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June 13, 1979

Ms. Zena Sutherland, Chair
Task Force to Examine Alternatives
to the Newbery-Caldecott Banquet
The University of Chicago
Bulletin of the Center for Children's
Books
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Zena:

I have not been back in the office since I spoke to you. This is one of the first things I'm "tending to".

I feel, indeed, ALSC is ready to try something new - or something old, since we didn't always have an N-C dinner.

The occasion should still be a grand one and the formal speeches should still be the highlight, at least for this first go round. I'm sure a committee could come up with some alternatives that would be fun. I think a cash bar with orchestra, informal tables set up so people could be comfortable while listening to the speeches might be fun. It would depend on the setting (some of the museums, theatres, opera houses in cities would be smashing!).

But PLEASE LET'S TRY IT!! One of the most exciting things about ALSC is that we do try things out. Let's see what we can come up with!

I also agree that the announcement ceremony could be eliminated, as should the late night phone calls. Some publishing houses would be only too eager to see if media appearances for author's or illustrators could be arranged instead of that trip to Washington or Chicago.

I'll be ready and willing to voice these opinions at the Board meeting and am most eager to hear all the other opinions.

Your overworked but
enthusiastic ALSC
Director,


Jane Botham