinds of permissible copying. One very important provision of the law was that neither libraries nor their employees are to be held liable for infringement from unsupervised use of coin-operated copying machines, provided the machines display a notice that the making of a copy may be subject to the copyright law. Librarians were urged to carefully observe the effects of the law so that their comments could be heard when the law is reviewed in 1982. (LR 1/26/77)

**Radio and TV Archive.** As part of copyright revision, the Librarian of Congress was directed to establish within the Library a permanent record of the television and radio programs which are worthy of preservation. (LR 1/26/77)

**James Madison Building.** The new building of the Library of Congress seemed safe at last with the passage in 1976 of a bill authorizing funds for completion of the building as a library. (LR 7/14/76)

**The Documents Commission** held hearings around the country on the control, disposition and preservation of documents produced by or on behalf of federal officials. ALA, naturally, favored maximum public access and coordination with the depository library program. All documents of federal officials in the pursuit of the public's business are and ought to be, by law, public property and free of copyright restraints. (LR 1/26/77)

**Education Amendments of 1976.** Late in the year, a Senate bill to revise the ESEA consolidation was introduced but not acted upon. Most existing higher education programs were extended for three years, with only modifications favoring continuing education and lifelong learning programs. (LR 1/26/77)

**Assistance to Major Research Libraries.** The Education Amendments of 1976 created a new HEA title authorizing grants to major research libraries which the legislative history seemed to define as university, public, state and significant independent libraries. There was a requirement for "reasonable regional balance." Because of the vagueness of the legislation itself, careful attention would have to be given to the draft implementing regulations. (LR 1/26/77)

**Libraries and the Presidential Campaign.** Libraries received scant mention in the Democratic Party platform and none at all in the Republican platform. However, candidate Jimmy Carter, a former library trustee, issued a statement strongly supporting libraries and endorsing the White House Conference on Libraries. The statement was drafted by Carlton C. Rochell, former director of the Atlanta Public Library, with help from the ALA Washington Office and from John Lorenz. Rochell had been asked by Carter's issues coordinator to draft a position statement. (AmLib 1976, 486)

**LSCA Extension Bill Died** at end of 94th Congress, even though it passed the House by a vote of 378-7 (LR 7/14/76). In House testimony, ALA favored an amendment that would have authorized additional support for urban public libraries. (LR 1/26/77)

**National Science Foundation** got an appropriation of \$5 million to conduct research in information science. (LR 1/26/77)

**New Postal Regulations Affect Libraries.** Beginning in 1978 all undersize mail would be prohibited and there would be a surcharge on nonstandard mail. A special problem developed with the mailing of films: the new bulk mailing centers could not handle films packed in the film containers then in common use. The Postal Service called for shortening the straps so that only ½ inch protruded beyond the buckle. Librarians responded that this would require incredible dexterity as well as the expense of replacing all existing mailing cases. Negotiations were continuing. (LR 1/26/77)

**Public Service Jobs.** The CETA program was extended through 1977, with a new emphasis on jobs for the long-term unemployed with low family income. (LR 1/26/77)

**Public Works.** \$2 billion was appropriated for direct grants for public works projects that could start in 90 days and were located in areas of high unemployment. By the end of the year, \$47.5 million had gone for 51 library construction projects. (LR 1/26/77)

**General Revenue Sharing** was extended through 1980. In the 1972 act, libraries had been listed as a priority category. But in practice, libraries actually got only about 1% of the revenue sharing funds, and often these funds simply substituted for funds they would have otherwise received anyway. Recognizing the meaninglessness of priority categories, Congress removed them all from the 1976 amendments and simply allowed the local jurisdictions to spend the revenue sharing funds as they wished. However, widespread complaints of lack of public participation in local decisions led to a new requirement for public hearings at the local level.

This was seen as an opportunity for local library supporters to assert their needs. (LR 1/26/77)

**White House Conference.** On July 19 President Ford announced his intention to call the White House Conference on Library and Information Services authorized by PL 93-568. However, his request for \$3.5 million to carry it out was submitted too late for Congress to act in 1976. (LR 1/26/77)

**CATV.** Several library witnesses testified before the House Commerce Subcommittee on revisions of the Communications Act of 1934, requesting that a part of the cable spectrum be reserved for non-commercial uses.

**Maryland Senator Writes to Praise ALA Washington Office** and urge grassroots support. Sen. J. Glenn Beall (R-MD) wrote to *American Libraries* in response to the December 1975 article on the various library players in Washington. He wrote:

*"As a member of the Budget Committee and as ranking minority member of the Education Subcommittee which is responsible for library legislation, I can testify to the accuracy of the article in its praise of ALA's Washington efforts . . . its appraisal of the office as one of the most effective in Washington is to the point.*

*"I write, however, to emphasize that the effectiveness of Eileen Cooke, Sara Case, and the rest of ALA's Washington staff is dependent to a great part upon the concern demonstrated by librarians themselves in their home communities. . ."* (AmLib 1976, 84)

## 1977

**White House Conference.** Only two days before the end of his term of office, President Ford announced his long-awaited 15 appointments to the White House Conference advisory committee. This completed the full membership of 28.

### **Jimmy Carter Inaugurated 1/20/77**

Carter's strong campaign support of education and libraries was moderated as balancing the budget assumed a higher priority. His FY 1978 budget request held library spending at the 1977 level, an improvement over the Nixon-Ford years, but still insufficient to meet inflation and other financial problems facing libraries. (LR 6/13/77)

**Library of Congress Closely Scrutinized on the Hill.** Although a net increase was approved in the Library of Congress budget for FY 1978, the House Appropriations Committee warned: "The time has come for library officials to reassess their programs and determine just what the

priorities are to be in the future.” (LR 1/78)

**Humanities Endowment Gives New Emphasis to Public Library Programs.** After strong criticism from Sen. Pell (D-RI), the original author of the endowments legislation, for being too elitist in its grants, the NEH under its new chairman, Joseph Duffey, added a professional librarian to its Public Programs staff. (LR 1/ 78)

**Handicapped Access Regulations,** implementing the 1973 law, were published on May 5. This was the first federal civil rights law protecting the rights of handicapped persons. Employers were required to make reasonable accommodation to qualified employees or job applicants. New facilities had to be usable by handicapped persons and existing facilities made accessible within sixty days, unless structural changes were necessary. Such changes must be made within three years. (Bowker 1978, 117)

After nationwide publicity about the public library in Rudd, Iowa being told by state officials that it had to add ramps even though none of the town’s 419 residents used a wheelchair, the HEW Civil Rights chief wrote that “the section 504 regulation is a flexible common sense tool. Recipients of federal funds are not required to make existing buildings barrier-free, but merely to take reasonable steps - in the circumstances of the particular community - to make services accessible to all citizens.” (LR 1/78)

**CONTU Hears Librarians on Copyright and Photocopying.** The National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works, in anticipation of its final report on automated data processing systems and photocopying machines, heard testimony on October 21 from six library associations: ALA, American Association of Law Libraries, Association of Research Libraries, Medical Library Association, Music Library Association, and Special Libraries Association. (LR 1/78)

**Copyright.** The *Federal Register* of November 16 specified the exact language, type size and format, of warnings that must be placed at the library desk where patrons request photocopies. Although no language was specified for unsupervised coin-operated machines, ALA’s RASD suggested the following wording:

*“Notice: The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, US Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this equipment is responsible for any infringement.”* LR 1/ 78)

**ESEA Extension.** The ALA Washington Office worked closely with the American Association of School Librarians to prepare testimony before committees of both houses on the expiring Title IV-B, School Libraries and Learning Resources. School librarians testified that in some schools Title IV-B funds had been used for office equipment; in others the funds had been used almost entirely for guidance. (AmLib 1977, 407) No final action was taken by year’s end, nor was there any indication of the new administration’s position on this consolidated program. (LR 1/

78)

**Federal Program Information Act.** Legislation was signed on December 28 requiring the Office of Management and Budget to provide current information, in machine-readable form, about all federal domestic assistance programs. This law was inspired by mounting concern over the proliferation of Washington offices being established by cities and states, which, it was felt, gave them an undue advantage in competing for federal funds. (LR 1/ 78)

**Center for the Book.** A new law signed on October 13 established a Center for the Book in the Library of Congress to promote both scholarly research and public interest in books and printing. The Center was to be supported by private gifts and would require no Congressional appropriations. (LR 1/ 78)

**LSCA Amendments Provide Help for Big City Libraries.** After protracted efforts to reconcile the Senate version which favored extra aid for urban libraries and the House version which held that urban libraries were already taken care of by the inclusion of "strengthening metropolitan libraries" in Title I priorities, a five year extension of LSCA was finally signed by the President on October 7, a week after LSCA had technically expired. [The LSCA extension had squeaked by in the House by a vote of 368 - 1]. The new urban library amendment provided that when appropriations for LSCA Title I exceed \$60 million (for FY 1978 they stood at \$56.9 million), a portion of the excess would be reserved for libraries in cities of over 100,000 population. The Senate push for urban aid reflected the proposal sponsored by the Urban Libraries Council and approved by the ALA Council at the Centennial Conference. (AmLib, 1977, 172) The new act also made clear that Title II construction funds could be used for removing architectural barriers and for reducing energy consumption. (LR 1/ 78)

**Public Works.** The Public Works Employment Act was extended and \$4 billion authorized for a second round of projects. The first round, funded at \$2 billion, was considered successful in providing construction jobs to stimulate the economy. But some changes were made this time to meet the objections of mayors who felt that the cities did not get their fair share of the early projects. (LR 6/13/77) The CETA program, as amended by the Emergency Jobs Extension Act, was extended for one year. (Bowker 1978, 116)

**National Agricultural Library.** NAL achieved a major goal with passage of legislation to establish an Agricultural Libraries and Information Network to facilitate cooperation among disparate agricultural libraries in colleges, universities, and private industry. (LR 1/ 78)

**Research Libraries.** Final regulations were issued on December 28 for the new HEA Title II-C program to provide assistance for major research libraries. To achieve the required "reasonable regional balance," a list of 10 regions was established. (LR 1/ 78)

**Social Security.** To shore up an ailing system, a new law was signed on December 20 which gradually increased payroll tax rates and determined that employees and employers would

contribute equally. (LR 1/ 78)

**Historical Records Grants.** Four libraries have recently received grants in the range of \$20,000 to \$50,000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for projects to preserve and use historically valuable records. \$3 million was available in FY 1977 and \$4 million was approved by the House for FY 1978. (LR 6/13/77)

**Telecommunications.** ALA presented testimony before the House subcommittee considering revision of the Communications Act of 1934. A number of librarians on ALA staff and members of the Information Science and Automation Division contributed to the statement which dealt with: public broadcasting, common carrier policy, cable television regulation, and the impact of communications technology on privacy rights. (LR 1/ 78) In a speech at ALA's Midwinter meeting in February, 1977, Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin (D-CA), Chairman of the House Communications Subcommittee, likened the 1934 communications Act to the 1909 Copyright Act:

*"The Lord made the world in six days, but that was before the emergence of the United States Congress, and I hardly expect that we'll have so easy a job with rewriting the Communications Act. Many of you were directly or indirectly involved in the revision of the Copyright Act of 1909 - another case in which new technologies outmoded old laws. From efforts like that, wise people learn patience, others just grow old. . . .*

*To achieve the potential benefits which the new technologies appear to hold out to us will require a legal and regulatory framework as imaginative and innovative as the technology itself. . . . We are going to need your participation. Librarians must contribute their knowledge and understanding to the process of communications policy-making." (LR 6/13/77)*

**White House Conference.** \$3.5 million was appropriated in May and the first state conference was held in Georgia in September, highlighted by the presence of the President's mother, Lillian Carter. (LR 1/78)

**Library Appropriations for FY 1978** were hung up in year long continuing resolution. As the first session of the 95th Congress fizzled to a close on December 15, Labor-HEW appropriations were mired in an abortion funding controversy. In the absence of any agreement, Congress resolved the impasse by the unusual step of dropping the appropriations bill and passing a continuing resolution for all of FY 1978. (LR 1/78)

# 1978

**Although the Passage of Proposition 13** limiting property taxes in California, reverberated through the halls of Congress and set off numerous across-the-board cuts, the FY 1979 appropriations for most library programs remained at previous levels or slightly above. LSCA Title I increased from \$56.9 million to \$62.5 million, thereby triggering the urban library assistance established by the FY 1977 amendment. (LR 6/16/78)

**The Library of Congress** appropriation increased from \$151 million to \$175 million, but critical scrutiny continued. Many growing workload requests were denied and networking and automation activities were criticized. The Committee report expressed concern that the development of a computer network linking LC to other libraries, would distract from LC's congressional responsibilities. The need for the library community to let their members of Congress know exactly how LC helps their constituents is illustrated by the following question asked by a member of the subcommittee:

*"What does the Library of Congress do for the man who is operating a press, or who is walking the streets, or who is working 8 hours a day in a factory?" (LR 6/16/78)*

The Librarian was directed to make no cuts in services to the public

*"until maximum reductions are made in nonessential Library services such as excessive overhead in the Librarian's immediate office and the office of the director of the Congressional Research Service and maximum efforts are made to reduce duplication, overlap and waste in library programs." (LR 12/21/78)*

**CETA Programs** were extended for four years under a bill signed on October 27. In Titles II and IV, public service employment programs, there was a requirement that special consideration be given to public assistance recipients and disabled Vietnam veterans. Librarians could also use other titles for youth and special programs. (LR 12/21/78)

**Civil Rights.** Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. (LR 12/21/78)

**Handicapped Access.** HEW issued a clarification on August 6 spelling out how small, modestly financed institutions like rural libraries have flexibility in the ways they achieve compliance with the requirements of section 504. A library building with one room and an entrance with several steps, for instance, could be brought into compliance by installation of a simple wooden ramp, by use of a bookmobile, by special messenger service or clerical aid or by any other means that make the resources of the library available to a handicapped person. (LR 12/21/78)

**Civil Service Reform.** President Carter signed three acts affecting working conditions of federal librarians and staff administering federal library programs. Employees downgraded through no fault of their own would have their grades and salaries protected for two years; and federal agencies were encouraged to establish part-time career opportunities and to experiment with

flexible or compressed work schedules. (LR 12/21/78)

**Research Libraries.** The first grant awards under the HEA Title II-C program were announced on August 18, with twenty major research libraries receiving \$5 million to maintain and strengthen their collections and make them available to other libraries and users. (LR 12/21/78)

**Copyright Law.** CONTU issued its 200 page report and disbanded on July 31. It included a particularly interesting treatment of the interrelated economics of publishing and libraries and the impact of copying fees. The CONTU report suggested wording for copyright warning notices on commercial copiers, and included recommendations to the Copyright Office for its mandated five-year review of library photocopying. (LR 12/21/78)

**Age Discrimination.** Legislation signed on April 6 raised the mandatory retirement age from 65 to 70. (LR 6/16/78)

**Depository Libraries.** Under a law signed April 17, accredited law schools became eligible to become depository libraries. Any law school already holding a congressional depository designation, could elect to come under the new law thereby freeing a slot for use by another institution. (LR 6/16/78)

**Department of Education.** The Senate voted 72-11 to establish a cabinet-level Department of Education. The House did not act this session, but the Carter administration promised to push it vigorously next year. (LR 12/21/78) ALA Council voted at Midwinter to support this move. (LR 6/16/78)

**Energy Conservation.** President Carter signed a package of energy bills on November 9. Under PL 95-619, school, college and public libraries would be eligible for financial assistance for energy conservation projects. (LR 12/21/78)

**ESEA Amended and Extended for Five Years.** The former School Library and Learning Resources program was renamed Instructional Materials and School Library Resources. Guidance programs were placed in a separate section, and use of funds for general office equipment was strictly excluded. Moreover, if advance funding was not provided at the preceding year's level, then the old categorical programs (ESEA II and NDEA III) would take effect at 1978 funding levels. (LR 12/21/78)

**Federal Information Centers.** Legislation signed October 20 authorized Federal Information Centers in each state. Begun in 1966 as an experiment to provide information and referrals about federal programs, the centers now numbered 38 with toll-free telephone lines to 40 other cities. The new law would expand the FICs to the 22 states that currently did not have one. (LR 12/21/78)

**Presidential Records.** Under a new law signed by President Carter on November 4, records



created by a president (and aides) related to the performance of official duties were declared government property and must be transferred immediately upon the conclusion of a president's tenure to the custody of the Archivist of the United States. Existing presidential libraries would not be affected by this legislation that was to take effect with the presidential term beginning in 1981. Sensitive papers could be restricted for 12 years, but the Archivist had an affirmative duty to make records available to the public as rapidly and completely as possible. (LR 12/21/78)

## 1979

**Appropriations for FY 1980** became so enmeshed in disputes over Congressional pay and abortion funding, that it was necessary to fund programs for the entire year by a continuing resolution which set funding at conference committee levels which generally split the difference between House and Senate versions. In the case of HEA II-A, college library resources, the Senate appropriators withheld all funds in an effort to force a change in "the operation of this program so that funds are awarded to institutions with the greatest need for assistance." (LR 1/18/80)

**Telecommunications.** After extensive hearings on revising the Communications Act of 1934, the Chairman of the House Communications Subcommittee, Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin (D-CA) decided to drop the sweeping rewrite embodied in the House bill in favor of the less sweeping Senate versions. Final action had not taken place, but passage of these bills would have dramatically shifted the pressures within the communications industry by deregulating, to various degrees, radio, television and cable. Regulation of local access and cable would be left to the states. (LR 11/6/79) Van Deerlin later introduced a revision of the common carrier portion of the Communications Act of 1934. (LR 1/18/80)

**Copyright.** In preparation for the five-year review of library photocopying mandated by PL 94-553, the advisory committee held meetings and the Copyright Office compiled a bibliography of existing surveys of library photocopying and of the effect of the 1976 law on libraries. (LR 11/6/79) The Copyright Office also announced that it would hold regional public hearings to elicit comments on how well the library photocopy provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 had achieved the intended balance between the rights of creators and the needs of users. The first hearing was held in Chicago just before the Midwinter Conference. (LR 1/18/80)

**Carol C. Henderson Named Deputy Director of Washington Office** effective September 1. She had served as associate director since 1977 and assistant director 1975-1977. (AmLib 1979, 619)

**Off-Air Taping.** A House subcommittee heard testimony in March on fair use of broadcast

materials. Librarians testified on off-air taping of television broadcasts for educational purposes in libraries. (LR 11/6/79)

**Department of Education.** At a well-attended meeting in the East Room of the White House, the President signed the bill creating a new cabinet-level Department of Education on October 17. ALA was working to see that the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources, which was often given lower priority in the past, got elevated status in the new Department (LR 11/6/79) A White House Conference resolution called for an Assistant Secretary for Library and Information Services.(LR 1/18/80)

**Energy Conservation.** Emergency restrictions on non-residential building temperatures went into effect July 16. Thermostat settings for heating could not exceed 65 degrees and settings for cooling could not go below 78 degrees. ALA was among many organizations and individuals protesting that these limits posed a danger to library materials. The final regulations allowed libraries and similar institutions to claim a general exemption, but they must have a written justification available for review in the event of a building inspection. (LR 11/6/79)

**Historical Records.** The National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a small grants program within the National Archives, was extended for two years with authorization to award \$4 million in grants each year for conservation and preservation activities. (LR 11/6/79)

**National Library Act.** Senators Javits (R-NY) and Kennedy (D-MA) introduced a bill, at the urging of the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries and the Urban Libraries Council, that would replace LSCA with an expanded program of aid to public libraries administered by a new National Library Agency. Sen. Javits made it clear that no action would be taken until after the conclusion of the White House Conference and "after the members of the general public and the library community have had a full opportunity to be heard."(LR 11/6/79)

**National Periodical Center.** Legislation was passed in the House to authorize a non-profit corporation (not part of the federal government) to improve access to and assure the permanent availability of periodical publications important for educational and research purposes. The corporation would also assure that all fees set by the copyright owner would be paid by the borrowing library. The NPC proposal, endorsed by ALA, would be a new part D of title II of HEA. Senate action was expected early in 1980. (LR 1/18/80)

**Aid to Small Town Public Libraries.** Rep. Leon Panetta (D-CA) introduced a bill that would permit counties to apply directly for federal aid on behalf of communities of 50,000 or less. The stated rationale: state library agencies tend to overlook the small libraries in their efforts to develop statewide networks. (LR 11/6/79)

**Band Instruments May be Added to ESEA IV-B.** Music educators succeeded in getting language added in the House bill that would add band instruments to school library resources and

instructional equipment as eligible for grants. ALA objected that this destroyed the balance and original purpose of the legislation. (LR 1/18/80)

**Libraries and Museums Recognized as Traditional Government Activities.** A Department of Labor announcement added library and museum employees to the list of those state and local government employees not subject to federal wage and overtime standards. The National League of Cities had won a Supreme Court decision that federal standards could not be constitutionally applied to state and local employees engaged in traditional government activities.(LR 1/18/80)

**President Carter Addresses White House Conference.** *American Libraries*, December 1979, p. 634 described President Carter's speech to the 911 delegates on December 16 as:

*"what may be the most prolonged and heartfelt statement of belief in libraries ever issued by the Chief Executive. Dodging the morning's world crises, he spoke for ten minutes on how 'instant access to information and the calm and reasoned guidance of a qualified librarian can make the difference between the success and failure even of a life.'*

*"Carter promised 'you've got a friend in the White House,' and, during the week, some of the friendliest library boosters in Congress -- John Brademas, Claiborne Pell, Carl Perkins, William Ford, Jacob Javits, and (by proxy) Warren Magnuson -- mounted the podium to reaffirm their support." (AmLib 1979, 634)*

**WHCLIS Delegates Recommend More Access to More Information for More People.**

The Conference had been conceived in 1957, written into law in 1974, convoked by the President in 1976, funded in 1977, preceded by state conferences in 1977 - 1979 and finally held November 15 -19, 1979. The delegates considered 49 resolutions and passed 25. The resolutions called for greater library power in the Department of Education, broader and barrier-free access to information for all Americans, service without charge in publicly-supported institutions, stronger resources and training to serve special constituencies, a library in every school, network sharing, unhampered international information exchange, technological development, more national coordination and funding but no less regional and local control, public awareness campaigns, and other measures. The recommendations were seen as strengthening library lobbying efforts and perhaps heading off some of the cuts being proposed by HEW. Whitney North Seymour , a delegate-at-large, board member of the Urban Libraries Council, and moving force behind the National Citizens' Emergency Committee, was very visible and active in gathering support for the National Library Act. Art Plotnik, editor of *American Libraries*, concluded:

*"If the delegates are inspired to keep the momentum going back home, Libraryland's most heralded and most expensive conference ever may turn out to have been a true meeting ground of the profession and the people it wants to serve." (AmLib 1980, 18)*

# 1980

**Appropriations for FY 1981 Held Steady** despite an atmosphere of election-year budget cutting. Funding for LSCA Title III, interlibrary cooperation, actually doubled over the previous year. (LR 1/16/81)

**Arts/Humanities.** The Endowments were extended for five years with gradually increasing authorizations. (LR 1/16/81) In its report on the Humanities Endowment, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee said:

*“The Committee is pleased to note the increased attention that the Endowment is paying to the needs of our country’s libraries. The establishment of a separate Library Program in 1978 has allowed the humanistic resources of these institutions to be more fully utilized by the public . . . . The support made available to local public libraries to raise the profile of their humanities collections is particularly welcome to the members of the Committee.”* (LR 6/18/80)

**Department of Education.** May 4 marked the official beginning of the Department of Education, as well as the inauguration of the Office of Libraries and Learning Technology (OLLT) whose director was at a higher level in the bureaucracy than before. Dick Hays, who headed the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources (OLLR) in the old Office of Education, was appointed deputy assistant secretary for OLLT. (Bowker 1981, 131)

**Telecommunications.** The proposed comprehensive revision of the Communications Act of 1934 died with the end of the 96th Congress. (LR 1/16/81)

**Copyright.** The Copyright Office continued to hold regional hearings and commissioned a survey of libraries, publishers and users in preparation for the five-year review of library photocopying. (LR 1/16/81)

**Eileen Cooke Co-chairs Negotiating Committee on Off-air Taping.** The Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee appointed Eileen Cooke, director of the ALA Washington Office, and Leonard Wasser, of the Writers Guild of America, to head a committee to develop fair use guidelines for off-air video taping for educational uses. (LR 1/16/81)

**James Madison Building Opened on April 24.** Twenty years in the planning and costing \$131 million, the new Library of Congress building became the third largest public building in the Washington area (behind the Pentagon and the FBI building). President Carter signed legislation renaming the original building the “Thomas Jefferson Building,” and the Annex the “John Adams Building.” Thus, the three buildings honor three presidents: Jefferson, the father of the Library of Congress; Adams, who signed the Act in 1800 establishing the LC; and Madison, who

drew up the first book list and helped secure Jefferson's private library after the burning of the Capitol. (LR 6/16/80)

**Phys-Ed Equipment Barred from ESEA IV-B.** After strong criticism from Congress and the threat of a legislative veto, the Department of Education, which had already approved band instruments as "instructional equipment," was forced to exclude physical education equipment from eligibility for funding as "instructional equipment." (LR 1/16/81)

**HEA Library Programs.** Although other areas of HEA were scaled back in the five-year extension signed on October 3, the library programs under Title II fared well. Approximately \$30 million annually was authorized for Title II-A, college library resources, and for Title II-B, library career training, research and demonstrations, and for special purpose grants. The "regional balance" requirement for Title II-C, aid to research libraries, was relaxed from "shall . . . achieve regional balance" to "shall endeavor to achieve broad and equitable geographic distribution." Title II-D authorized a non-profit National Periodical System Corporation to study and, if considered feasible, to design a system "to provide reliable and timely document delivery from a comprehensive collection of periodical literature." This version of II-D was a compromise and a weakening of the House-passed version which had authorized an operating National Periodical Center. This had generated intense opposition from the information industry, and, in a change of position, from the Association of American Publishers. (LR 1/16/81)

**National Archives.** Legislation was introduced, but not passed this year, to increase the independence of the Archivist of the United States. It was suggested that the Archives should be an independent agency, no longer under the General Services Administration. According to Sen. Robert Morgan (D-NC), one of the sponsors of the bill, having the Archives under GSA puts the nation's historical records in "the same category as toilet paper and brooms." (LR 1/16/81)

**Asbestos in Schools.** Under legislation signed June 14, public and private schools could receive federal grants of up to 50 per cent of the cost of detecting asbestos hazards, plus interest free loans for up to half the cost of abatement. (LR 6/18/80)

**Emergency Building Temperature Restrictions.** Because the country was considered to still be dependent on insecure oil imports, President Carter extended building temperature restrictions until January 16, 1981. (LR 6/18/80)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Signed into Law on December 11.** ALA and other groups were concerned about the vagueness of some of the provisions and the broad authority given to OMB over information management. Responding to these concerns, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee issued a report directing OMB to maximize public access to the information the federal government collects. (LR 1/16/81)

**Postal Legislation.** The Senate once again failed to correct several inconsistencies in the existing statute. For example, a publisher could send a book to a school or library at the library

rate, but if the book were returned to the publisher, it had to go at a higher rate. A textbook could be sent library rate, but the companion teacher's guide could not be mailed at library rate. (LR 1/16/81)

**LSCA Replacement Introduced.** Following the White House Conference, Sen. Javits (R-NY) made a major revision of his earlier National Library Act bill and introduced it as the National Library and Information Services Act. This proposal would have replaced LSCA. Another New York legislator, Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY), introduced major amendments to LSCA based on WHCLIS recommendations for more networking. The outlook for both bills was uncertain since both sponsors would not be returning in the 97th Congress. (LR 1/16/81)

**Library Construction Funds Survive** in one-year extension of Public Works and Economic Development Act. Senate conferees opposed continuation of the local Public Works Program which had funded numerous library construction projects. However, when conference negotiations broke down, the existing economic development programs were continued for another year. (LR 1/16/81)

**IRS implements Thor Power Tool Decision.** Based on the 1979 Supreme Court decision, the Internal Revenue Service issued regulations whereby businesses were forbidden to write down the value of inventories unless the inventory were sold below cost or destroyed. Efforts by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-NY) to get publishers exempted were not successful. Libraries would find it difficult to purchase holdings from publishers' backlists, if these items were destroyed to avoid higher taxes. (LR 1/16/81)

**Effects of the White House Conference.** According to a special memo on WHCLIS implementation issued by the ALA Washington Office, in the first year after the Conference:

*"it has already had a definite impact on several legislative and related events.*

*Pressure from the White House Conference delegates kept federal library programs from being cut in the development of the original Carter budget for FY 1981. Again when the budget was being revised in March, congressional leaders - White House Conference memories fresh in their minds - successfully urged that library programs not be cut.*

*The White House Conference process also influenced the internal organization of the Department of Education. Although the delegates' recommendation of an Assistant Secretary for Library and Information Services was not followed, an attempt to split the library programs among several departmental units was headed off, and a Deputy Assistant Secretary was appointed to direct an Office of Libraries and Learning Technologies." (Memo appended to LR of 1/16/81)*

**November Elections Bring a Shift to the Right.** Republicans took the presidency and the Senate, and gained strength in the House. Although strong library support in Congress has

always come from both sides of the aisle, the effects on libraries of this massive shift to the right was not certain. It was clear, however, that many dependable library supporters in Congress had gone down to defeat. (LR 1/16/81)

## 1981

**Carter's Last Budget.** On January 15 President Carter submitted his last budget, proposing increases in library training and research, research libraries, and inter-library cooperation. (LR 1/11/82)

### **Ronald Reagan Inaugurated 1/20/81**

Reagan's budget revisions, submitted on March 10, called for eliminating college library funds, cutting public library services by 25 percent, and including school libraries in a block grant with a 20 percent reduction. The House passed this budget virtually as presented and so did the Senate Appropriations Committee. But before final Senate action, Reagan asked for a further 12 percent cut. The year ended with continuing resolutions carrying spending through March, 1982 (half of FY 1982). This had the effect of cutting most library programs 4 percent below the previous year, but not nearly as deep a cut as requested in the President's budget. (LR 1/11/82)

**The New Federalism.** In addition to big increases for defense and domestic cuts, the Reagan program also featured the "new federalism," in which many federal domestic responsibilities were to be returned to state and local governments or the private sector, despite the fact that most federal programs were enacted precisely because of inaction in these other sectors. (Bowker 1982, 173)

**Congressional Budget Process - Reconciliation.** Ironically, the new administration had great success in using to its own advantage the Congressional budget process, originally designed to increase congressional independence from the administration. Following the President's lead, and convinced of his great popularity, both houses adopted budgets which shifted priorities away from social programs and toward defense. By establishing overall budget limitations, the increasingly powerful budget committees diminished the power of the authorizing and appropriations committees. Spending for individual programs had to be brought into line with congressional budget levels through a process known as "reconciliation." (LR 1/11/82)

**Elementary/Secondary Library Funding in Steep Decline.** The former ESEA IV-B programs, school library resources and instructional equipment, would be included in ECIA (Education Consolidation and Improvement Act) block grants in 1982. Under the continuing resolution, funding for FY 1982 stood at \$483 million for programs that had been funded at \$761 million in

FY 1980 and \$535 million in FY 1981. (LR 1/11/82)

**Playboy in Braille.** Despite grumbling and threats from members of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Committees, a measure to prohibit the use of federal funds by LC for producing braille editions of *Playboy* magazine was dropped by conferees as censorship. LC's selection policy was based on the premise that its blind and physically handicapped users should have access to the same books and information that is available in public libraries. (LR 1/11/82)

**National Archives and Records Service** budget for FY 1982 was cut 16% under the continuing resolution. (LR 1/11/82)

**Copyright.** Off-Air Recording Guidelines, prepared by a negotiating committee established by Rep. Robert Kastenmeier (D-WI) with the cooperation of the Register of Copyrights, were published in the *Congressional Record* on October 14. Although not having the force of law, the guidelines were expected to be considered by judges in copyright violation cases. Teachers who wished to record television broadcast programs for educational purposes must: make specific requests in each instance; may not keep the recording more than 45 days; may use the recording only twice during the first 10 school days after making the recording; and must adhere to other similar restrictions. (LR 1/11/82)

**Betamax Case.** A federal appeals court decision on October 19 held that taping television programs in the home violates copyright and that the manufacturer of the recording equipment can be held liable. [Betamax, manufactured by Sony, was one of the major brands of home video recorders. Its recording technology was eventually superseded in the marketplace by the VHS standard]. The same decision went beyond home videotaping and cast some doubt on the whole "fair use" doctrine. Senators Domenici (R-NM) and D'Amato (R-NY) quickly introduced a bill to exempt home video taping. (LR 1/11/82)

**Department of Education.** The Reagan administration began to carry out a campaign pledge to dismantle the Department of Education, establish a sub-Cabinet education foundation and abolish 23 programs now administered by the Department, including all library support programs. (LR 1/11/82)

**Education Consolidation and Improvement Act.** The nature of federal assistance to elementary and secondary education changed significantly with enactment of a block grant for FY 1982-87 combining 33 previously separate programs and reducing authorized levels of funding. Part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, the ECIA caused school library media centers to compete with 32 other programs for funding. (LR 1/11/82)

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).** At the request of the Reagan administration, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Rep. Glenn English (D-OK) introduced legislation that would severely limit the applicability of the Freedom of Information Act. Neither sponsor was completely happy with the administration bill and proposed major changes. Both committees held oversight hearings on



FOIA and more hearings are expected next year. (LR 1/11/82)

**LSCA** was extended through FY 1985 as a result of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act. (LR 1/11/82)

**Medical Library Assistance Act**, due to expire this year, was kept alive through FY 1982 by the Budget Reconciliation Act. (LR 1/11/82)

**Reagan Attempts to Oust 3 NCLIS Members Before Their Terms Expire.** In an unprecedented move that appeared to be in conflict with the law, the White House on November 5 informed three NCLIS members, including ALA Past President Clara Jones, (whose terms were due to expire 7/19/82), that their services were terminated and that names of replacements were being forwarded to the Senate for confirmation. ALA President Elizabeth Stone wrote the President asking for assurance that the notifications were meant solely to alert the Commissioners to the upcoming expiration of their terms. (LR 1/11/82)

**Postal Rates.** In less than a year's time, the fourth class library postal rate changed four times, going up three times and down once. A major factor in the changes was a substantial cut in postal rate subsidies. (LR 1/11/82)

**Proposed Changes in Librarian Classification Standards.** The US Office of Personnel Management issued proposed changes from current standards that were substantive and had the effect of lessening the value of the MLS degree as a credential for entry into the professional librarian series in the federal government. The ramifications for the profession would be serious since the federal government is one of the largest single employers of librarians and standards for many state and local publicly supported libraries are influenced by federal standards. (LR 1/11/82)

**Thor Power Tool Ruling.** Sen. Moynihan (D-NY) offered an amendment to the tax bill that would remedy the effects of the Thor Power Tool ruling on publishers' backlists. The US Treasury representative testified that the negative effects of the ruling had been exaggerated and that no remedy was needed. However, publishers, small business people and the ALA went on record supporting the Congressional remedy. Similar legislation was pending in the House. (LR 1/11/82)

**Telecommunications.** A growing consensus in favor of competition and deregulation of common carriers (generally excluding cable and broadcast issues) emerged in Congress, as exemplified by the 90-4 vote in the Senate in favor of the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act. The House version had similar goals, but different tactics. There was a strong consensus that common carriers should have no control over information content. The only restraint on competition was an insistence that service should be universally available at reasonable charges. If this could not be achieved through competition, then some reregulation may be needed. The House subcommittee solicited statements from ALA, and the ALA

Washington Office, in turn, issued a call to the library community for reactions to the bill in preparation for hearings scheduled for February, 1982. (LR 1/11/82)

**White House Conference on Aging**, held on December 3, urged that Title IV, Older Readers' Services, be included in any forthcoming legislation which might replace LSCA. (LR 1/11/82)

**LSCA Funds Held Up.** Despite the continuing resolution, the administration had still not released any LSCA funds as of the end of the calendar year. (LR 1/11/82)

## 1982

**Impoundment of LSCA Funds.** Despite a lawsuit involving ten states and three adverse General Accounting Office opinions, the Reagan administration managed to impound for six months almost \$20 million in LSCA funds appropriated by Congress for FY 1982. The funds were finally released on April 26. (LR 6/30/82)

**Reagan's FY 1983 Budget Would Eliminate All Federal Library Programs.** Not since FY '74 under Nixon had a President proposed a zero budget for all library programs. LSCA, HEA and NCLIS were all marked for elimination as programs which "have achieved their objectives or which are more appropriately the responsibilities of states, local governments, or private institutions." (LR 6/30/82) Congress firmly rejected this proposal but was not able to secure FY 1983 funding until December, and then only by a year long continuing resolution. Most programs received the same or almost the same funding as in the previous year. (LR 12/28/82)

**Deacidification at LC.** The Library of Congress appropriation for 1983 included \$350,000 for treating up to 50,000 books in its mass deacidification program.

**Copyright.** In preparation for the 5-year review - due January 3, 1983 - of Section 8 of the Copyright law, the Register of Copyrights invited written final comments. Although the Association of American Publishers took the position that infringement in libraries had been widespread since the law was enacted, ALA referred to the study done by King Research and wrote as follows:

*"The King Report provides a solid statistical basis for the conclusion that the Copyright Revision Act of 1976 is achieving the intended balance between the rights of creators on the one hand and the needs of users of copyrighted materials on the other. It demonstrates overwhelming compliance by librarians . . . Most importantly, the Report demonstrates that the publishing community's worst fears for its economic viability were unfounded. The projected death of serial publishing has not come to pass; in fact, the industry is flourishing with the support of libraries."* (LR 12/28/82)

**Off-Air Taping.** In the continuing concern over the copying of broadcast programs, a bill was introduced that would levy a tax on audio and video recording equipment and blank tapes. ALA vigorously opposed this, citing, for example, the University of Wisconsin which spent \$155,000 on recording equipment and \$132,000 for blank tapes used for collecting scientific information from the space shuttle, for patient interviews for diagnostic purposes, for library instruction lectures, none of which had anything to do with the recording of copyrighted materials. Meanwhile, ALA filed an *amicus curiae* brief on behalf of the Sony Corporation's appeal to the Supreme Court to overturn a lower court ruling that recording television programs in the home violate copyright and that the maker of the recording equipment is liable. ALA urged the Congress to take no action until the Supreme Court had a chance to rule in the case. In fact, Congress took no further action before adjournment. (LR 12/28/82)

**Manufacturing Clause Extended for 4 Years.** As a protection for domestic printers, Congress voted to extend the provision that denied full copyright protection to certain English language material manufactured outside the US or Canada. ALA, publishers and authors opposed the clause which was due to expire on July 1. President Reagan vetoed the extension, but Congress easily overrode the veto and the extension stood. (LR 12/28/82)

**Citizenship Education** was added to the list of purposes for which educational block grants could be used. This was an amendment to the ECIA, Education Consolidation and Improvement Act. (LR 12/28/82)

**Nairobi Protocol.** Congress gave final approval to a protocol to the Florence Agreement which would grant duty-free status to audio, visual and microform materials, as well as all products for the blind and handicapped. (LR 12/28/82)

**Government Information Policies.** In response to a major initiative to reduce the amount and cost of government publishing, the Washington Office wrote to the Office of Management and Budget expressing concern over the assumption throughout the proposed regulations that federal government data collection is a burden on the public, with little recognition given to the benefits to the public which are derived from accurate, non-biased and timely statistics. The Washington Office documented the shift toward curtailing government information in a chronology titled "Less Access to Less Information By and About the US Government." (LR 12/28/82)

**CETA Replaced by Job Training Partnership Act.** The new emphasis was on training rather than employment, and there was no longer any provision for public service jobs. However, libraries were still able to benefit from several of the provisions. (LR 12/28/82)

**NCLIS Appointments.** Before a full hearing room audience of Legislative Day library supporters, Chairman William Natcher (D-KY), noting the presence in the audience of Elinor Hashim, Reagan's nominee for NCLIS chair, pointedly asked Charles Benton, the current NCLIS chair, why the President would appoint a chairperson while requesting no funding for the Commission. (LR 6/30/82) In December, for the first time since the Commission was

established, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee held hearings on the presidential nominees. ALA submitted a statement stressing the importance of an independent commission and expressing concern about President Reagan's use of the nomination process to remove members of NCLIS before the end of their statutory terms. Reagan's nominees were confirmed on December 21. (LR 12/28/82)

**NEH Grants to Independent Research Libraries.** In a White House ceremony thirteen libraries received grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$2 million (NY Public Library) which had to be matched 3-1 from non federal sources. President Reagan met with the library directors and praised independent research libraries as "repositories for the accumulated knowledge and teachings of civilization." NEH gave as the reasons for the grants: 1) independent research libraries collect, preserve and promote research in important records of the past; 2) these libraries have demonstrated that they can carry out their mission intelligently and efficiently; and 3) they need substantial financial assistance to continue providing their basic services. (LR 12/28/82)

**Library Postal Rate Goes Down.** As a result of increased postal subsidies, third and fourth class postal rates actually declined slightly on July 28. (LR 12/28/82)

**Library Commemorative Stamp.** The 20 cent commemorative stamp honoring "America's Libraries" was issued on July 13 during the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia. ALA President Betty Stone noted the fortuitous circumstances: Philadelphia is the city where ALA was founded in 1876 and the city where in 1731 Benjamin Franklin founded the Library Company of Philadelphia, the forerunner of America's public library movement. Franklin was also the postmaster of Philadelphia and then the first postmaster of the US. (LR 12/28/82)

**ALA Fights Move to Downgrade Standards for Federal Librarians.** Throughout all of 1982 there was continued furor over attempts by Donald Devine, director of the Office of Personnel Management, to reduce the salaries of entry grade librarians and to devalue their educational qualifications. Three draft standards were reviewed and rejected by ALA, all three national libraries, the Federal Library Committee and others. ALA President Carol Nemeyer appointed past president Betty Stone to lead the group monitoring the development of the new standards. Only under pressure from Congress, federal agencies and professional groups did OPM allow serious review of the draft standards, and then required that reviewers work in the OPM conference room under intense time pressures and prohibited any photocopying of the revised drafts. At one hearing Betty Stone directly challenged the testimony of Donald Devine who had suggested that librarians were protecting higher salary levels by restricting access to the profession. When her turn came, she said that ALA has not requested that artificially restrictive barriers be erected or perpetuated, but that ALA does insist that the academic credentials of librarianship receive equal value from OPM as similar credentials do in male-dominated professions. (LR 12/28/82)

**Telecommunications.** Revision of the common carrier provisions of the Communications Act

of 1934 came close to passage, but was delayed by opposition from AT&T. In January, Judge Harold Greene approved a settlement in the anti-trust suit that had been pending against AT&T since 1974. Under the terms of the settlement AT&T divested itself of the 22 Bell operating companies and their local telephone service. (LR 12/28/82)

## 1983

**Public Library Construction Funded for the First Time in 10 Years.** Under an emergency supplemental appropriation for FY 1983, signed by President Reagan on March 24, the LSCA Title II program was funded for the first time in ten years at \$50 million as part of an initiative to create jobs in areas of high unemployment. Senate Appropriations Committee chairman Mark Hatfield (R-OR), was responsible for getting LSCA II included in the "Jobs Bill." (LR 6/18/83) The Washington Office was able to provide Sen. Hatfield with a state-by-state list (prepared by Richard Hall of the Georgia library agency) of 2,886 public library building projects needed in 1981-85. (AmLib 1983, 262)

**LSCA I and III Funded at Full Authorized Level.** FY 1984 funding for public library services was raised to \$65 million and funding for interlibrary cooperation was raised to \$15 million, the highest levels to date, even though the President had requested zero. (LR 12/22/83)

**College Library Resources Axed.** Congress did go along with the President in eliminating funding for HEA Title II-A, which awarded an average of \$870 for the purchase of library materials to virtually every accredited institution of higher learning. There had been congressional complaints over the years that these grants were not related to any showing of actual need. The Senate Appropriations Committee report said:

*"The committee concurs with the administration's request because the program provides financial assistance to postsecondary institutions for the acquisition of library materials and networking activities without regard to the institution's financial capacity."* (LR 12/22/83)

**Nairobi Protocol Implemented.** In January, President Reagan signed legislation implementing the Nairobi Protocol which expanded the Florence Agreement by removing import duties on audiovisuals, microforms, and materials for the physically handicapped. (Bowker 1984, 200)

**Contracting Out of Federal Libraries.** Following administration policy embodied in OMB Circular A-76, the libraries of the Department of Energy and the Department of Housing and Urban Development were contracted out to commercial firms in August and September. ALA opposed inclusion of libraries as commercial services subject to wholesale contracting out. (LR

12/22/83) Rep. Owens (D-NY) spoke against this practice at March public hearing:

“I was surprised to discover that library service was included among the ‘commercial activities’ which this circular proposes to contract out. Library service is a custom-made service more similar to policy planning or speech writing than to security or janitorial services.” (AmLib 1983, 174)

**Five Year Review of Library Photocopying.** As required by the Copyright Act, the Register of Copyrights transmitted a report to Congress in January which found that the law “provides a workable structural framework for obtaining a balance between creators’ rights and users’ needs,” but concluded that “the balance has not been achieved in practice.” The report made certain statutory and non-statutory recommendations. ALA was quite dissatisfied with this report and prepared an extensive response, which concluded:

*“Throughout the Register’s Report the implication is made that librarians and the library community have engaged in copying that far exceeds the limits of the law. . . .Because of this, we feel that the Report is heavily weighted in favor of proprietary groups and lacks balance and objectivity, despite massive amounts of statistical data in the King Research Report which is based on observation.*

*Librarians are complying with the law. Most photocopying done by libraries is within the bounds of Sections 107 and 108 . . . .Libraries do not reduce the size of their collections because of the availability of photocopies. Indeed, reliance on networking to substitute for a subscription to a periodical is not only illegal; it is inefficient and expensive. Every library strives to be as comprehensive in its collection development area as it can be. The availability of photocopies for the occasional user interested in an unusual field makes possible the kind of access to information so important to our society’s very foundation.”* (LR 6/18/83)

**ALA and Educators Win Exemption in New Copyright Bills.** Two bills pushed by the Motion Picture Association and the music industry would have established a commercial lending right by copyright owners even after the sale of records, cassettes and films. The Educators’ Ad Hoc Committee on Copyright Law, of which ALA was a member, successfully negotiated the following compromise language with industry representatives:

*“Nothing in the foregoing proviso shall apply to the rental, lease or lending of a phonorecord for nonprofit purposes by a nonprofit library or nonprofit educational institution.”*

Similar language was worked out for the lending of films and video. (LR 12/22/83)

**Education Block Grants Criticized.** Following an oversight review of ECIA, the House Government Operations Committee issued a report in November entitled “Block Grants Have

Weakened Federal Programs for the Educationally Disadvantaged.” The report also concluded that desegregation programs had been weakened. (LR 12/22/83)

**ALA and Concerned Congress Members Block Downgrade of Library Office in ED.** After the loss of a number of functions due to the education block grants, the Department of Education proposed to combine library and other functions under a new Center for Education Improvement. ALA objected to “the meaninglessness of the title which would give no clue to the nature of the programs being administered.” Moreover, the word “library” ought to appear in the title of an entity made of predominantly of library programs and 90% of whose funding was for library activities. In August ED formally notified Congress that the unit would be called the Center for Libraries and Education Improvement. (LR 12/22/83)

**A Nation At Risk Generates Discussion but No Funding for Education.** Following the issuance of a hard-hitting critique by the National Commission on Excellence in Education, a number of congressional hearings were held, but the renewed focus on education was not expected to result in any increase in the President’s FY 1985 education budget. ALA, however, did act quickly to establish a Task Force on Excellence in Education chaired by NY State Librarian, Joseph Shubert. (LR 12/22/83)

**Access to Government Information.** In response to OMB’s request for comments on federal information management and the administration’s emphasis “that information is not a free good but a resource of substantial economic value,” ALA Washington Office director Eileen Cooke stated ALA’s position:

*“Members of the American Library Association believe that a primary tenet of a free society is complete and ready access to government information and publications which are imperative for an informed society. To participate fully in a democratic society, citizens must be informed and aware, regardless of their individual ability to pay for needed information. Therefore, we urge the inclusion in the policy on information resource management that the government has a responsibility to make available the information and that the public has a right to have access to information created by the government.”* (LR 12/22/83)

**Adult Literacy.** At a White House ceremony in September President Reagan announced an Adult Literacy Initiative by the Department of Education. Although little new federal money would be involved, the President cited as the first key point in the initiative, “to provide initial federal funding for the Coalition for Literacy and support the National Ad Council in its awareness campaign.” The Coalition for Literacy was an ALA-initiated group of eleven organizations whose goal was to launch a nationwide multi-media campaign to focus attention on the problem and recruit literacy volunteers. Speakers at the ceremony included Barbara Bush, wife of the Vice-President, and Robert Wedgeworth, executive director of ALA. (LR 12/22/83)

**ALA Favored an Independent National Archives.** ALA entered the debate over removing the

National Archives and Records Service from the General Services Administration by filing a statement including a resolution passed by ALA Council supporting an independent NARS. (LR 12/22/83)

**ALA Objects to Presidential Directive on National Security Information.** Citing a need for greater protection of classified information, President Reagan issued a directive in March requiring greater use of polygraph tests to find sources of leaks and requiring that all individuals who had access to certain kinds of information sign a life-long agreement to submit all writings and proposed speeches on intelligence matters to government review prior to publication. The executive director of ALA was directed by Council resolution to write to the president asking that the directive be rescinded. Congress succeeded in delaying implementation of the directive until April 15, 1984. (LR 12/22/83)

**Pay Equity Bill Introduced.** Sen. Daniel J. Evans (R-WA) introduced a bill to establish a Commission on Pay Equity to determine how the federal government, with its 3 million employees, can “provide a standard for the private sector, and at the same time, get its own house in order.” Sen. Evans said that the legislation is patterned after the efforts of his administration when he was Governor of Washington. (LR 12/22/83)

**Public Lending Right.** Sen Charles Mathias (R-MD) introduced a bill establishing a commission to study the feasibility of a public lending right in the US. Ten countries have set up similar systems whereby authors are compensated for the public lending of their books by libraries. Sen. Mathias noted that he wanted to find out if it would encourage authors to write and could it be implemented without burdening libraries or discouraging reading. (LR 12/22/83)

**General Revenue Sharing** was extended for three years. (LR 12/22/83)

**Standards for Federal Librarians.** The General Accounting Office (GAO) reviewed the process by which OPM had developed draft classification standards for Federal librarians. The GAO report, issued in August, found that OPM had not exceeded its authority, but that it had failed to address librarians’ criticisms concerning the reduced entry grade level and lowered minimum qualifications. It suggested that OPM could improve its credibility by conducting statistically reliable occupational surveys. The Chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and four committee members urged OPM to withdraw the standards. But OPM director Donald Devine said, “We intend to continue considering changes in the qualification standard for this occupation.” (LR 12/22/83)

**Libraries Face Much Higher Costs due to Breakup of Bell System.** Long distance rates were expected to decline when AT&T became divested of its local telephone systems on January 1, 1984. However, the Federal Communications Commission proposed to levy access charges to compensate local phone companies for providing connections to long distance carriers. This was expected to result in much higher telecommunications costs for libraries which, assuming the continuation of reasonable communications costs, had established computer links to share



resources, effect economies and improve services. Analysis from OCLC and AT&T indicated an average increase of 73% in the cost of data communications for libraries. (Bowker 1984, 201) ALA and other organizations petitioned the FCC to postpone the new access charges or to exempt library and educational users. (LR 12/22/83)

## 1984

**ALA Launches ALANET.** A new electronic mail and information service was inaugurated on January 2. (AmLib 1983, 511)

**Supreme Court Betamax Ruling a Landmark for Libraries.** On January 17, the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision ruled that individuals may legally tape TV shows for home use. ALA, which had filed an *amicus curiae* brief on behalf of the Sony Corporation's appeal to overturn the lower court ruling, cited the decision in the Betamax case as a great victory for fair use. (AmLib 1984, 70)

**Congress Again Repudiates Zero Funding.** A report from the Senate Appropriations Committee gave the rationale for ignoring the President's recommendations:

*"For the third consecutive year, the administration has proposed complete elimination of the library programs administered by the Department of Education. For the third year in a row, the Committee has flatly rejected this proposal. Libraries are an integral part of the Nation's educational systems and national commitment to lifelong learning. The Federal contribution to these programs, while modest, is crucial to the ability of libraries to serve the total population, and in particular, such groups as the handicapped, the homebound, economically needy, language minorities and others who require special and often more costly services."* (LR 12/18/84)

In a clear and bipartisan rejection of the administration request, Congress appropriated and the President signed FY 1985 funding for LSCA and HEA II amounting to a 44% increase over the previous year. Funding for public library construction (LSCA II) was funded at \$25 million. The committee noted, "According to the American Library Association, public library construction needs for 1985 alone total \$400 million." (LR 12/18/84)

**Deacidification Facility and Restoration of Historic Older Buildings Funded for LC.** The Library of Congress got supplemental FY 1984 appropriations of \$11.5 million to establish a mass book deacidification facility. \$81.5 million was appropriated for the restoration and renovation of the Thomas Jefferson and John Adams buildings. (LR 12/18/84)

**National Library Week.** During National Library Week, Rep. Major Owens (D-NY), a former

librarian, lined up 29 members of Congress to give one-minute speeches on libraries. (LR 12/18/84)

**Books in Our Future**, a report prepared by LC's Center for the Book, was issued in December. It concluded that there is more danger to the culture of the book from illiteracy and aliteracy than from new technologies. (Bowker 1985, 240)

**Cable Communications Policy Act** of 1984 enacted October 30. The cable industry pushed hard for this legislation and lengthy negotiations were held with the National League of Cities and the US Conference of Mayors. Local franchising authorities could require channel capacity for public, educational and government use, but no minimum access requirements were set. A five percent cap on franchise fees was established, so that the negotiating rights of local governments were limited. ALA had participated with a coalition of public interest and local government groups to push for strong PEG [public, education, government] access provisions (LR 12/18/84)

**Contracting Out.** ALA submitted a statement for a congressional hearing record expressing concern with the wholesale contracting out of federal libraries. In September, 12 members of Congress sent a letter to OMB stating,

*"While we believe that proper implementation of the A-76 Circular can help achieve more cost-effective performance of government activities, we oppose its application to library operations, which are inherently connected to the government's ability to make sound policy judgments."* (LR 12/18/84)

**Record Rental.** A measure prohibiting commercial record rental establishments from renting audio recordings without copyright owners' permission was enacted. However, lending by nonprofit libraries and educational institutions was exempted, thanks to the negotiating work of the Educators' Ad Hoc Committee on Copyright Law, of which ALA was an active member. The congressional committee report made clear the intent

*"that the legislation not interfere with the usual lending activities of nonprofit libraries . . . when the rental, lease, or lending of phonorecords is part of their customary activities and not in the nature of a commercial enterprise . . . (T)he Committee does not intend to bar a small fee to cover administrative costs of the lending program, if that is customary."* (LR 12/18/84)

**Depository Library Tribute.** On March 30, the Senate passed a resolution introduced by Sen. Mathias (R-MD) paying tribute to the Depository Library Program. After the "Whereas" part, the resolution concluded:

*"Resolved, That the Senate pay tribute to depository libraries throughout the land and commend the many dedicated people associated with the depository library program for*

*their significant contribution in furthering the cause of free and open public access to Government information.” (Bowker 1985, 237)*

***A Nation at Risk.*** Library responses to the critique of American education came in various forms. “Alliance for Excellence: Librarians Respond to *A Nation at Risk*”, prepared under the direction of Ray Fry, was issued by the Department of Education. The American Association of School Librarians also prepared a response. The ALA Task Force on Excellence in Education, chaired by Joseph Shubert, issued a report entitled “Realities: Education Reform in a Learning Society.” (LR 12/18/84)

**Education Block Grants.** The administration’s main response to *A Nation at Risk* was to recommend a \$250 million increase in the Education Consolidation and Improvement school block grants. (Bowker 1985, 233) A survey of state library agencies regarding their experiences with ECIA block grants was decidedly mixed. 19 states expressed positive reactions, mostly because they received increased funding for school libraries, but 14 states, including many of the largest states, had very negative experiences. (LR 12/18/84)

**LSCA Reauthorized for 5 Years Despite Veto Threat.** A possible veto was averted by intense grassroots efforts by the library community and pressure from numerous Republicans in Congress. Under the leadership of then Rep. Paul Simon (D-IL), three new titles were added: for service to Indian tribes, for foreign language materials, and for library literacy programs. (LR 12/18/84) During House debate, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA) had offered a crippling amendment that would have authorized the President to eliminate or reduce any LSCA authorization whenever it would aid in balancing the budget, reducing the debt or serving the public interest. The amendment was defeated 248 - 144 before the bill itself passed by 357 - 39. (AmLib 1984, 126)

**Medical Libraries.** Although the President vetoed an extension of the Medical Library Assistance Act, the fact that Congress did appropriate funding had the effect of authorizing the program for another year. (LR 12/18/84)

**ALA Platform Plank Ignored by Both Parties.** Efforts by the ALA Legislation Committee to place statements of support for libraries in the platforms of the political parties this election year met with no success. (LR 12/18/84)

**Archives Goes Independent.** The President signed legislation separating the National Archives and Records Service from the General Services Administration (GSA) and constituting it as an independent National Archives and Records Administration. Under the Act, the Archivist of the United States is appointed by the President subject to Senate confirmation. ALA participated in a coalition of history and archival groups working for Archives independence. (LR 12/18/84)

**Older Americans Act** extended for three years. In case of any doubt as to the eligibility of libraries under the act, Rep. Pat Williams (D-MT), in House debate, noted “that interpretation of

the bill which assures that our senior citizens and our public libraries have access to Titles III and IV of this act . . .” (LR 12/18/84)

**Pay Equity.** On June 28 the House voted 413 - 6 to direct the Office of Personnel Management to study whether the comparable worth principle should be used to set federal pay levels. A floor amendment by Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH) requiring that the study be done by an outside consultant was accepted. Rep. Oakar stated that OPM “cannot be trusted to undertake a fair and objective analysis of the current classification and pay systems.” When the legislation failed in the Senate, members of the House and Senate asked the General Accounting Office to provide a detailed report by March 1, 1985 on options for carrying out a pay-equity study. ALA Council reaffirmed the Association’s endorsement of comparable worth and urged state associations to encourage the passage of comparable worth laws in their states. (LR 12/18/84)

**Postal Issues.** Congress provided enough funding to protect subsidized postal rates, but a general postal increase was voted which would amount to a 15.5% increase for the 4th class library rate when the new rates went into effect February 17, 1985. ALA had filed comments with the USPS Board of Governors protesting such large increases in the library rate. In another postal matter, the Postal Rate Commission declined a request by ALA that computer-readable media, which like books promote the dissemination of educational, cultural and scientific information, be included in the 4th class book rate. The Commission’s refusal was not based on the merits of the request, but on the position that this question should be settled by Congress. (LR 12/18/84)

**Telecommunications Rates.** When the Senate rejected an amendment by Sen. Larry Pressler (R-SD) that would have prohibited any telephone rate increases which would interfere with services then provided by not-for-profit libraries, he and 26 other senators sought an administrative remedy from the Federal Communications Commission, asking in writing that a special library private line service be established. In his letter to the FCC, Pressler wrote: “it is clear that Congress must take action. We cannot allow the divestiture of AT&T to prevent them from performing their historic role of providing universal access to information.” (LR 12/18/84) Although the FCC did not agree to this request, the access charges scheduled to go into effect January 1 were delayed until April 1. This was the first of numerous FCC actions during the year that had the effect of delaying these tariff increases. (Bowker 1985, 243) ALA, with the Association of Research Libraries, had formed a coalition of 24 library organizations and networks to pool resources to retain a telecommunications consultant to monitor and influence developments affecting library data transmission.

**US Pulls Out of UNESCO.** On December 19, the State Department confirmed its intention to withdraw the US from membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Although recognizing that there had been serious problems with UNESCO, ALA had expressed concern about the announced withdrawal. A bill to delay US withdrawal died when Congress adjourned. (Bowker 1985, 247)

**ALA and the ARL Start Telecommunications Coalition.** A coalition of 24 groups initiated by ALA and the Association of Research Libraries last year, will continue for another year. Coalition members pooled their resources to retain a telecommunications consultant to monitor developments affecting library data transmission. (LR 12/18/84)

## 1985

**Congress Continues to Resist Zero-funding for Libraries.** For the fourth year in a row Congress ignored administration requests and continued to fund library programs. FY 1985 spending was to be reduced 4.6% as a result of the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985, better known as Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. But FY 1986 funding for library programs was up 2 percent over the previous year, and LSCA VI, the library literacy program, was funded for the first time at \$5 million. (LR 1/3/86) In supporting this program of grants up to \$25,000 for library literacy programs, the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (L-HHS-ED) commented:

*"The Committee is deeply troubled by the scope of the functional illiteracy problem in the United States. Presently an estimated 27 million adults are classified as functionally illiterate. . . . it is estimated that between 200 and 250 grants will be awarded for library literacy programs to begin operating in fiscal year 1986, and will significantly increase the momentum of literacy training already underway in the nation's public libraries."*  
(LR 1/3/86)

**NCLIS.** The Senate acted to save the Commission after the House had agreed to an administration request to leave it unfunded. (LR 1/3/86)

**Arts/Humanities Endowments.** Charges by three Texas Republicans (Armev, DeLay, and Bartlett) that NEA was supporting obscene literature resulted in keeping appropriations for the Endowments frozen. However, a proposed amendment that would have prohibited Endowment grants for projects which ". . . would be patently offensive to the average person and lack serious literary or artistic merit" was voted down by the Education and Labor Committee after eloquent arguments by Reps. Williams (D-MT), Coleman (R-MO), and Jeffords (R-VT) and after ALA had sent a letter to every Representative urging defeat of such an amendment. (LR 1/3/86)

**Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act.** Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, signed into law December 12, set up an automatic process triggering across-the-board cuts in order to balance the budget by 1991. However 73% of the federal budget was exempted from the cuts, so the reductions would fall hardest on programs like library support which were not exempted. It was estimated that the 4.6% cuts for FY 1986 would rise to nearly 30% in FY 1987. The cuts would be based on economic forecasts made by the Office of Management and Budget, the

Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and the General Accounting Office (GAO). President Reagan raised constitutional objections to relying on unelected officials at CBO and GAO to determine funding levels. Rep. Mike Synar (D-OK) filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the entire amendment. (LR 1/3/86)

**Contracting Out.** Rep. Major Owens (D-NY) and ALA councilor Patricia Berger testified before a House Civil Service and Post Office subcommittee hearing objecting to the contracting out of entire federal libraries. Owens expressed concern not only about the error of classifying library services with laundry and janitorial services but about the larger danger of contracting out other professional services leading to the demise of the civil service. Berger testified:

*“With the exception of the federal government, libraries are not, in fact, considered products which can be purchased off the shelf. If they were, if significant cost savings were possible with no loss of quality or other adverse effects, we would expect to find corporations in large numbers contracting out their entire library operations. Such is not the case.”* (LR 1/3/86)

One OMB official, when asked how libraries could be commercial activities, said that if industry has libraries, then libraries are commercial activities within the definition of Circular A-76. (LR 6/24/85)

**Department of Education.** A reorganization of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) resulted in an upgrading of the library unit. The new director of Library Programs, Anne Matthews, reported directly to the OERI Assistant Secretary. (LR 1/3/86)

**NLW Brings 375 Library Supporters to DC.** National Library Week was marked by a press conference sponsored by Rep. Major Owens and ALA to call attention to administration efforts to zero out federal library programs and to restrict access to government information. Library Legislative Day on April 16 brought 375 library supporters for the annual day of organized lobbying. (Bowker 1986, 220)

**National School Library Month.** A ceremony at the US Capitol marked the passage, during National Library Week, of a Senate resolution designating April 1985 as National School Library Month. (Bowker 1986, 220)

**Fair Labor Standards.** A February Supreme Court decision had the effect of extending FLSA provisions to almost all state and local public employees. However, subsequent amendments enacted in November allowed compensatory time at the time-and-a-half rate in lieu of overtime pay for hours over 40 per week. (LR 1/3/86) Cities and states must now pay the minimum wage. (AmLib, 1985, 281)

**Federal Information Management.** Despite congressional and public pressure, including letters from ALA Washington Office director Eileen Cooke, for open hearings on a final policy

directive on information management, OMB issued Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, on December 24. The circular was expected to have a major impact on the extent and quality of federal information available to policy-makers, scholars and the public. It called for cost-benefit analysis of government information activities and “maximum feasible reliance on the private sector” for the dissemination of government information and cost recovery through user charges where appropriate. (LR 1/3/86)

**House Would Restore College Library Resources Program.** In its report on the five-year reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the Education and Labor Committee said:

*“The Committee is indebted to the academic library community for its extraordinary efforts to work together on the development of the ‘needs criteria’ for II-A grant programs. The Congress . . . may now feel more favorably disposed toward appropriating adequate funds. . . .”*

Senate action was pending at the end of the calendar year. (LR 1/3/86)

**Line-Item Veto.** A bill to give the President power to veto items within funding bills was withdrawn after a successful filibuster led by Sen. Hatfield (R-OR). ALA opposed the line-item veto noting that for four consecutive years, the President had attempted to eliminate funding for all library programs. “S. 43 would give the President yet another chance to eliminate library programs, forcing Congress to act yet again in support of them.” (LR 1/3/86)

**Literacy.** *Becoming a Nation of Readers* was the title of a report commissioned by the Department of Education and issued in the summer of 1985. It focused on developing good reading skills and habits early in the learning process. The director of ED’s Adult Literacy Initiative pledged the continuing support of President Reagan, Mrs. Barbara Bush and Education Secretary William Bennett. (LR 1/3/86)

**Medical Libraries.** Congress overrode a presidential veto and extended the Medical Library Assistance Act through 1988. By a joint resolution Congress also called on the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 150th anniversary of the National Library of Medicine. (LR 1/3/86)

**Administration Retreats on Polygraph Program.** A secret directive of November 1 required that thousands of government officials including perhaps some Cabinet members submit to polygraph tests in a counter-espionage crackdown. After it became known that polygraph tests would have been authorized for 182,000 federal employees and after Secretary of State George Schultz threatened to quit if ordered to take a lie-detector test, a December White House statement seemed to back off from the original directive by referring to the polygraph program as “a limited but sometimes useful tool when used in conjunction with other investigative and security procedures in espionage cases.” A White House official said on December 19 that it would be “sheer nonsense” to think that polygraph tests would be used against unauthorized or

unpalatable disclosures to the media. (LR 1/3/86)

**ALA Defends Braille Edition of *Playboy*.** ALA joined the American Council of the Blind, the Blinded Veterans Association, and Playboy Enterprises, Inc. In filing suit against the Librarian of Congress for following the intent of Congress to deny FY 1986 funds for *Playboy* under LC's books for the blind and physically handicapped program. ALA President Beverly Lynch said at a press conference that the action suppresses access of the blind to viewpoints, ideas and information expressed in a single lawful magazine otherwise available to sighted readers, solely because the government deems those ideas to be dangerous, bad, immoral or otherwise undesirable. The issue arose when the House accepted an amendment to cut the LC budget by \$103,000. The text makes no mention of the purpose of the cut, but the published remarks of the sponsor, Rep. Chalmers Wylie (R-OH) made it clear that the intent was to prohibit LC from reproducing and distributing *Playboy* in braille. While proceeding to carry out congressional intent, the Librarian of Congress expressed profound regret at the House action "censoring material made available to the blind community through our Library of Congress service . . . . Censorship has no place in a free society." (LR 1/3/86)

**Postal Rates.** The rate for a 2 pound book package was to go up 24 %, from 54 cents to 67 cents under new rate announced to take effect January 1, 1986. (LR 1/3/86)

**Revenue Sharing.** This program, which was authorized to give grants of \$4.5 billion annually, was scheduled to expire September 30, 1986. Disagreements on other issues prevented any action this year. But the budget reconciliation process and Gramm-Rudman-Hollings make it unlikely that this program will be continued. (LR 1/3/86)

**Sex Discrimination in the US Code.** The Senate passed legislation introduced by Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-KS) to revise or eliminate 200 gender-based distinctions in the United States Code. Untouched were Selective Service, combat limitations and affirmative action that benefits women. The matter then went to the House Judiciary Committee for action. (LR 1/3/86)

**Standards for Federal Librarians Still on Hold.** There was no work being done on the standards and a new director of OPM has been confirmed. (LR 1/3/86)

**Telecommunications Rates Continue to Rise for Libraries.** AT&T's private line charges for libraries connected to OCLC had already risen an average of 31% since deregulation. On November 27, AT&T filed for tariffs that would raise them by another 10 - 12% The ALA Council passed a resolution commending Sen. Pressler (R-SD) and the 26 senators who joined him in writing to the FCC on behalf of libraries. (LR 1/3/86)

**Library Symbol.** The Federal Highway Administration adopted the library symbol as a General Information Sign on March 13. However, the sign must be white on green and have a supplemental word message. ALA had requested that the signs be white on blue, but that



was ruled out. Eighteen of nineteen cities, counties, states and professional traffic engineering groups that testified were opposed to the sign. One supported the white on green version. (LR 6/24/85)

**Libraries Get Big Challenge Grants from NEH.** The Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore and the Pierpont Morgan Library of New York each received a \$1 million challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana received a \$300,000 grant. The grants require a three-for-one local match. Sen. Dan Quayle (R-IN) said, "I congratulate the National Endowment for its wisdom in making this vital award." (AmLib 1985, 77)

**SALT-D Preserved.** A major controversy emerged over a tax reform proposal to do away with the deduction for state and local taxes. Proponents argued that deductibility encouraged unnecessary local government services or those that could otherwise be provided by the private sector. Since education and libraries received almost all of their funding from state and local taxes and since economists predicted that voters would demand lower state and local taxes if they could no longer deduct them, ALA and many education groups protested strongly against this move. When the tax reform bill was passed by the House on December 17, full state and local tax deductibility was intact. (LR 1/3/86)

## 1986

**Library Programs Survive Deficit Reduction Measures.** Congress managed to meet its deficit reduction target while making education and libraries a high priority. (LR 1/5/87) Very successful lobbying on Legislative Day by a record 475 library advocates contributed to a 60-38 Senate vote on April 23 to not only restore the FY 1986 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings cuts but also to add a 5.7% increase for inflation in FY 1987 for most education and library programs. (AmLib 1986, 390). Administration attempts at rescission of library funds already appropriated were rebuffed. (LR 6/17/86)

**Age Discrimination.** Effective January 1, 1987 there would no longer be an age cap of 70 for mandatory retirement. Tenured faculty and public safety workers were exempted for seven years to study the effect of eliminating mandatory retirement in those fields. (LR 1/5/87)

**Revenue Sharing Ends.** In order to avoid deep cuts in discretionary programs while keeping within the budget resolution, Congress allowed revenue sharing funding to expire. (LR 1/5/87)

**LSCA Gets a Real Increase for FY 1987.** Despite a fifth consecutive year of administration requests to zero out this program, Congress not only restored the 4.3% cut required by Gramm-Rudman-Hollings in 1986, but added additional funds. The Senate committee report said it

*“strongly rejects the administration’s attempt to eliminate this modest but important Federal share of library assistance which continues to have a major impact in leveraging support for the Nation’s public and research libraries.” (LR 1/5/87)*

**Postal Rates.** The Continuing resolution provided \$650 million in revenue “forgone” to the Postal Service, enough to keep preferred postal rates at current levels through September 1987. (LR 1/5/87)

**Contracting Out.** On November 4, employees of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration library were notified that the library would be contracted out to Aspen systems, a Dutch-owned firm. The headquarters libraries of the Department of Interior and the General Services Administration were also subjects of an A-76 study. (LR 1/5/87) ALA Washington Office director Eileen Cooke was seen wearing a T-shirt with the message: “PRIVATIZE OMB.” (AmLib 1986, 174)

**Sen. Mathias (R-MD) Asks GPO to Delay Discontinuance of Paper Documents.** In an attempt to live within its budget, the Government Printing Office announced in September that in three weeks it would discontinue hard copy for all dual format (paper and microfiche) documents sent to depository libraries. ALA and others objected to the material involved, the short notice and to the lack of consultation with depository libraries. Sen. Mathias, chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, heeding the objections, asked the Public Printer to put the plan on hold. (LR 1/5/87)

**ALA Collects Grass Roots Comments on ECIA.** In response to an invitation from a congressional committee chair, the Washington Office and the American Association of School Librarians conducted a survey of school librarians. A minority of respondents were satisfied with the block grant approach, but the vast majority favored either an earmarking of funds for libraries or a return to the categorical grants. (LR 1/5/87)

**Electronic Communications Privacy.** Legislation was signed in October which expanded the federal wiretap law to protect the privacy not only of voice communications over wire but of voice communications regardless of medium and to data, video communications and electronic mail. Cellular telephone conversations were also protected, despite the difficulty of enforcement. (LR 1/5/87)

**Government Information Coalition.** Twenty organizations convened in Washington in July at the invitation of ALA’s Ad Hoc Committee to Form a Coalition on Government Information. The COGI, subsequently established, hoped to focus national attention on efforts to limit access to government information and to develop its own blueprint for a government information policy structure. The Washington Office offered staff and publication support to COGI. (LR 1/5/87)

**HEA Reauthorized.** A reauthorization of the Higher Education Act included in HEA II authorization for high-tech library equipment and for resources for needy college libraries. The

final version of the legislation, signed by President Reagan on October 17, included the essential elements of recommendations made by ALA and its Association of College and Research Libraries and the Association of Research Libraries. (LR 1/5/87)

**Japanese Technical Literature.** A bill to create a program within the federal government to increase the availability of Japanese technical literature in the US was passed and signed by the President. After ALA testimony, the bill had been amended “. . .to include the library community as an entity to be consulted with an additional perspective on information needs.” (LR 1/5/87)

**LC Restores Sunday and Evening Hours.** When funds were restored in a 1986 supplemental, the Library of Congress was able to restore evening, Sunday and holiday hours in the general reading rooms after four months of curtailed service due to budget cuts. (LR 1/5/87) The February closings had provoked strong reactions, including a series of sit-ins and subsequent arrests. (AmLib 1986, 228) Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin testified before the House subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations:

*“Historians will not fail to note that a people who could spend \$300 billion on their defense could not spend \$18 million on their knowledge - and could not even keep their libraries open in the evening. Historians will look with amazement and incredulity at a nation that could once afford to build grand structures bearing the names of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Madison - all of them champions of knowledge - yet decided it could no longer afford to acquire as effectively and abundantly as possible the current sources of knowledge. They will recall the last epoch of the Roman Empire when Romans were so fearful of the barbarians that they imitated the barbarians. These are not the priorities of civilization and freedom.”* (AmLib 1986, 233)

**ALA Protests Politicization of Archives.** ALA and 12 archival historical and genealogical organizations opposed the nomination of John Agresto, a protégé of Education Secretary William Bennett, as US Archivist. Opposition centered on the qualifications for the position in the 1984 law designed to guarantee an independent archives, free of political influence. The law specified that the Archivist “be an officer performing professional archival and records management functions insulated from the political orientation of a particular administration.” A number of influential senators, as well as NEH Chair Lynne Cheney recalled ALA’s 1975 opposition to the nomination of Daniel Boorstin. Boorstin’s excellent performance was cited as an example of how organizations like ALA can make a mistake. On October 2, the nomination of Agresto was withdrawn. (LR 1/5/87) The position would remain vacant for 2 ½ years. (LR 12/21/87)

**Paperwork Reduction Act.** Without public hearings, Congress reauthorized the PRA for three years. This is the legislation that gave OMB its authority to develop and supervise policies over virtually all federal government information activities. (LR 1/5/87)

**Librarians Question Privatization of NTIS.** An apparent move by the Department of

Commerce to privatize the National Technical Information Service stirred concern among librarians who have found the service to be very useful. ALA opposed any privatization action which would impair the mission of NTIS. (LR 1/5/87)

**Clampdown on “Sensitive” Information.** On October 29, National Security Adviser John Poindexter issued a directive to all federal agencies to immediately restrict the release of a broad range of government information that was unclassified, but considered “sensitive.” *Business Week* editorialized,

*“Once under way, censorship like this typically expands relentlessly. Already one Pentagon official wants to license foreign users of commercial US databases and to develop software that would reveal who is using a data base and what data they are calling up.”* (LR 1/5/87)

## 1987

**Trillion Dollar Budget Has No Money for Libraries.** President Reagan’s FY 1988 budget request was the first ever to exceed \$1 trillion, but for the sixth year in a row, it proposed no funding for LSCA and HEA Title II. He also asked Congress to rescind funding that had already been appropriated for those programs in FY 1987. (AmLib 1987, 106)

**Contracting Out.** After many complaints about the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s decision to contract out its Central Library, Senate Committee chair Ernest Hollings (D-SC) asked the General Accounting Office to examine the matter. The GAO report found that the scope of work presented to the NOAA Library and to the private bidders was not identical. But GAO found that the difference was too small to have had any material effect. However, the GAO report did contain one startling statement:

*“In discussing this issue with library staff, they pointed out that the contractor’s bid decreased each year. According to information in the contract file, this decrease was based on the assumption that volunteer staff will be used and such use will increase by 0.5 staff years each year.”*

Eileen Cooke reacted to the GAO review by writing to Sen. Hollings:

*“We were astonished that NOAA management would be willing to accept a bid to contract out the library based on the assumption that the contractor’s costs would decrease in the out years because “volunteers” would come forward to help staff the library. There are two things wrong here -- first, where do these volunteers come from, what are their qualifications, and who controls them; and, second, isn’t it against the law*

*for unpaid volunteers to replace either federal servants or to work unpaid for the government contractors?" (LR 12/21/87)*

**Poindexter Memorandum Rescinded.** National Security Adviser John Poindexter, whose directive had empowered federal agencies to bar the release of "sensitive but unclassified information" took the Fifth Amendment on March 17 rather than explain the memo to a congressional committee. His successor has since rescinded the memo. (AmLib 1987, 238)

**School Block Grants Reauthorized.** Sen. Jesse Helms, (D-NC) cast the only negative vote when the Senate passed a reauthorization of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act by a margin of 97-1. Library resources were retained as one of the 11 targeted areas for local use of the ECIA funds. (LR 12/21/87)

**Postal Rates.** Congress voted sufficient appropriations for revenue forgone to permit subsidized rates to remain stable at least through April 1988. (LR 1/4/88)

**Education Resources Information Center.** At oversight hearings conducted by Rep. Owens (D-NY), library representatives praised ERIC but feared that proposed new initiatives like ACCESS ERIC would drain resources from the basic services which had been underfunded for years. (LR 1/4/88)

**Fairness Doctrine Ends.** The FCC ruled on August 4 that the traditional Fairness Doctrine violated the first amendment rights of broadcasters by requiring them to afford reasonable opportunities for the presentation of contrasting viewpoints. Congress moved to codify the Fairness Doctrine making its enforcement mandatory. President Reagan vetoed the bill. When it was added as an amendment to the continuing resolution to keep the government operating in FY 1988, the President threatened to veto the entire package and shut the government down if the amendment were left in it. Proponents of the Fairness Doctrine withdrew it at the last minute. (LR 1/4/88)

**FBI "Library Awareness" Program.** ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee issued an advisory alerting librarians to the "unwarranted government intrusions upon personal privacy" resulting from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's visits to libraries under its "Library Awareness" program. The FBI campaign, among other things, asked librarians to report library use by persons "hostile to the US." (AmLib 1987, 812) Both ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Washington Office worked to call public attention to the FBI program and seek its discontinuation. The IFC Advisory listed the 36 states and the District of Columbia which had enacted confidentiality of library records statutes. (LR 12/21/87)

**Billington Confirmed as Librarian of Congress.** At Senate confirmation hearings on July 14 on the nomination of James H. Billington to succeed the retired Daniel Boorstin as Librarian of Congress, ALA President Margaret Chisholm said that ALA had recommended that the position be filled from the ranks of distinguished librarians, but acknowledged Dr. Billington's

credentials as a scholar and administrator and recommended an agenda for the Librarian of Congress in the years ahead. (LR 12/21/87)

**Librarian for LC.** ALA President-elect F. William Summers and others testified on October 29 in support of Rep. Major Owens' bill requiring that future Librarians of Congress possess "special training or significant experience in the field of library and information science." Owens emphasized that his bill was not a negative reaction to the appointment of James Billington, but a nod to the future when information science and the role of technology will be more important. Rep. Bill Frenzel (D-MN) said that he did not want to "fence out" people of the caliber of Billington and Boorstin. (AmLib 1987, 894)

**New FOIA Rules Hurt Libraries.** Congress made certain amendments to the Freedom of Information Act with the intention of keeping costs down for the news media and public interest users. However, the administration's implementation of the amendments excluded from the favored organizations all libraries except those connected to institutions that OMB considered educational. As a result, many public libraries would be forced to pay search costs as well as the cost of reproducing the records. (Bowker 1988, 207)

**Wilson Confirmed as Archivist of the United States.** The Senate on November 20 confirmed Don W. Wilson as US Archivist. He had served as director of the Gerald Ford presidential library and had strong credentials as an historian. He was among those recommended by a coalition of organizations which included ALA. (LR 12/21/87)

**Privatization of NTIS Barred.** At the beginning of the year OMB instructed the Commerce Department to begin turning over the functions of NTIS to private firms, even though the service was fully self-supporting and cost the taxpayers nothing. (AmLib 1987, 102) ALA was on record against the move. Later, the Senate joined the House in blocking the privatization of NTIS. The Senate report commented:

*"The administration has proposed turning over the operations of the National Technical Information Service to either a private contractor or an employee-owned organization. At the Science Subcommittee's March 7, 1987 hearing on Commerce Department technology programs, subcommittee chairman Riegle asked Department officials for a written response to his question about the rationale for this proposed privatization. The Committee has yet to receive an answer. Under these circumstances, the Committee believes it appropriate to prohibit the privatization of NTIS unless such transfer is expressly authorized by statute, while again providing the Secretary of Commerce with an opportunity to submit written recommendations on the matter."* (LR 12/21/87)

**Manuscript Donations.** Sen. Moynihan (D-NY) introduced a bill to restore the tax deduction for artwork or manuscripts donated by their creators to libraries or museums. Since 1969, such deductions has been limited to the cost of the materials. Moynihan spoke about how the deduction was lost:

*“ . . . it seems to me time that we be open about the origins of the 1969 legislation. . . It was inserted in the Tax Reform Act of 1969 with the specific intent of denying a tax deduction to former President Lyndon B. Johnson and former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey. . . . One Senator sought to punish, in their political eclipse, two great public men who had been unassailable at the apogee of their influence and strength. But the legislation went far beyond the original narrow intent, catching in its net the entire creative community. A matter of indifference to its sponsor, perhaps, but hardly to us. A full political generation later, it is time for a remedy.” (LR 12/21/87)*

**1990 Census Data.** After vigorous protests from users of federal statistics, OMB retreated partially from its attempt to remove housing-related questions from the 1990 Census forms. ALA had joined with other housing, planning and corporate representatives in criticizing the proposal. Numerous examples were cited of how library patrons use decennial census data. (LR 12/21/87)

**WHCLIS II.** Although some differences remained to be ironed out between House and Senate versions, it appeared certain that approval would be given to a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held between 1989 and 1991. Sponsors numbered 178 in the House and 72 in the Senate. (LR 12/21/87)

**Continuing Resolution Keeps Government Programs Going in FY 1988.** During a long and late session on December 21, Congress gave final approval to two omnibus measures to reduce the deficit and fund the government. The continuing resolution, at \$600 billion, was the largest money bill ever passed. After a long and complicated process, most library programs ended up with funding slightly above or slightly below FY 1987 levels. A major success, in a climate of serious deficit reduction, was the first-time funding of the Higher Education Act II-D College Library Technology and Cooperation Grants at \$3.6 million. This title had just been authorized in the FY 1986 HEA amendments. (LR 1/4/88)

## 1988

**Reagan Acknowledges Federal Role for Libraries.** In his \$1.1 trillion budget request for FY 1989, President Reagan for the first time assumed a modest federal role in supporting libraries by proposing a total of \$76 million for library programs in a new Library Services Improvement Act which would replace LSCA and HEA II. Although introduced in the Senate, the President's proposal was not acted on by Congress. (LR 6/22/88)

**Library Programs Hold Their Own in FY 1989 Appropriations.** Congress completed all appropriations bills before the October 1 start of the 1989 fiscal year - the first time that had happened since 1977. LSCA funding was up by 1.5% and other library programs were funded

close to previous year levels. (LR 12/15/88)

**Postal Rates.** Congress appropriated sufficient revenue foregone funding to continue free mail for the blind and to keep fourth-class library rates at the current level through September, 1989. (LR 12/15/88)

**School Block Grants.** The vulnerability of consolidated programs and block grants was vividly demonstrated in a series of Senate amendments which transferred over \$30 million to other worthy educational purposes by reducing the funds available to be used for school library programs. (LR 12/15/88)

**Copyright.** In the second five-year review of the library photocopying provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976, the Register of Copyrights concluded that there was a consensus among the interested parties that the copyright law had achieved a balance between the rights of creators and the needs of users. As a result of legislation signed on October 31, the US joined the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, a 102 year old international agreement. Long standing differences keeping the US out of the Berne Convention were reduced by passage of the Copyright Act of 1976 and expiration of the manufacturing clause that had required that works by American authors be printed in the US or Canada. By joining the Berne Convention, the US could establish multilateral copyright relations with 24 additional countries. (LR 12/15/88)

**FBI Puts Limits on its "Library Awareness Program."** Since reports of FBI visits to libraries began coming to light in late 1987, the general media, the library press, several library associations, information industry representatives and members of Congress expressed serious reservations about the program. By November both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* reported that the FBI had set limits on the program. FBI director William Sessions told a House Committee:

*"In conducting this program, the FBI will not attempt to circumvent local library management in contacts with librarians; ask for information about people with foreign-sounding names or accents; ask for reports on "suspicious" or "anomalous" behavior; or ask for circulation lists or other records of what people choose to read."*

Sessions also said that the program would not focus on public or university libraries, but would continue, when necessary, to contact certain scientific and technical libraries in the New York City area concerning hostile intelligence service activities. (LR 12/15/88)

**Depository Library Program Joins Electronic Age.** After much consultation with ALA, ARL and others, the GPO released its first CD-ROM to selected depository libraries in September. Recipient libraries, most of which had experience using CD-ROM technology, agreed to help other documents librarians in accessing the test disk. (LR 12/15/88)



**Freedom of Information Day.** By congressional joint resolution and presidential proclamation, James Madison's birthday, March 16, was designated Freedom of Information Day. At a press conference organized by ALA to mark the event, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) gave a stirring defense of freedom of speech and said that FOIA was part of the First Amendment freedom to get knowledge, speak it and use it. ALA released its media "starter kit" on government information, including *Less Access to Less Information by and about the US Government: A 1981 - 1987 Chronology*, as well as statements from some of the 43 organizational members of the ALA-developed Coalition on Government Information (COGI). (News1 3/25/88)

**Contracting Out Continues.** The Central Library of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was contracted out to a subsidiary of a foreign company. The final award was to the low bidder based on compensated personnel. Since libraries staffed by fewer than ten persons could be contracted out immediately without formal review, the process could be speeded up by hiring freezes which reduced staffing below the threshold for formal review. In a first, one federal library was designated a governmental activity [thereby immune to contracting out] in its reauthorization act. (Bowker 1989-90, 205)

**Patent Office Allowed to Charge for Automated Searches.** The Patent and Trademark Office was authorized to "establish reasonable fees for access by the public to automated search systems of the Patent and Trademark Office." Waivers were permitted for small business people, university professors, etc. and free public access to the use of paper and microform collections in the search rooms and libraries must be maintained. (LR 12/15/88)

**ALA Washington Office Publishes Guide to Federal Grants.** Shari Weaver compiled a guide to 65 federal grant programs that might fund library-related projects, individual graduate study, or research, other than LSCA and HEA II programs. (LR 12/15/88)

**Library Improvement Act Goes Nowhere.** The administration's proposal to replace LSCA and HEA-II was finally introduced in the Senate on June 28 by Sen. Dan Quayle (D-IN). He said he did it "by request" as a proposal developed by the Department of Education which "deserves to be discussed." The proposal was not introduced in the House. (LR 12/15/88)

**National Book Week.** Following legislation sponsored by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-NY) and Rep. William Green (R-NY), President Reagan issued a proclamation declaring November 28 - December 5, 1988 as National Book Week. The Proclamation said in part:

*"...the printed word is an implacable enemy of tyranny, whether that tyranny comes in the form of official censorship by government or fashionable neglect in academia. In every society, the goals of education must include such a wide experience of the best books that intellectual independence and critical thinking become the natural assets of each citizen."* (LR 12/15/88)

**Privatization of NTIS Forbidden by Law.** In its reauthorizing legislation for the National

Bureau of Standards, Congress prohibited privatization of NTIS. (LR 12/15/88)

**Pay Equity Still Stalled.** Efforts in Congress to require a pay equity study of the federal wage and classification system continued to meet formidable opposition. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) attached a pay equity provision to the tax bill making technical corrections to the Tax Reform Act of 1986, but had to withdraw it in the face of administration opposition and a possible veto of the entire tax bill. (LR 12/15/88)

**NEH and LC Get Big Increases for Preservation Grants.** FY 1989 appropriations for the National Endowment for the Humanities included an \$8 million increase for the Office of Preservation for a multi-year plan to support coordinated preservation efforts, with emphasis on microfilming brittle books, as well as collections of US newspapers and special humanities collections. This \$12.5 million appropriation was almost triple the amount of the previous year. The Library of Congress' appropriation enabled it to double its preservation microfilming from 11,000 to 22,000 volumes and to continue its deacidification program. (LR 12/15/88)

**Archives Gets Funding for New Building.** The National Archives and Records Administration received a 5% increase in funding for FY 1989, including \$4 million for the grant programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The Archives also got authorization to construct a new building on a donated site at the University of Maryland to relieve severe overcrowding at its historic Washington location. (Bowker 1989-90, 211)

**Video Privacy Protection Act.** Legislation was enacted in November providing that personally identifiable information relating to video tape rental or sales may not be disclosed except under certain narrowly defined circumstances. This legislation had begun as the Video and Library Privacy Protection Act, but the Library portion was eliminated because of complications related to the FBI's desire for a "national security letter" exemption. Such an exemption would set a much lower standard than a court order and permit an FBI official to get access to records simply by sending a letter asserting a national security rationale. ALA agreed that it would be better to drop the Library provisions of this bill and to rely on state statutes to secure the privacy rights of library users. (LR 12/15/88)

**FAX Access to Washington Office Begun.** Readers of the July-August 1988 *American Libraries* were informed that they could now send communications at any time by telefacsimile.

**WHCLIS II.** The President signed on August 8 legislation authorizing a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held between September 30, 1989 and September 30, 1991. Funding was authorized at \$6 million, but it had not yet been appropriated. According to the new law, participants were to be one-fourth library and information professionals, one-fourth active library supporters, one-fourth government officials, and one-fourth from the general public. State conferences could be held, but were not required. (LR 12/15/88)

**Year of the Young Reader.** Pursuant to congressional joint resolution, President Reagan issued a proclamation on December 5 designating 1989 as the Year of the Young Reader, a joint effort of the Center for the Book and the Children's Literature Center of the Library of Congress. The theme would also be used by state centers for the book and by ALA. (LR 12/15/88)

## 1989

### George Bush Inaugurated 1/21/89

**Bush Priorities Do Not Include Libraries.** President Bush called himself the "Education President," but his February announcement of new initiatives proposed only \$441 million for education and made no mention of libraries. Any new initiatives would have to be paid for by cuts in existing programs. OMB's list of available targets for cuts included all library programs administered by the Department of Education, a category described by OMB director Richard Darman as "a category that, from our perspective, is not as important." (LR 6/13/89)

**Library Services Improvement Act Still Kicking.** President Reagan's proposed legislation to replace LSCA and HEA II was included again in his final budget and was embraced by new President Bush. (LR 6/13/89) The bill was introduced in the Senate by Robert Dole (R-KS) and in the House by William Gooding (R-PA). But both legislators indicated that they made no commitment to support the proposal, but were introducing it at the request of the administration. (LR 12/18/89) Sen. Dole said:

*"I do not necessarily agree with all the provisions of the administration's bill. In particular, I know that the construction title of LSCA, which the Library Services Improvement Act would eliminate, has been found to be a very worthwhile program . . . I believe, however, that the administration should be able to go on record with its views, and I am pleased to introduce this measure on its behalf." (AmLib 1989, 628)*

**Senator Leahy Receives First Annual Freedom of Information Award.** In Capitol Hill ceremonies on March 16 sponsored by the Coalition on Government Information and the National Security Archive, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) was presented with the first Madison Award as a champion of freedom of information. (LR 6/13/89)

**Chinese Students Allowed to Stay Longer in US.** As a result of harsh measures to quell dissent in China following massive student demonstrations in the Spring, it was felt that Chinese students in the US could be endangered if compelled to go home for two years upon completion of their studies as required by their visas. Congress passed legislation to extend their stays, but President Bush vetoed it and instead invoked administrative actions to extend the stays. ALA Council had endorsed the legislation. (LR 12/18/89)

**Federal Information Policy Debated on Several Fronts.** When authorization expired for the Paperwork Reduction Act at the end of September, the OMB information policy office continued to operate as it had when Congress failed to reauthorize the law from 1984 through 1986. Both Senate and House considered bills based on the assumption that the flow of information from the federal government to the American people is essential to the proper operation of a democratic society, and that agencies should be required to make public information products and services available equally to all persons. But both bills had new provisions on the dissemination of government information that raised serious concerns. In a letter to the chair of the House Government Operations Committee, ALA President Patricia Berger and ALA Legislation Committee Chair Patricia Schuman said:

*“The Section increases substantially OMB’s power to interfere with the dissemination of government information -- power that, in the past, Congress has chosen either to reserve for itself, or to legislate to specific agencies on a case-by-case basis. The Section consolidates two major elements of power in a single agency, namely the absolute power to regulate government information dissemination and the almost absolute power to wield budgetary control over such information. (LR 12/18/89)*

Meanwhile, the Office of Technology Assessment issued a report entitled *Informing the Nation: Information Dissemination in an Electronic Age*. When NCLIS held public hearings on the OTA report, Patricia Schuman testified that it presented a clear articulation of the issues and concerns of ALA. While ALA may disagree with some of the specific policy alternatives suggested, Schuman said ALA agreed with the report’s conclusion that taken as a whole, congressional intent with respect to federal information is clear, that unimpeded dissemination of and access to federal information is encouraged and is vital to agency missions and to the principles of open government and a democratic society. (LR 12/18/89)

**Intergenerational Library Literacy Act.** A bill introduced by Sen. John Glenn (D-OH) and Rep. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) would establish intergenerational library literacy programs under ACTION’s Retired Service Volunteer Program (RSVP) and would amend LSCA VI to provide demonstration grants. In describing the legislation, Sen. Glenn remarked:

*“This provides a meaningful way for older Americans to share their talents, it greatly benefits children who receive both assistance in developing reading skills and special attention from an older adult, it helps the staffs of public libraries who are taking time from their other duties to supervise latchkey children, and it is addressing our Nation’s growing need for day care given the increasing number of women who are working.” (LR 12/18/89)*

**Literacy.** While no final action was taken this year, both Houses appeared to be moving to expand federal support for literacy programs both in LSCA VI and elsewhere. (LR 12/18/89)

**National Library Card Sign-up.** Following passage of a congressional joint resolution,

President Bush proclaimed September 1989 as National Library Card Sign-up Month and called upon "the libraries, schools and people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities." ALA was cooperating in this campaign to have all school children obtain a public library card. (LR 12/18/89)

**Permanent Paper.** The Senate passed a resolution on July 31 to establish a national policy to promote the use of permanent, alkaline papers. A companion House measure was pending, and the report of the House Appropriations Committee urged the Government Printing Office to aggressively pursue use of permanent paper for inhouse and commercially procured printing. (LR 12/18/89)

**ALA Continues to Fight Access Charges.** When the FCC reopened the possibility of creating access charges for the kinds of enhanced telecommunications services used by libraries for data transmission, ALA urged the Commission to make permanent its tentative conclusion that the present exemption should be retained. The extension of electronic information services to smaller and rural libraries, and the increased capacity and sophistication of such services delivered via value-added networks, made the impact on libraries even more severe. (LR 12/18/89)

**Toward a National Telecommunications Infrastructure.** Sen. Albert Gore (D-TN) reintroduced his National High-Performance Computer Technology Act which would include a National Research and Education Network. The NREN would upgrade and expand the existing interconnected array of scientific and regional networks known collectively as the Internet. The broadening of the concept from just "research" to "research and education" was due at least partly to the involvement of the library community. The scientific adviser to President Bush produced a very similar plan called *The Federal High Performance Computing Program*, which the administration proposed to carry out administratively, without the need for legislation. The Office of Technology Assessment issued a report in September entitled *High Performance Computing and Networking for Science --Background Paper*. Regardless of differences in approach, it was clear that all parties recognized that high capacity computing power and the broadband telecommunications highway needed to carry it were infrastructure concerns just as crucial and just as deserving of a federal stimulus as highways and railroads were in the past. (LR 12/18/89)

**WHCLIS II.** In a combination of FY 1989 supplemental and FY 1990 appropriations, \$5 million was provided for the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services. (LR 12/18/89)

**FY 1990 Appropriations.** Most federal library programs received modest funding increases and narrowly escaped Gramm-Rudman-Hollings cuts. LSCA Title II was cut 15% from the previous year after being zero-funded by the House. Sen Mark Hatfield (R-OR), a constant defender of library construction, managed to get the conference committee to much more than split the difference between Senate (\$23 million) and House (\$0) versions. (LR 12/18/89)

# 1990

**Bush Would Cut Library funding by 71%, But Not to Zero.** For the first time in eight years, an administration budget requested funding for some Department of Education library programs. However, LSCA Titles I and II were still zeroed out. President Bush's FY 1991 budget proposed increases in LSCA Titles III and VI. A very large increase in non-library programs would have raised the overall education budget by 2%. (LR 12/21/90)

**Rural Caucus Leads; Congress Protects Library Funds.** As in the past, Congress ignored administration attempts to slash library funding. A bipartisan group of nineteen rural Representatives urged the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (L-HHS-ED) Appropriations subcommittee to restore funding for LSCA Titles I and II and to begin funding the newly reauthorized Title V for foreign language materials for public libraries. In the end, library programs got a 4.5% increase and Title V was funded at \$976,000. (LR 12/21/90)

**Postal Rates.** The Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, a coalition to which ALA belongs, was satisfied that the appropriation for postal revenue forgone was sufficient to protect current mailing rates. The administration had requested a much lower subsidy which would have raised rates. Certain commercial types of third-class mail would face higher rates in what the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers called "a sound response to Congress' demands to tighten up on the use of the preferred rate privilege." (LR 12/21/90)

**ALA Gives Strong Support to Endowments During Crisis.** During the spirited and at times acrimonious debate over funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities amid charges that they had funded offensive projects in the past, ALA sent letters in support of both Endowments to the House and Senate authorizing and appropriations committees. After a reasonably successful outcome, the National Humanities Alliance, a coalition to which ALA belongs, indicated that ALA had been by far the most active of the humanities organizations in support of the Endowments during this controversy. (LR 12/21/90)

**Federal Information Policy.** The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science approved on June 29 its revised *Principles of Public Information*, which it called a "Bill of Rights for the Information Age." In response to a request for comments, ALA supported the underlying assumptions of the NCLIS, but added some specific recommendations for strengthening the principles. (LR 12/21/90)

**Improving GPO's Sales Program.** During House oversight hearings on the Government Printing Office's Sales Program, Catherine Lucas, San Diego County Library, testifying on behalf of ALA, identified several areas of possible improvement: GPO should explore

alternatives for uses of publications before disposal, modernize with greater use of technology, keep publications in stock longer and in greater quantity, accept machine-generated orders from libraries, and provide a comprehensive source of all federal publications to libraries. (LR 12/21/90)

**LC Proposes Fees for Services.** The Library of Congress brought to the ALA Annual Conference a proposal to recover costs and charge fees for its services. After meeting with the Legislation Committee and the ALA Executive Board, Librarian of Congress James Billington said that he would postpone submitting his proposal to Congress pending further discussions with the library community. The Legislation Committee said that LC services to the nation should be supported through federal appropriations and not through user fees. In line with that approach, the Legislation Committee and ALA made major efforts to support the Library of Congress FY 1991 appropriation. (LR 12/21/90)

**LC Gets Increase; Its Service to Nation's Libraries Recognized.** Although less than it asked for, the Library Congress' appropriation for FY 1991 was 12% above the previous year. The Committees urged LC to work with the library community on arrearages and cooperative cataloging. Sen. Timothy Wirth (D-CO) successfully proposed that LC be exempted from a mandatory 5% across the board cut in Legislative Branch funding. The basis for the exemption, and one cited by numerous Senators who supported the Wirth amendment, was the need to protect the Library of Congress' services to the nation's libraries. (LR 12/21/90)

**LSCA Gets More Titles.** A five year reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act was signed on March 15. It included further emphasis on technology within the first three titles and added two new titles: Title VII for evaluation and assessment of LSCA by the Department of Education, and Title VIII Library Learning Centers. (LR 12/21/90)

**IRS Publishes Rules on Lobbying by Tax Exempt Organizations.** After four years of disputes, the Internal Revenue Service published final regulations which still permit not-for-profit organizations to be part of policy debates and to participate directly in legislative controversy up to the monetary limits Congress intended. Independent Sector, a coalition to which ALA belongs, helped negotiate improvements over earlier versions of the regulations. (LR 12/21/90)

**National Agricultural Library Strengthened.** Included in a mammoth farm bill approved by both Houses of Congress was a provision giving the National Agricultural Library statutory authority to serve "as the primary agricultural information resource of the United States." It was charged with coordinating efforts among agricultural college and university libraries, private industry and other agricultural libraries, toward the development of a comprehensive agricultural library and information network. Congress did, however, stop short of establishing the Board of Regents requested by NAL. (LR 12/21/90)

**No Final Action on NREN; Imperfect Senate Bill Dies.** Despite intensive work by library

representatives led by Carol Henderson of the ALA Washington Office, the Senate Bill which was passed by voice vote on October 24 left serious concern for librarians. The bill lost most of the "E" in NREN and dropped some of the language recommended by ALA and other library groups. However, failure of the House to take any action caused the Senate bill to die. Nevertheless, incremental upgrading of the NSFNET and the Internet continued. Chief Senate sponsor Albert Gore, Jr. (D-TN) was expected to reintroduce similar legislation the next year. He said:

*"I had the pleasure and privilege of working closely with the American Library Association, and librarians from all over the United States, in drafting those parts of the information superhighway bill that relate to digital libraries and the information infrastructure."* (LR 12/21/90)

**Library Exemption for Software Lending Becomes Law.** Amendments to the Copyright Law, signed on December 1 as part of the Judicial Improvement Act, treated computer programs like phonorecords in that they may not, for purposes of direct or indirect commercial advantage, be rented, leased or lent. However, an important exemption permits the rental, lease or lending of computer software for nonprofit purposes by nonprofit libraries and nonprofit educational institutions. Eileen Cooke, director of the ALA Washington Office had assembled and headed the team that negotiated the exemption with representatives of the software industry. The library exemption is to be reviewed after three years by the Register of Copyrights. (LR 12/21/90)

**Permanent Paper Becomes National Policy.** When he signed the law mandating the use of permanent paper as national policy, President Bush said the measure "brings to public attention the fact that future generations of Americans will lose access to documents of enduring value unless we take action." In a related matter ALA and ARL spoke in favor of legislation to require Congress to make more use of recycled paper. It was emphasized that the use of permanent paper and the use of recycled paper are technically compatible and not mutually exclusive. The recycling bills were not acted upon. (LR 12/21/90)

**Good News for Nonprofits That Depend on Donations.** Sen. Moynihan (D-NY) succeeded, if only for one year, in assuring that gifts of appreciated tangible property such as artworks, rare books and manuscripts will no longer be subject to the alternative minimum tax. Moreover, efforts in the waning days of the session to raise the floor on itemized deductions from three per cent to eight per cent and to put a cap on all deductions, including charitable, were defeated. Such measures would have caused a significant erosion in the tax incentive for charitable giving. (LR 12/21/90)

**School Librarians are Teachers, says ALA.** Washington Office director Eileen Cooke submitted testimony urging that the proposed Excellence in Teaching Act and the National Teacher Act be amended to include a definition of "teacher" that would encompass school media specialists who must meet teacher certification requirements. "ALA has found from experience,"



Cooke said, "that unless school library media specialists are specified, they can be overlooked in the development of programs for teachers." (AmLib 1990, 481)

**Budget Enforcement Act Weakens Congressional Budget Authority.** Included in a massive reconciliation bill signed by the President on November 5 was the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 which significantly changed Gramm-Rudman-Hollings and the Congressional Budget Act. The effect was to shift power away from the Budget Committees and the Congressional Budget Office and to the Office of Management and Budget. Based on OMB projections, the President could establish spending caps on various categories of programs. (LR 12/21/90)

## 1991

**Bush Budget Would Cut Library Funding by 75%.** The administration's FY 1992 budget request came up with a few new wrinkles in yet another attempt to eliminate federal library programs. The President's budget would eliminate all but \$35 million in library funds and allocate all of that amount to adult literacy. Moreover, this program was among those to be considered to be spun off to the states in block grants, where small library programs could easily get swallowed up by other urgent needs. (LR 6/14/91)

**Rep. Natcher "right disappointed" with President's Library Budget.** Rep. William Natcher (D-KY), Chair of the L-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee, indicated that he had never gone along with this kind of budget and would not accept it this time either. (LR 6/14/91)

**NREN Funding Included in President's Budget.** Bills were introduced early to implement the National Research and Education Network, but prospects were clouded by the administration's insistence that Congress leave all implementation details up to the President. (LR 6/14/91)

**America 2000 Education Strategy.** President Bush and Education Secretary Lamar Alexander announced an ambitious plan to improve American education. It would establish "break the mold" New American Schools in every congressional district with \$1 million in federal funding for each school. Research and development would be provided by the business community. \$5 million would be provided for regional literacy resource centers. Unfortunately, libraries were barely mentioned in the plan. Companion bills were introduced by Rep. Robert Michel (R-IL) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA). Sen. Kennedy said that he introduced the measure by request and had reservations about some parts of it. (LR 6/14/91)

**Civil Rights Bill.** The President signed a compromise civil rights bill making it easier for women and minorities to win job discrimination cases. Employers must "demonstrate that the challenged practice is job related for the position in question and consistent with business necessity." (LR 12/30/91)

**Contracting Out Federal Libraries.** A proposed new OMB policy letter would acknowledge that federal agencies had occasionally relied too heavily on outside contractors. But it would continue to exclude libraries from the functions that are considered inherently governmental:

“Such functions do not normally include gathering information or obtaining advice. They also do not include functions that are primarily ministerial and internal in nature, such as building security; mail operations; operation of libraries and cafeterias; housekeeping; and maintenance of the physical plant, vehicles, or other electrical or mechanical equipment. . .” (LR 12/30/91)

**Library Photocopying No Longer an Issue.** Both houses passed legislation to repeal the requirement that the Register of Copyrights review library photocopying every five years. The House Judiciary Committee report summed it up: “Since the statutory balance [between user needs and creator rights] has been achieved, Congress can dispense with further automatic reports and save the taxpayers’ money.” (LR 12/30/91)

**Fair Use of Unpublished Material.** Congress moved quickly to clarify the fair use of unpublished material after a US Court of Appeals ruling making it legally difficult to quote even limited amounts of unpublished material. In a compromise between authors’ organizations and the computer industry, the Senate voted to amend the Copyright law to indicate that unpublished material is not *per se* barred from a finding of fair use. (LR 12/30/91)

**ALA and Coalition Partners Oppose Copyright of Government Works.** The ALA Washington Office, together with the information industry, publishers and other public-interest groups opposed an administration-backed proposal to allow government agencies and their employees to copyright software. This would erode a century-old prohibition on copyright in federal government works. (LR 12/30/91)

**ALA Protects Right of Federal Workers to be Active in Professional Organizations.** After receiving a letter from ALA President Patricia Schuman, the Office of Government Ethics deleted language from its draft standards that could have prevented federal employees from active participation in professional associations and restricted their ability to serve as expert witnesses. (LR 12/30/91)

**GPO WINDO - One-stop Access to Government Info.** A proposal developed by ALA, other library associations and public-interest groups was introduced by Rep Charles Rose (D-NC) to establish online access to federal databases. Fees for information available through the GPO Wide Information Network Data Online (WINDO) would approximate “the incremental cost of dissemination of the data.” Depository libraries would be able to connect to, access, and query GPO WINDO databases without charge. (LR 12/30/91)

**HEA Reauthorization Appears Assured.** By the end of the year both House and Senate Education committees had developed and approved mammoth bills to extend HEA. ALA

recommendations were incorporated in the bill, although the Senate authorization level was less than those recommended by ALA. (LR 12/30/91)

**LC Fees for Research and Information Put on Hold.** A bill was introduced in the Senate, at the request of Librarian of Congress Billington, to authorize fee-based library research and information products. The ALA Legislation Committee worked extensively with LC staff and succeeded in making significant improvements and safeguards in the bill. Nevertheless, on July 29, ALA President Schuman wrote to the appropriate congressional committees commending LC for seeking dialogue with the library community, but concluding that ALA still had serious concerns. She requested that hearings be held before any further action and that ALA have an opportunity to testify. On October 8, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) pulled the bill, saying that it would be reintroduced next year and that ALA should prepare comments and be prepared to testify. (LR 12/30/91)

**NCLIS Strengthened by Amendments.** President Bush signed technical amendments allowing the National Commission to obtain administrative support from any federal agency, not just the Department of Education as in the past. It could also receive in-kind as well as monetary contributions and the \$750,000 authorization cap was removed. Consequently, its FY 1992 appropriation was approved at \$831,000, the highest ever. (LR 12/30/91)

**National Literacy Act.** The National Literacy Act of 1991 was signed into law on July 25 authorizing programs for FY 1991 - 1995, some of which were new and some of which were amendments to existing programs. Librarian representation was mandated on state literacy advisory councils and abundant opportunities were provided for library participation in the various programs. The Act also amended the LSCA title VI library literacy program to give priority to literacy programs and services which will be delivered in areas of greatest need. (LR 12/30/91)

**NREN Bill Enacted.** On December 9, President Bush signed the High-Performance Computing Act which, among other provisions, called on several federal agencies to support the establishment of the National Research and Education Network with a goal of transmitting data at a rate of one gigabit per second by 1996. Although some items recommended by ALA and other library and education groups were lost through necessary compromises, much was gained for the library and education communities. Federal agencies were required to work with private network service providers, state and local agencies, libraries, and educational institutions to ensure that researchers, educators, and students have access to the NREN. (LR 12/30/91)

**Postal Rates.** When the Postal Rate Commission proposed a 26.8% increase for fourth-class library rate postage, while overall rates were to increase only by 1%, ALA immediately wrote to the USPS Board of Governors to protest. The Board of Governors unanimously rejected the increase. (LR 12/30/91)

**WHCLIS II - Mixed Messages.** The second White House Conference on Library and

Information Services, held July 9 - 13, 1991, was attended by President Bush, First Lady Barbara Bush, Marilyn Quayle, wife of the Vice President, Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander, Senators Paul Simon (D-IL) and Claiborne Pell (D-RI), and Reps. Newt Gingrich (R-GA), Major Owens (D-NY), and Pat Williams (D-MT). Coverage of the opening ceremonies in *American Libraries* described the uneven messages:

“[President] Bush called libraries ‘quite a bargain’ and said librarians ‘don’t get credit for being revolutionaries’ who preserve democracy’s ideas and values. He also asserted libraries’ central role in his Education 2000: An Education Strategy. Few librarians present forgot that libraries are only mentioned once in that strategy.

Mrs. Bush’s brief welcome to her ‘great good friends of libraries’ was predictably warm and genuine.

Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander generated dissonance as he spoke about Education 2000, but scarcely mentioned the role of the library profession. By contrast, Gingrich communicated knowledge and interest and candidly allowed that Alexander was probably ‘chagrined’ at the omission of libraries from that strategy.

Keynote speakers Mary Hatwood Futrell and Rep. Major Owens offered reality checks. Futrell, a distinguished educator, drew a roar when she called 1980s efforts to cut all federal funding to libraries ‘the most illiterate statement I’ve ever heard.’” (AmLib 1991, 609)

The Conference adopted 95 recommendations, which were transmitted to the White House on November 21. The president was to transmit the report to Congress with his recommendations by February 19, 1992. High on the list of priorities were children and youth literacy, the NREN, library contributions to increased productivity and improved library marketing programs. (LR 12/30/91)

**Congress Continues to Provide for Library Programs.** When the FY 1992 Appropriations bill was finally signed on November 26, almost two months into the fiscal year, library programs were still intact with generally modest increases. Only LSCA II was reduced from the previous year’s level. Congress firmly and impressively rejected the administration proposal to consolidate the HEA II-B library career training program with other graduate programs by increasing II-B training by \$4,349,000 to \$5 million - a 668% increase, a level not seen in 20 years. (LR 12/30/91)

## 1992

**Bush Again Asks 75% Cut in Library Funds.** In a virtual repeat of last year's budget proposal, which Congress had firmly rejected, the Bush administration again sought a 76 percent cut in federal library funding for FY 1993. And once again, House appropriations subcommittee chair William Natcher (D-KY) said a firm "no" (LR 6/5/92), and, as it had done last year, Congress once again restored Library funding to nearly the levels of the previous year. (LR 12/28/92)

**National Archives Gets Funding for Move to "Archives II".** Although it got no additional funds for program operations for FY 1993, the National Archives and Records Administration did get the funds necessary to prepare to move into its new research facility in 1994. (LR 12/28/92)

**Legislative Day Brings 550 Library Supporters to the Hill.** The 18th annual Legislative Day brought 550 people from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to Capitol Hill to push for funding for library programs. (AmLib 1992, 426)

**Congress Keeps Postal Rates Down for Libraries.** While the Postal Service estimated that it would need \$482 million in revenue forgone to keep the preferred rates at their current levels, congressional appropriators approved only the \$122 million requested by the Bush administration. But Congress prohibited the Postal Service from raising preferred rates in 1993 and required that the shortfall be absorbed. This temporary reprieve was due to an impressive grassroots response from those affected, including the library community. (LR 12/28/92)

**Contracting Out: OMB Reconsiders.** After deciding in 1991 that the "operation of cafeterias and libraries" was not inherently governmental and therefore vulnerable to contracting out, OMB, in response to comments from ALA President Patricia Schuman and others, decided to remove libraries from the list of "not inherently governmental" functions. The new OMB statement, contained in the *Federal Register* of September 30, 1992, acknowledged that

*"agencies may determine that aspects of their library operations, such as handling certain types of information in certain circumstances, involve performance of an inherently governmental function. Therefore, we have removed the reference to libraries."* (LR 12/28/92)

**Keeping Government Information in the Public Domain.** In response to a proposal by the Department of Education to allow a contractor "to copyright the ERIC database and to collect modest fees - subject to ED approval - for commercial and academic usage," ALA again stated the position, earlier approved by an ALA Council resolution, that this information ought to remain in the public domain. In a letter to the Secretary of Education, Rep. William Ford (D-MI), Chairperson of the House Education and Labor Committee, wrote, "I believe the public interest is best served if databases such as the ERIC database are in the public domain, and that federal agencies should avoid permitting contractors to establish exclusive, restricted or other distribution arrangements." ALA also signed on to a letter submitted by the Information Industry

Association opposing copyright by the federal government of software prepared by federal employees. (LR 12/28/92)

**Piracy of Copyrighted Works.** Late in the session, a bill aimed at software piracy was expanded to cover piracy of all copyrighted materials. The bill was passed and signed into law on October 28 and included felony penalties for serious violations. The bill's Senate sponsor, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), clearly laid out the scope of the law:

*“ . . . I would like to emphatically state, this criminal statute is not designed to reach instances of permissible, private home copying, nor does it represent any infringement on traditional concepts permitting the fair use of copyrighted materials for purposes of research, criticism, scholarship, parody, and other long-recognized uses. Similarly, this bill is not designed to interfere with evolving notions of fair use, as that concept is applied to new communications networks and computer technologies. Once again, I would point out that the mens rea requirement is strict with respect to this crime: unless done for the express purposes of obtaining commercial advantage or private financial gain, copying of copyrighted material is not a crime under S. 893.”* (LR 12/28/92)

**Copyright of Unpublished Materials.** Two decisions of the Second Circuit Court severely narrowed the scope of the fair use doctrine as applied to unpublished works and threatened to establish a *per se* rule against the fair use of any unpublished material. Congress responded quickly by amending the Copyright Law (Section 107) by adding this sentence: “The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of fair use if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors.” The factors are those used in determining fair use of other materials: the purpose and character of the use, the nature of the copyrighted work, the amount and substantiality of the portion used, and the effect of the use upon the potential market. The clarifying language, signed into law on October 24, represented a compromise between authors' organizations and the computer industry. (LR 12/28/92)

**AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership.** On September 8, Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander announced the formation of AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership, an initiative to promote the role of libraries in helping communities achieve the six national education goals. Alexander urged the 1,700 communities which have become AMERICA 2000 communities “to include in their plans an important learning resource available in virtually every neighborhood, and that's the library.” ALA President Marilyn Miller joined in the announcement and said, “We are delighted that the Department of Education is recognizing the central role on the library in the community.” (LR 12/28/92)

**Ray Fry Named to Head Library Programs at ED.** After a nation-wide search, Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch concluded: “The type of leadership and direction I wanted for OERI's Library Programs was already here, in our own backyard.” Fry had more than 20 years experience in administering federal library programs. (LR 12/28/92)

**White House Electronic Records Preserved.** A temporary restraining order prevented the Bush White House from destroying any computer backup tapes of electronic mail used by the National Security Council and the Executive Office of the President. This order was related to a 1989 lawsuit, in which ALA was one of the plaintiffs, aimed at saving records of the Reagan administration. (LR 12/28/92)

**New Law Allows Government to Charge for Federal Data.** Despite strong opposition from ALA and 20 other signers of an Information Industry Association letter, President Bush signed a bill which replaced revenue from an unpopular boat user fee with a royalty tax on automated tariff data furnished by the Federal Maritime Commission. The law would even allow for a royalty to be paid by those who subsequently obtain the data from a non-governmental database. (LR 12/28/92)

**Depository Library Program Affected by GPO Shortfall.** In a November 18 letter, the Superintendent of Documents informed depository librarians that a revenue shortfall would necessitate changes that would deny certain publications to most depositories, force them to accept publications in less usable, nonpermanent microfiche formats, or force them to buy the publications in paper format. (LR 12/28/92)

**WINDO/Gateway Compromise Fails.** After extensive work to develop an acceptable compromise between the Senate's "GPO Gateway to Government Act" and the House's WINDO bill - both aimed at establishing an electronic gateway to government information - action was stopped for this session by a last minute hold placed by an anonymous Senator. ALA had worked hard to develop the concept on which both bills were based: an electronic sales program and free depository library access to federal databases through the GPO. Despite this setback, the GPO started its \$1.6 million project to make the *Congressional Record* available electronically. (LR 12/28/92)

**HEA Reauthorized in Line with ALA and WHCLIS Recommendations.** President Bush signed a five-year reauthorization of the Higher Education Act on July 23. The Conference version passed the Senate by voice vote and passed the House by a vote of 419 - 7. The revised HEA II reflected a new emphasis on the electronic networked environment. Title II-B was changed to emphasize consultation with library science professionals in determining research priorities and to stress critical needs such as minority recruitment. These and other revisions of library programs responded to recommendations made by ALA and by the delegates to the White House conference on Library and Information Services. (LR 12/28/92)

**No Action on Library of Congress Fees.** After Congress adjourned without acting on the bill authorizing LC to charge fees for certain library products and services, a series of negotiating sessions was held including the LC management team, congressional staff, as well as library, publishing and information industry representatives. The final draft, which may be considered next year, was somewhat better from a library standpoint, but still had some problem areas related to redistribution fees and copyright issues. (LR 12/28/92)

### **NREN: A Coordinator Named; Constituency Groups Wrestle with Policy Issues.**

The White House named the director of the National Library of Medicine to serve as coordinator of the Office of High Performance Computing and Telecommunications. Meanwhile, the many constituencies of the NREN met in high level symposia and workshops to discuss the future of the network and the policy issues on which Congress had requested a report. The president's science adviser issued a disappointing report to Congress which downplayed the role of nonfederal constituency groups. But a new subsection in the National Science Foundation legislation did allow a more liberal policy on the types of education and research uses considered acceptable on the NSFNET backbone network:

*“ . . .the Foundation is authorized to foster and support access by the research and education communities to computer networks which may be used substantially for purposes in addition to research and education in the sciences and engineering, if the additional uses will tend to increase the overall capabilities of the networks to support such research and education activities.”* (LR 12/28/92)

**Federal Information Policy.** ALA had major concerns about draft language for OMB's revised Circular A-130 which would have excluded electronic products from the definition of “government publications.” In this supposition, the obligation of federal agencies to provide publications to depository libraries would be limited to those in print formats. The revised Circular had not yet been issued at the end of the year, and ALA President Marilyn Miller wrote to the newly designated OMB director, Leon Panetta, urging that it be held up pending review by the new administration. (LR 12/28/92)

**Rural Telecommunications Grants.** Under legislation signed by the President on October 5, the Rural Electrification Administration was authorized to make telecommunications grants of up to \$1.5 million to rural health-care or education providers. School and public libraries were specifically named as eligible recipients. (LR 12/28/92)

**ALA Involved in Planning for Transition in Washington.** The November elections which replaced one-fourth of the House and would bring a new Clinton-Gore administration to power have resulted in extensive planning for the transition. The ALA Washington Office helped develop and disseminate to transition officials and to Congress a *Blueprint for a Better Tomorrow: A Plan for Federal Investment in Education*. (LR 6/5/92). Major attention was paid to the nation's “information infrastructure.” ALA estimated that for \$75 million Internet access could be provided to the nation's 15,000 libraries, i.e. a personal computer, modem, line charges and training for each library and one staff person for each state agency. (AmLib 1993, 112)

## 1993



## **Bill Clinton Inaugurated 1/20/93**

**ALA Credited with Stopping Copyright of ERIC.** One of the speakers at the Committee on Legislation's Midwinter Information Update was the director of the Educational Resources Information Center, who announced that in part because of ALA's efforts, the Department of Education was no longer considering letting the ERIC database be copyrighted. (LR 1/18/94)

**New Administration Gets Recommendations from ALA.** Within two weeks of the Inauguration, ALA President Marilyn Miller forwarded to President Clinton and Vice President Gore a set of documents drafted by Carol Henderson and approved by the Committee on Legislation. "First Steps for a First Year: Recommendations for the Clinton administration in Library and Information Policy" focused on issues coming before the administration in 1993. "The Essential Federal Role in Support of Libraries" explained the federal stimulus and support role. (LR 1/18/94)

**Clinton Submits "Good News, Bad News" Budget.** The administration request for FY 1994 would have raised LSCA Title I by 14%, but would have eliminated the other LSCA titles as well as all HEA library programs. To make things worse, the administration proposed a summer jobs stimulus program for the coming summer and left Congress to find the money. The House Appropriations Committee voted to rescind all FY 1993 HEA library programs as well as LSCA Title VI just weeks before the awards were to go out. After a strong response from library supporters, the Senate proposed a different way to pay for the jobs program, one that would not cut library programs. The Senate version prevailed on July 1. Regarding the FY 1994 appropriations, the ALA Washington Office expressed particular concern that the rationale given for reduced funding was strikingly similar to that given by the Bush and Reagan administrations, namely, that Federal support is no longer necessary. (AmLib 1993, p. 464) In the end, Congress preserved all library funding at current levels, except that LSCA Title V was left unfunded and Title II got a 7.3% increase, thanks to Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR). (LR 1/18/94)

**Library Programs Targeted by REGO Report.** It became known in September that Vice President Gore's National Performance Review report on "reinventing government" or REGO had marked all HEA library programs as well as LSCA Titles II and VI for rescission. The Committee for Education Funding found irony in the fact that on the very day the REGO report was released, the Department of Education was releasing a study showing that nearly half of all Americans lacked the reading and writing skills needed for today's competitive job market. The Committee for Education Funding, including ALA, held a series of meetings with executive branch officials and succeeded in getting all education and library cuts removed from the administration's deficit reduction legislation. (LR 1/18/94)

**Library Programs Also Narrowly Survive Penny-Kasich Threat.** Library programs were not home free yet. A bi-partisan amendment by Rep. Tim Penny (D-MN) and John Kasich (R-OH) would have severely slashed discretionary programs through rescission of FY 1994 funds, and

found strong congressional support. It was only narrowly defeated after a strong lobbying effort not only by the administration but by an unusually broad alliance of affected groups. (LR 1/18/94)

**Legislators Honored for Promoting Access to Government Information.** The Coalition on Government Information, an organization chaired by Nancy Kranich and housed in the ALA Washington Office with Anne Heanue as newsletter editor and administrator, presented its James Madison Award to five legislators in a Freedom of Information Day ceremony on March 16. Vice President Albert Gore, Jr., Sen. Wendell Ford (D-KY), Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK), Rep. Charlie Rose (D-NC), and Rep. Bill Thomas (R-CA) were acknowledged for leadership in promoting public access to electronic government information. (LR 1/18/94)

**ALA Moves to Protect "Fair Use."** ALA filed an *amicus curiae* brief before the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in a case where a lower court had found a Texaco researcher had violated the law by copying an article from a scientific journal. ALA maintained that the original opinion had not considered the likely effect on libraries and their users. (LR 1/18/94)

**Software Lending by Libraries.** The Copyright Office was required to prepare a report to Congress on how well the Computer Software Rental Amendments Act of 1990 had achieved its purpose with respect to lending by nonprofit libraries. Edward Valauskas, who had worked closely with Eileen Cooke in negotiating the library exemption in the 1990 law, again worked with her in drafting a response supporting a continuation of the library exemption. (LR 1/18/94)

**GPO Access Act Passed.** On June 8, President Clinton signed into law the Government Printing Office Electronic Access Act assuring that GPO's role in distributing information electronically will increase. The GPO Access System, which must be up and running by June 1994, will be available free of charge to depository libraries. This law was the result of the consensus that had formed around the earlier WINDO/Gateway bills, and was applauded by ALA and its partners in the Coalition on Government Information. (LR 1/18/94)

**OMB Improves Government Information Policies.** On June 25, OMB issued a revised version of its Circular A-130 incorporating new policies that encouraged federal agencies to use electronic technologies to improve public access. Of particular note was the elimination of the restrictive definition of "government information" to which ALA had strenuously objected. In a welcome spirit of cooperation, OMB recognized depository libraries as "major partners with the Federal Government . . . Executive branch agencies support the depository library program both as a matter of law and on its merits as a means of informing the public about the government." ALA Council passed a resolution commending President Clinton and OMB for this. (LR 1/18/94)

**ALA Successfully Opposes Dismantling of GPO.** One recommendation of the National Performance Review that found its way into proposed legislation was a move to dismantle the Government Printing Office and have each agency procure its own printing and be responsible

for disseminating its publications to depository libraries. ALA objected that this would be more costly, less efficient, and would do away with the single point of access for depository libraries. On November 22, the House approved an entirely different version. (LR 1/18/94)

**ALA Backs Up LC on Thurgood Marshall Papers.** On June 3, ALA released a statement supporting the decision of the Library of Congress to follow Justice Marshall's directions and release his documents to the public, at LC's discretion. (LR 1/18/94)

**LC's Link to State and Local Libraries Highlighted at Hearing.** On April 21, the day after Legislative Day, the hearing room was full as the Joint Committee on the Library heard 14 witnesses give a grassroots snapshot of the inventiveness, the partnerships and the technological innovations librarians are now using. (LR 1/18/94)

**Discussions Continue on LC Fees.** Although a full consensus had not been reached in the library community, the American Library Association, the American Association of Law Libraries, and the Association of Research Libraries continued to work together on common goals regarding LC fees. In a joint statement issued on March 12, the associations noted remaining areas of disagreement, improvements already made to the language of the bill and questions of implementation and application. One substantive change was the removal of copyright language which ALA had found to be particularly objectionable. Although the bill was introduced in February as the Library of Congress Fund Act of 1993, no action had been taken by the end of the year. (LR 1/18/94)

**Lobbying Disclosure.** Working through Independent Sector, a nonprofit coalition of 850 organizations including ALA, the Association opposed new legislation that would impose burdensome reporting requirements. While supporting the principle of public disclosure, nonprofit organizations pointed out that they are already subject to a complex range of restrictions and reporting requirements under the Internal Revenue Code. (LR 1/18/94)

**National Information Infrastructure.** On February 22 the new administration announced its technology initiative. It clearly showed the effects of ALA's work in this crucial policy area and included recognition of the NII's transforming potential for social purposes, of the need for assistance for school and library applications, of the potential for better access to government information, and of the need for public-interest representation on the proposed Advisory Council on the NII. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, the administration's point person on the NII, invited ALA to submit nominations for the NII Advisory Council. (LR 1/18/94)

**ALA Organizes Major Telecommunications Coalition.** Fifteen national library and information groups assembled in Washington in September for a policy forum sponsored by ALA's LITA and chaired by Elaine Albright, Chair of the COL Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Telecommunications. ALA joined more than 60 organizations in forming the Telecommunications Policy Roundtable which issued seven public-interest principles that need to be part of telecommunications policy. (LR 1/18/94)

**Permanent and Recycled Paper.** President Clinton signed an executive order on October 20 requiring the use of recycled paper within the federal government. The ALA Washington Office sent a letter, endorsed by several other library and archival groups, pointing out that the use of alkaline permanent paper would minimize the cost of preserving the federal record. (LR 1/18/94)

**Postal Rates.** Congress restructured postal rates and eliminated the “revenue forgone” authority, but still retained some preferential treatment for nonprofit mailers. The original form of the legislation would have completely excluded publishers from using the fourth-class library rate. But intervention by Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS), Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Christopher Bond (R-MO) restored library rate eligibility for items ordered by libraries and educational institutions. (LR 1/18/94)

**Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Act.** For over a dozen years there had been no federal assistance targeted specifically to school libraries. Instead, there had been ESEA Chapter 2 block grants. A new bill, drafted by the ALA Washington Office in response to a high-priority recommendation by 1991 WHCLIS delegates and with participation by ALA’s American Association of School Librarians, was first introduced by Senator Paul Simon (D-IL) and Rep. Jack Reed (D-RI) late in 1992 for discussion and reintroduced in January and February. This bill would authorize a unit in the Department of Education to administer a major grant program where each state’s allocation would be sent to local education agencies for the purchase of school library resources, for curriculum design projects involving school librarians and teachers, and for expanded computer use. (LR 1/18/94)

**Eileen D. Cooke Announces Her Retirement.** Eileen D. Cooke, who began her career with the ALA Washington Office in 1964 and who served as director since 1972, announced that she would retire on December 31. (LR 1/18/94) “During her years as director, Cooke helped to establish the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, coordinated efforts leading to the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1979, and spearheaded lobbying efforts to prevent elimination of federal library programs by the Reagan administration. She became a nationally recognized leader and expert on federal legislation regarding libraries and has shared her skill at conferences and programs across the country.” (AmLib 1993, 1045)

## 1994

**Another Disappointing Budget Request.** The first real budget constructed by the Clinton administration, that for FY 1995, was a big disappointment. LSCA Titles II and VI would have been zeroed out, as would HEA Title II programs. Only LSCA Titles I and III would be funded and only at last year’s level. (LR 5/24/94)

**Carol C. Henderson Appointed Director of Washington Office.** Carol C. Henderson, who had been with the Washington Office since 1975 and had served as deputy director since 1979, was appointed executive director of the ALA Washington Office on March 1. She succeeded Eileen Cooke, who retired December 31, 1993 after 30 years of service with the ALA Washington Office. (LR 5/24/94)

**Legislative Day Leads to 105 Congressional Signatures Supporting Library Funding.** After lobbying by library supporters from around the country, 105 Representatives signed on to a letter prepared by Reps. Major Owens (D-NY), Jack Reed (D-RI), Pat Williams (D-MT) and Dale Kildee (D-MI) urging the House appropriations subcommittee to continue funding all library programs at current levels. (LR 5/24/94)

**Congress Again Saves Library Programs.** After extensive grass-roots campaigning by library supporters, the final FY 1995 appropriations for library programs were 40% above the administration request, but just slightly less than in 1994. HEA II-A and II-C were streamlined out of existence, but their funding was transferred to other library programs. (LR 1/22/95)

**Copyright Revision.** Library associations, publishers, and magazine and newspaper organizations opposed changes in the Copyright Law that would put the unrivaled collections of the Library of Congress at risk by removing significant incentives for voluntary registrations and deposit. (LR 5/24/94)

**Intellectual Property Issues.** A working group of the administration's task force on information infrastructure issued a draft "green paper" *Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure* which recommended copyright law changes that would greatly expand proprietors' rights without any corresponding protection of user privileges. ALA responded in written comments and by testimony in hearings in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington. Carol Henderson coordinated the drafting of a statement on "*Fair Use in the Electronic Age: Serving the Public Interest.*" After an Appeals Court upheld a lower court ruling that a Texaco scientist had violated copyright by copying articles from a publication that Texaco had paid to subscribe to, ALA once again filed an *amicus* brief supporting Texaco's petition for a rehearing *en banc*. (LR 1/22/95)

**GPO Gears Up for Electronic Access.** The Government Printing Office moved quickly to begin implementing the Access Act of 1993. The new facility for storing federal electronic information and making it accessible online was named IDEA (Information Dissemination for Electronic Access) and was scheduled to offer access beginning June 8. Although the law allowed for fees for users other than depository libraries, no fees would be charged in 1994 and the GPO intended to maintain free access if at all possible. (LR 5/24/94)

**Library Supporters Visit the President during NLW.** Nine-year-old Alexandria Johnson, whose letter was one of the best in ALA's "Libraries Change Lives" campaign, together with her mother, ALA president Hardy R. Franklin, and ALA executive director Peggy Sullivan, visited

President Clinton on April 22 and urged him to restore funding for library programs. (LR 5/24/94)

**Reinventing LSCA.** In preparation for needed reauthorization of the Library Services and Construction Act, the ALA Committee on Legislation and the Washington Office continued work begun in 1993 to develop a consensus proposal for a new program that would emphasize technology and outreach. The ALA Committee on Legislation and the Washington Office spearheaded an inter-association task force (with representatives from the COL, WO, ASCLA, COSLA, PLA, ULC, NCLIS and the Department of Education). A document outlining a consensus proposal was distributed widely in the library community for comment. The document was developed to be responsive not only to WHCLIS II, but also to the administration's NII initiative and the National Education Goals. (LR 5/24/94) A one-year extension of LSCA was passed as part of the reauthorization of ESEA. With an automatic one-year extension under the General Education Provisions Act, LSCA was actually extended through FY 1996. (LR 1/22/95)

**Librarian Appointed to NII Advisory Council.** On January 6, the Secretary of Commerce announced 27 appointments to the administration's US Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure. Toni Carbo Bearman, dean of the University of Pittsburgh library school and former executive director of NCLIS, was one of the appointees. According to a white paper released by the Clinton administration in January, "It is a goal of this administration that by the year 2000 all of the classrooms, libraries, hospitals and clinics in the United States will be connected to the NII." (LR 5/24/94)

**Telecommunications Regulatory Reform.** Three major pieces of legislation were pending in Congress with the general objective of revising the regulatory structure to encourage competition in developing advanced communications networks. The legislation also had provisions that could lead to preferential rates for libraries. ALA was actively involved on many fronts in attempting to influence this legislation. On May 25, Elaine Albright, chair of the COL Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Telecommunications testified for ALA in Senate hearings on the Communications Act of 1994. She discussed why societal goals must be considered in the legislation and summarized the library mission and its leading role in the NII. (LR 5/24/94) In a resolution of June 29, ALA recommended four key elements in telecommunications legislation:

- ensure public access to telecommunications services;
- reduce barriers by employing preferential rates, subsidies, universal service contributions, etc;
- assess the impact of change on the public interest, including libraries; and
- ensure open data network standards. (LR 1/22/95)

**Carol Henderson on Federal Networking Council Advisory Committee.** Carol Henderson's service on FNCAC was extended for three years and she continued to serve on its Steering Committee. This advisory group was chartered through the National Science Foundation to provide technical, tactical, and strategic advice from the various NREN constituencies. (LR 1/22/95)

**NTIS Tries to Limit Use of Its Databases by Depositories.** ALA President Hardy R. Franklin wrote to the director of the National Technical Information Service on April 13 protesting NTIS' announcement that it would be distributing two databases to depository libraries "on condition that they agree to ensure that online access . . . is restricted to the Library and its staff and that the full text provided online . . . are available only to the community served by that library." (LR 5/24/94)

**Huge Increase in Library Rate Postage Planned.** ALA filed an immediate objection when it was announced on March 8 that the Postal Service proposed to raise the fourth class library rate by 73.7% in 1995. The average rate increase for all classes would be 10%. (LR 5/24/94) ALA participated as a limited intervenor in the postal rate case. The later recommendation by the Postal Rate Commission made only a marginal improvement, recommending a library rate increase of 69.9% (LR 1/22/95)

**School Library Media Bill Passed.** The major legislative achievement of the year was the enactment on October 20 of new legislation to assist school libraries. As a result of several years of work by school library supporters and the ALA Washington Office, as well as by Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) and Rep. Jack Reed (D-RI). The Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Resources Program was enacted as title III-F of Improving America's Schools Act, a five-year reauthorization and revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The new Act included:

- 1) \$200 million authorized for School Library Media Resources under Title III, part F;
  - 2) Block grants retained as Title VI; library services and materials eligible;
  - 3) School libraries eligible for technology assistance under Title III; media specialists eligible for technology training;
  - 4) School library media centers eligible for infrastructure improvements under Title XII.
- (LR 1/22/95)

**ALA Joins Suit to Keep White House Records Public.** On December 13, ALA joined as a plaintiff in a suit to block an agreement between former Archivist Don Wilson and former President George Bush granting Bush control over electronic records created by White House officials. ALA joined the American Historical Association and other groups in asserting that the agreement unlawfully sought to deny the public and historians access to government records.

(LR 1/22/95)

**Postal Kiosks Would Fit in Libraries.** When the Postal Service announced on October 20 a pilot test of kiosks as delivery vehicles for electronic access to government information and services, including purchase of stamps, ALA President Arthur Curley proposed that public libraries be designated as trial sites. (LR 1/22/95)

**ALA and Educators Push for Funds to Connect Schools and Libraries.** ALA and many education-related organizations joined in petitioning the Federal Communications Commission to earmark a small percentage of funds available through price-cap regulation to finance high-level information highway connections for libraries and schools. This proposal was also submitted to National Telecommunications and Information Administration in response to its call for "Universal Service" proposals. (LR 1/22/95)

## 1995

**Congressional Elections Bring Radical Changes.** The November 1994 elections brought to Congress a radically different legislative climate, giving Republicans their first full congressional majority in 40 years. More than half of the House members were new since 1990. Under the new Speaker, Newt Gingrich (R-GA), Republicans in the House made good on their promise to bring to a vote within the first hundred days all the items of the "Contract with America." In the fervor to downsize the federal government, to cut and eliminate programs, balance the budget, to protect defense spending and to pay for a middle-class tax cut, it appeared that all federal support for libraries, as well as for the Endowments, the high Performance Computing Initiative and the depository library program was in serious jeopardy. By the end of May, however, it was clear that a library role would continue - although much changed - and that libraries would continue to have bipartisan champions and friends in Congress. (LR 6/8/95)

**LC *Thomas* System Launched.** On January 5, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Library of Congress unveiled LC's *Thomas* (as in Jefferson), a new online access system by which the public could get congressional information via the Internet. Gingrich used the occasion to restate his support for libraries and the Library of Congress in particular. The Speaker commended Librarian of Congress Billington for his "very aggressive and I think very farsighted effort to reach beyond the Gutenberg era and to understand the implications of a concept of a third-wave information revolution." (AmLib 1995, 128)

**FY 1995 Rescissions Beaten Back.** In line with the "Contract with America," a House subcommittee approved a cut of \$34.7 million from the \$144.4 million already appropriated for Department of Education library programs in FY 1995. But thanks to rapidly generated grassroots efforts in many states, the rescissions were reduced and eventually removed altogether



in House-Senate conference action. (LR 6/8/95)

**FY 1996 Appropriations for Library Programs Tied Up in Budget Impasse and Government Shutdowns.** The administration budget request for FY 1996 would have increased LSCA title I by \$6 million and held title II at the FY 1995 level, but would have zeroed out the other LSCA titles and the HEA library programs. The elimination of LSCA III was particularly puzzling since that is what funded much technological innovation, an administration priority. As Congress recessed before Christmas amidst the worst budget impasse in history between Congress and the White House, the House had passed a 29% cut in Department of Education library programs, while a Senate Appropriations Committee version would have reduced such spending by only 8%. (LR 12/95)

**Arts/Humanities Endowments in Danger.** Threats to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts increased in intensity. The House seemed intent on phasing them out in three years, while the Senate would have established slightly declining authorizations over five years. At year's end, the Endowments appeared to be facing cuts of as much as 40% in their FY 1996 funding. (LR 6/8/95)

**Will Electronic Publishing Create Huge Federal Savings?** The House voted to slash funding for the Depository Library Program from \$32 million to \$16 million on the assumption that mandatory electronic publishing and dissemination of government information would produce major savings. A House-Senate conference restored funding to \$30 million, but did insist upon a GPO study and strategic plan for a much more electronic Depository Library Program. ALA President Betty Turock and the Washington Office were heavily involved in the GPO study and in presenting a "new universe" model for dissemination of government information. (LR 12/95)

**FCC Rejects Universal Service Proposal.** ALA and four other national education associations proposed a modification of the Federal Communications Commission's price cap rules to fund connecting schools and libraries to the NII. The FCC acted on the price cap rules on April 7 without addressing the proposal. (AmLib 1995, 495)

**Postal Service Kiosks.** Washington Office associate director Anne Heanue was one of the speakers at the Postal Service's June 20 unveiling of WINGS, the Web Interactive Network of Government Services, a prototype of the kiosk project. Heanue urged that libraries, especially depository libraries, be used as kiosk sites. (LR 6/8/95)

**New Postal Rates Hurting Interlibrary Loan Service.** The Free Library of Philadelphia estimates that it will have to pay an additional \$20,000 in postage this year to continue its interlibrary loan service as a result of the new rates which have gone from 66 cents a pound to \$1.12 a pound. The King County (Wash.) Library System has responded to the new rates by discontinuing its popular books-by-mail service to all but disabled people. (AmLib 1995, 126)

**Progress on Preserving Access to White House Electronic Records.** On February 14, a

federal Court of Appeals rebuffed the Clinton administration's efforts to exempt the National Security Council from the Freedom of Information Act and from laws requiring the preservation of agency records. On February 28, a federal judge struck down the agreement giving former President George Bush control over the electronic records of his administration. ALA had joined as co-plaintiff in both cases. (LR 6/8/95)

**Intellectual Property Issues.** The Commerce Department's Information Infrastructure Task Force, charged with assessing the nation's copyright laws in light of technological developments like the Internet, released a "White Paper" in September to replace the earlier controversial "Green Paper." The White Paper included not only narratives and rationales, but actual text of proposed revisions to the copyright law. The recommendations were introduced verbatim in companion bills in the House and Senate. Like the earlier version, the White Paper was weighted in favor of protecting the owners of intellectual property in cyberspace. ALA had been consistently concerned that in the digital environment the rights of users remain in balance with those of producers. On January 18 the ALA Council had approved "Fair Use in the Electronic Age: Serving the Public Interest" a draft statement prepared by a team working under Carol Henderson's coordination. The Washington Office was also actively involved in forming the Digital Future Coalition, a group of 27 major national organizations representing both users and producers of copyrighted material. ALA also joined with other national library associations to form the Shared Legal Capability for the purpose of retaining outside legal expertise in intellectual property issues. (LR 12/95)

**Copyright Term Extension.** A bill expected to move swiftly through Congress would lengthen the basic term of copyright protection from the life of the author plus 50 years to "life plus 70 years." The ALA Washington Office pushed strongly for a provision to permit schools and libraries to use copyrighted works during the new 20 year extension period. (LR 12/95)

**Texaco Fair Use Case.** As ALA and other library and information associations prepared to file *amicus* briefs in Texaco's appeal to the Supreme Court, Texaco decided to settle its 10 year dispute with the publishers who had sued for copyright infringement over photocopying from scientific journals. (LR 6/8/95)

**Pay Equity.** ALA supported the principles of the Fair Pay Act introduced on April 7 by Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). The bill had been developed in cooperation with the National Committee on Pay Equity. Librarian Michele Leber served as NCPE Treasurer and ALA representative to the NCPE board. (LR 12/95)

**ALA, Historians, Archivists Oppose National Archivist Nomination.** When President Clinton nominated John W. Carlin, the former Governor of Kansas, as Archivist of the United States, ALA executive director Elizabeth Martinez wrote to the President, opposing the nomination as meeting neither the letter nor the spirit of the law which requires that such appointment be made "without regard to political affiliations and solely on the basis of professional qualifications." ALA President Arthur Curley wrote to the Chair of the Senate

Governmental Affairs Committee expressing similar objections. Many historians and archivists also opposed this nomination. (LR 12/95)

**Library Services and Technology Act.** By year's end, both House and Senate had passed versions of the Library Services and Technology Act that had been proposed by ALA, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and the Urban Libraries Council to replace the expiring LSCA. The House on September 19 passed H.R. 1617, the CAREERS Act, which included a briefer and modified block grant version - the Library Services and Technology Consolidation Grant. On October 11, the Senate passed the Library Services and Technology Act as proposed, as part of S. 143, the Workforce Development Act. The Senate version included a small setaside for national leadership programs in library science (similar to parts of HEA II), and would have the library program administered by an Institute of Museum and Library Services, along with grants to museums. Conferees had not yet acted to reconcile differences between the two versions. (LR 12/95)

**Lobbying Restrictions Forestalled for This Year.** Legislation designed to crack down on lobbying activities came close to including nonprofit organizations like ALA in a manner that would have cut off Congress and other policy makers from the information that nonprofits provide them to craft good public policy. Sponsored by Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK) and others, this amendment would also have imposed burdensome new reporting requirements and restrictions on how nonprofits spend their own private money. Energetic opposition by Let America Speak, a coalition of nonprofits including Independent Sector (to which ALA belongs) contributed to killing the provision this year, but it is expected to reappear in 1996. (LR 12/95)

**Telecommunications.** A rewrite of the Communications Act of 1934 was passed by the Senate in June and by the House in August, but no final action took place. The Senate version, but not the House version, included an amendment by Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Robert Kerrey (D-NE) and James Exon (D-NE) to provide that, as part of universal service, schools and libraries would receive discounted rates. ALA had helped to develop, and worked hard to secure and retain, this provision. (LR 12/95)

**ALA Goal 2000 Receives Strong Support from Leaders and Members.** Following on the enthusiastic approval of the ALA Executive Board and Council at Midwinter, the membership voted resoundingly by mail to approve a dues increase to support ALA Goal 2000 developed by executive director Elizabeth Martinez - a five-year initiative to position ALA as a major force for the public's right to a free and open information society. Funds from the dues increase, plus those secured through fund-raising, were designated for expansion of ALA's Washington presence and establishment of an Office for Information Technology Policy. J. Andrew Magpantay became director of OITP in June. (AmLib 1995, 622)

**Washington Office Begins 50th Year in Splendid New Facilities.** On August 23, the Washington Office and the Office for Information Technology Policy occupied new facilities at 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The space is three times the size of the previous cramped

facility, and for the first time, incorporates a reception area, conference room, state-of-the-art computer and communications systems, and technology demonstration capability. The move was part of the expansion of ALA's Washington presence to implement ALA Goal 2000.

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#### ABBREVIATIONS FOR MAJOR SOURCES

- AmLib:** American Libraries
- Bowker:** Bowker Annual: Library and Book Trade Almanac
- Bul:** ALA Bulletin
- LR:** Legislative Reports of the ALA Washington Office
- FRN:** Federal Relations News - predecessor of the ALA Newsletter
- NewsI:** ALA Washington Newsletter

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