

News Release: American Library Association

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For immediate release

An extensive resource list to fuel national discussion of major American social and cultural issues during the Bicentennial year is being published next month (June) by the American Library Association.

The publication is the first truly national "reading, viewing and listening" resource list ever compiled, according to Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director of ALA. It was made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

There are two editions: one for adults, one for children. The combined lists contain some 500 titles of tapes, records, films and books. Millions of copies will be made available and promoted in connection with the major Federal program for the Bicentennial, the "American Issues Forum."

The Forum is a nine month national discourse planned around topics ranging from "A single society of diverse peoples" to "Morality, moralism, and American foreign policy." It will begin in September of 1975, run through May of 1976, and is under the joint sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

The Forum concept was developed from an idea put forward originally by television commentator Walter Cronkite. It is designed to involve the entire population in a serious and thoughtful examination of American Society. Commercial and public television and the nation's newspapers and magazines will publicize the program widely.

To support the American Issues Forum, NEH asked the American Library Association

to recommend a selection of the best and most accessible books and audiovisual materials pertinent to the key issues of the Forum. The lists were prepared by committees of librarians especially selected by ALA, and chaired by Robert Oram, Acting University Librarian, University of Illinois, and Effie Lee Morris, coordinator of Children's Services, San Francisco Public Library. More than forty national advisers (scholars, critics, businessmen, and others in public life) also contributed to the selection of materials.

The ALA committees sifted through an enormous variety and quantity of materials to create lists that would elicit reader interest as well as address the basic themes of the Forum. The lists are succinctly annotated, provide convenient program guides for group discussions, and will be of special interest to librarians and booksellers.

The ALA lists, each version printed as a twelve-page brochure, will be sent in quantity in early June to an extensive list of public libraries, school libraries, service organizations, bookstores, labor unions, and other community groups as a first step in the massive national distribution. Additional distribution will be undertaken by State Library agencies.

Additional quantities of the resource lists can be ordered at \$3.00 per hundred to cover costs of postage and handling from Publishing Services Dept., American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611. ALA requests that payment accompany all orders.