Dear Tom,

Please overlook this scrawl. I don't have access to a typewriter at the moment, but wanted to reply to your urgent note re N/C.

While I believe it is very important to retain the spirit of the awards, I do see a need to consider an alternative to the banquet. Speaking quite personally and not for anyone else on the staff here, I have several objections to the banquet concept —

1) I don't like banquets.
2) In recent years, they seem to have become longer and more entrenched in the ceremonial aspects, to the detriment of those whom we wish to honor.
3) The cost is excessive, although somehow even the younger members of the profession I usually manage to scrape it up if they attend the conference at all (ah, there's the rub!)
4) When I attend the banquet, I am really interested in...
It was the speeches of the winners
and not in the food, internment,
introductions of the table guests etc.

Also, most people I know really
appreciate the chance to meet the
winners in the receiving line.

So — I am all for another approach,
preferably an evening meeting such as
the NBA ceremony or the Enchanted
lecture as I remember it. There the
spotlight is directly on the speakers,
there are few distractions; the line
frame is compressed, and the audience
is satisfied. I would hope such a
plan would retain the element of
the reception following the talk.

I would also hope that the ASC office
work load could be lightened.

(Incidentally, the So. Calif. Council on Literature
for Children ... which has always had an annual
awards banquet, went to the less expensive
brunch program last fall because of
the rising costs. Success was mixed - lots
of complaints about food (justified!); attendance
was lower than for the banquet. However,
we're going ahead with it again this year and
think it will grow — and probably become
a new tradition.) At any rate I'm still in favor
of a lecture-meeting set-up. Plans now
of a lecture/meeting set-up. Plans now.