May 28, 1979

Dear Zina,

It is very hard for me to answer your request. The N.C. banquet was always a high point of the A.L.A. conferences stretching back to the beginning when I paid my own way and had to save up to do it. The dressing up, the feeling of the gala occasion was all part of the excitement of the evening. Later I was so pleased when we got the Honor Book winners honored as well being mentioned and introduced and then included in the reception line afterwards. Monitored those long reception lines I was made increasingly aware of what it meant to all those people who waited so long so patiently to shake hands with the winners. I've been inquiring around in my area and I've been told it is no
longer such a dressy affair. People are becoming more and more casual. Certain from reading the ALA program the 2 seem to be more and more meal functions - luncheons, breakfasts, dinners etc. So apparently a lot of people are finding the money to attend a lot of things.

I always heard time after time during my years of budget involvement that ALA made always a great deal of money on the N-C banquet. I never could understand why this was. So there was no way to cut the price and make it more cost-effective. Why not let the local committee take care of the arrangements and then the Executive Secretary wouldn't have to take the time or spend the money with making arrangements.
A more cost-effective banquet with less of a price tag might mean more young new librarians could attend. I am sure the well-known leaders are still urging publishers to invite the young people as their guests instead of the "old dogs." But even at that only a limited number can get into the room (2000+?). If you had an awards ceremony like National Book Awards would you be able to get more in an auditorium? Would there then be a receiving line afterwards such as we had at the banquet? I would hope so.

Please don't have a cocktail party with everyone milling around and no form or shape to the awards ceremony. This would demoralize the group and me.
one could meet or talk with the important
winners except the board and officers,
and people on the "in." The speeches
are important—Even when the winner
is not a good speaker he reveals so
much of himself (his self) in the presenta-
We are not so set in our way we can
not change. The only way to know
how effective this change could be is to
try it.

The gifts to all the banquet attendees
are another expense that could be elimi-
ated. One year you remember a contribu-
tion to the scholarship fund from the publish-
ners was a great innovation. The Tops of
the speeches are an unnecessary expense—
People could buy theirs if they could not
ALSC is absolutely right in trying to get more of the young librarians really involved. That was my hope when we promoted the idea of task forces of local librarians working with committee members and tried to evolve state or regional networks for quick help or inspiration with day-to-day problems. I still dream of that becoming a reality.

It was great to hear from you, and I'm enjoying the Newsletter very much indeed. I'm trying hard to keep quiet for a few years after talking too much for many. I'm an attitude...
for the White House Conference and I must say just now a little discouraged about reports from Washington about the plans. So there any way that ALSC members can make a stand for a working conference where it will be possible to take action on resolutions of meaning or formulate them and not be in attendance at a showcase, an educational process —

So there a roster of ALSC members from across the U.S. who are attendees or delegates? Elaine Krogan is a delegate from Florida —

Sincerely, Anne Ford