

Coordinating Committee on Realities and Alliance for Excellence

MEMORANDUMALA Midwinter
January 1985

TO : Officers, ALA Divisions
Chapter Officials or Liaisons
Consultants or Supervisors (State or Local)
Individual ALA Members

FROM: Rebecca Bingham
William DeJohn
Virginia H. Mathews, Chair

We are an ad hoc committee appointed by the ALA Executive Board in October to coordinate follow through on the two national responses by librarians to A Nation at Risk -- ALA's Realities and the U.S. Department of Education's Alliance for Excellence. That is a pretty long name for a committee so, since the intent is to keep potential use of the reports from falling through any cracks, we'll just call ourselves CCRAE (Coordinating Committee on Realities and Alliance for Excellence) and that will remind us and you of our mission. Eileen Cooke is our staff liaison.

We want to begin by finding out what you have been doing with one or both reports -- how your association, state agencies (libraries or education), school district or system or division has been distributing, discussing, applying them to your needs with colleagues, administrators, officials, legislators, and others. As of October, ALA had distributed about 15,000 copies as singles or in bulk, in addition to the ones given out at Dallas. ED has distributed about 10,000 of AX; both have been reprinted.

Our aim is to pass along information and good ideas, and to help you in any way we can. Your brief descriptive answers to the following will enable us to begin our work:

- (1) Has your ALA unit developed additional or reinforcing material focusing on a type of library or service? Scheduled a program meeting (internal or with an outside organization)?
- (2) What has your state done to use one or both reports as the basis of a presentation to education reform commissions or the like? If any reform documents have been published, are libraries included as aids to improvement or solutions to deficits?
- (3) Has your system, district or library used the reports in some way? Have you as an individual discussed them with other individuals or groups, written about them?
- (4) Has your state library or state library media association held or scheduled any section or all conference meeting discussions or programs or tried to share our "realities" or forge new "alliances" with others?

We know, for instance, that Rhode Island held a day and a half workshop to develop implementation steps for applying the recommendations in that state; librarians from all types of libraries were joined by state education department officials,

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