

## RESOLUTION ON POSTAL SUBSIDIES

- WHEREAS, For the first time in U. S. history, the Administration has proposed that Congress provide no appropriation in fiscal 1986 for postal subsidies; and
- WHEREAS, This Administration budget proposal would eliminate all revenue forgone funding for free mail for the blind and physically handicapped, severely curtailing the provision of talking books and other special materials to those eligible for such free mail, and forcing many regional libraries for the blind to go out of business for lack of resources to pay full commercial rates; and
- WHEREAS, The Administration's budget would eliminate all subsidy for the fourth class library postal rate, resulting in a 74 percent increase on top of a 15 percent increase implemented in February 1985, causing purchase of fewer materials by libraries, cutbacks in books-by-mail programs to isolated and rural users, and increased interlibrary loan costs; and
- WHEREAS, The Administration's budget would eliminate all subsidy for other 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class preferred postal rates used heavily by libraries, schools and colleges, charitable organizations, and other preferred mailers; and
- WHEREAS, The Administration has developed a legislative proposal which would maintain some but not all subsidies by raising first class and other nonsubsidized postal rates to make up the difference; and
- WHEREAS, Such a cross-subsidization proposal is currently illegal, lacks fairness, and would drive large mailers from use of the U. S. Postal Service, thus causing a vicious circle of increases for nonsubsidized postal rates; and
- WHEREAS, In the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 (PL 91-375), Congress enacted a permanent subsidy for free mail for the blind and physically handicapped and for preferred 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class postal rates, and directed that the setting of postal rates reflect the educational, cultural, and scientific value to the recipient of mailed material; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association reaffirm its long-standing support of the revenue forgone appropriation to the U. S. Postal Service; and be it further

(over)

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association recommend that Congress provide the full amount of appropriation needed to maintain current levels of revenue forgone funding for free mail for the blind and physically handicapped and for preferred 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class postal rates in the fiscal 1986 congressional budget and appropriations processes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association express to Congress and to the Administration ALA's opposition to the Administration's legislative proposal for cross subsidization among postal rates.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Chicago, Illinois  
July 10, 1985  
(Council Document #47.1)