PETITION TO CONGRESS

President Nixon has stated publicly and unequivocally that he will veto the HEW appropriations bill (HR 13111) which was cleared this week for the President's signature. The enactment of this bill into law is indispensable if education is to receive the support required by the people of this country.

President Nixon's projected veto is a repudiation of his avowed position that

"When we talk about cutting the expense of government ... the one area we can't short-change is education; education is the area in which we must keep doing everything that is necessary to help achieve the American Dream; ..."

While recognizing the need to combat inflation, the Congress has also demonstrated, at least twice in record votes last session, that it believes education should receive a higher priority in federal spending than the budget recommended. Among the changes which Congress made were several to restore funding for library programs to last year's level.

In this action the Congress has only been reflecting the wishes of the people who realize that an investment in education will strengthen business and industry, help to raise the disadvantaged from the ghettos, and produce the enlightenment essential to an effective democracy.

Accordingly, we the members of the American Library Association, petition the Congress of the United States to override the threatened Presidential veto of the 1970 appropriations bill for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, HR 13111.

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Transmitted by David H. Clift Executive Director