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STATEMENT BY MISS MAE GRAHAM, SUPERVISOR,  
SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES, DIVISION OF LIBRARY EXTENSION,  
MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ON H.R. 6774

BEFORE THE GENERAL SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

JUNE 5, 1961

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
OFFICIAL FILE

SEP 30 1963  
LIBRARY FILE

My name is Mae Graham. I am Supervisor, School and Children's Libraries, Maryland State Department of Education. I represent today the American Library Association, a nonprofit, professional association of more than 25,000 members, consisting of librarians, trustees, and laymen interested in the development, extension, and improvement of libraries as essential factors in the educational program of the Nation. I speak in particular for one of ALA's Divisions, the American Association of School Librarians, which is interested primarily in improving and extending the services of the school library so that it fulfills its role as an educational force in the school program.

The American Library Association officially supported the objectives of the National Defense Education Act in 1958 and has had a continuing interest in the Act. It favors its extension and improvement as proposed in the bill H.R. 6774, but wishes to propose a further amendment in order to make certain that school libraries perform their proper functions in the interests of national defense.

Our reasons for this proposal are the result of the experience to date under Title III of the present Act. Although this Title has recognized in some degree the important role of printed materials in strengthening instruction in science, mathematics and modern foreign languages, it does not go far enough. Some materials, printed and audio-visual, are being purchased in certain localities, nevertheless there is urgent need for large numbers of additional printed materials and for guidance in the selection, organization, and effective utilization of them. A good school library can provide these materials and this guidance.

Our concern for school libraries is based on our belief that in the education of all youth, from the slowest learner in kindergarten to the most intelligent high school senior, an abundance of printed and audio-visual material is essential.

These resources are the basic tools needed for the purposes of effective teaching and learning; they rank second only to the teacher himself.

The school library should have a collection of carefully chosen books, periodicals, pamphlets, filmstrips, recordings, and other printed and audio-visual materials. These are selected to provide for all subjects in the curriculum and for the interests of all students; they range from easy to difficult and are used in classrooms, laboratories, shops, and study centers as well as in the library and at home. They are used by classes, school committees, teachers, and individual students.

The effective school librarian is in reality a teacher with special knowledge of selection and organization of materials. Like any other good teacher he knows the school's curriculum, keeps abreast of changes, understands and appreciates young people and works well with his colleagues.

A good school library program costs money--but it is still only a tiny fraction of the total school expenditures. Yet this comparatively small investment increases the value of each dollar paid in teachers' salaries, because the library arms the teacher with a powerful array of teaching tools.

Today the schools in the United States fall far short of providing the number and kind of school libraries needed. Many schools have inadequate, overcrowded, and poorly equipped libraries, whereas many schools have no library quarters at all and over 47,000 schools have no qualified librarian. Nation-wide, the schools have only about 50% of the books they need in accordance with accepted standards.

The Library Services Branch of the U. S. Office of Education recently conducted a statistical survey of school libraries in the United States in public school districts enrolling 150 or more pupils. This survey showed, among other things, the following acute deficiencies: (1) More than 10,600,000 children and young people go to schools where there are no school libraries (2) Over 40,700 schools -- nearly half of all public schools -- have no school libraries.

For these compelling reasons the Association wishes to recommend that a Title XII be added to the National Defense Education Act for the purpose of strengthening school library resources needed for teaching and learning. At this time I should like to make this proposal a part of the record.

This amendment proposes that matching grants be provided to the State educational agencies to be used in accordance with a State plan for acquisition of library materials, renovation and/or equipping of library quarters, institutes for training school librarians, and school library leadership services at State and local levels.

Although an adequate supply of printed and audio-visual materials is a prime necessity for the school library, equally important is the need for competent supervisory personnel at both the State and local level. At this time, however, 21 States have no consultant for school libraries at the State level and the lack of local supervisors for planning and advice is equally serious. By supplying the leadership now missing in many States and localities the orderly and effective use of funds for materials and other elementary and secondary school library purposes can be more readily assured. Further to guarantee effective selection, organization and utilization of materials is the provision in the proposed amendment for institutes for training personnel. National standards, formulated in 1960 after careful study by the American Association of School Librarians, call for approximately 112,000 qualified librarians to serve the Nation's schools; 1958-59 statistics of the U. S. Office of Education reveal only 19,000 fully qualified school librarians. To accomplish the work, institutes to train library employees at various levels of service are both practical and necessary.

In view of the facts we have presented, the American Library Association and its Division, the American Association of School Librarians, therefore urgently recommend that you incorporate these proposals as a separate title in the National Defense Education Act.

In addition, the American Library Association also endorses an amendment proposed by the National Council of Teachers of English to include English in the subjects listed under Title III.

The Association fully agrees with the statement of the Commissioner of Education before your Committee on June 1: "More significant ... is the crucial position of English as a keystone of the entire learning process. The student's progress in other languages, as well as in other parts of the curriculum, depends upon his ability to understand and use the English language."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for the privilege of presenting the views of the American Library Association on the proposed legislation to amend and expand the National Defense Education Act.

AN ACT

To amend the National Defense Education Act in order to include TITLE XII -  
SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS: STRENGTHENING SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES  
NEEDED FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that Section 101 of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 is amended by inserting between the first and second paragraphs the following new paragraph:

"The Congress hereby finds and declares that the fullest development of the mental resources and technical skills of the Nation's young men and young women can best be achieved when the schools have the full complement of library resources, personnel, and services. This fact holds true for the multitrack curriculum, ability groupings in subject areas, the expanded and intensified science program, the toughening of the intellectual content in all courses, advanced placement and accelerated programs, the development of the disciplines of critical thinking, the teaching of reading, the provision of a challenging education for superior students, and meeting the needs of all students no matter what their abilities may be. Serious deficiencies exist in school library service to elementary and secondary schools. Many schools have inadequate, crowded, and poorly equipped libraries, whereas many schools have no library quarters. Statistical surveys by the U. S. Office of Education indicate over 10 million pupils were enrolled in public elementary schools without school libraries; only 40% of schools were served by school librarians; average size of book collection was

less than half the recommended standards; and average amount spent per pupil for library materials was only about a quarter of the amount in recognized standards; and twenty-one State departments of education have no school library supervisors and most local school systems lack the services of school library supervisors.

"TITLE XII-- SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS: STRENGTHENING  
SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES NEEDED FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

PART A - STATE PROGRAMS

"APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED

"Sec. 1201. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated \$45,000,000 for the first fiscal year ending June 30, 1962, and for each of the three succeeding fiscal years, for making grants to State educational agencies under this part to assist them to establish and maintain programs of library service in public elementary and secondary schools.

"ALLOTMENTS TO STATES

"Sec. 1202. From the sums appropriated pursuant to section 1201 for any fiscal year the Commissioner shall reserve such amount, but not in excess of 1.5 per centum thereof, as he may determine for allotment as provided in section 1008, and shall reserve 12 per centum for loans authorized in section 1204. From the remainder of such sums the Commissioner shall allot to each State an amount which bears the same ratio to the amount of such remainder as the school-age populations of all of the States. The amount allotted to any State under the preceding sentence for any fiscal year which is less than \$60,000 shall be increased to \$60,000, the total of increases thereby required being derived by proportionately reducing the amount allotted to each of the remaining States under the preceding sentence, but with such adjustments as

may be necessary to prevent the allotment of any such remaining States from being thereby reduced to less than \$60,000.

"STATE PLANS

"Sec. 1203. (a) Any State which desires to receive payments under this part shall submit to the Commissioner, through its State educational agency, a State plan which meets the requirements of section 1004 (a) and--

"(1) sets forth a program of library service in elementary and secondary public schools to meet the library needs of all students and to provide the facilities and resources for challenging education for superior students. Funds paid to the State from its allotment under section 1202 shall be expended solely for projects approved by the State educational agency for (A) acquisition of library materials (printed and audio-visual) and library equipment suitable for use in providing resources for teaching and learning, (B) establishment and/or improvement of local school library supervisory services, (C) minor remodeling of existing space used for library quarters, and (D) establishment and/or improvement of library supervisory services within the State educational agency and administration of the State plan;

"(2) provides for the establishment of State standards for school libraries (elementary and secondary);

"(3) sets forth principles for determining the priority of such projects in the State for assistance under this title and provides for undertaking such projects, insofar as financial resources available therefor make possible, in the order determined by the application of such principles;

"(4) provides an opportunity for a hearing before the State educational agency to any applicant for a project under this title.

(b) The Commissioner shall approve any State plan and any modification thereof which complies with the provisions of subsection (a).

"PAYMENT TO STATES

"Sec. 1204. Payment under this part shall be made to those State educational agencies which administer plans approved under section 1203. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1962, such payments shall equal the amount expended by the State in carrying out its State plan, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963, and for each of the two succeeding fiscal years, such payments shall equal one-half of the amount so expended; except that no State educational agency shall receive payment under this part for any fiscal year in excess of that State's allotment for that fiscal year as determined under section 1202.

PART B - LIBRARY TRAINING INSTITUTES

"APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED

"Sec. 1205. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1962, and \$10,000,000 for each of the three succeeding fiscal years, to enable the Commissioner to arrange, by contracts with institutions of higher education, for the operation by them of short-term or regular session institutes for the provision of training to improve the qualifications of school librarians, or individuals preparing to engage in school library work. Each individual, engaged, or preparing to engage in library work in a public elementary or secondary school, who attends an institute operated under the provisions of this part shall be eligible (after application therefor) to receive a stipend at the rate of \$75 per week for the period of his attendance at such institute, and each such individual with one or more dependents shall receive an additional stipend at the rate of \$15 per week for each such dependent for the period of such attendance."

STATEMENT BY MISS MAE CRAMER, SUPERVISOR,  
SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES, DIVISION OF LIBRARY EXTENSION,  
MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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NOTE:

(This would require some technical changes in the general provisions  
of the National Defense Education Act, such as Sec. 1004, 1008, etc.)

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