

STATEMENT BY GERMAINE KRETTEK
DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
SENATE LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE
ON S.3477
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My name is Germaine Krettek. I am Director of the Washington Office of the American Library Association, a nonprofit, professional association of more than 25,000 members, consisting of librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries interested in the development, extension, and improvement of libraries as essential factors in the educational, social, and cultural needs of our Nation.

The American Library Association endorses the purpose of S.3477, a bill to provide "for a program to assist the several States in further developing their programs of general university extension education."

Our Association has had a long-standing concern about lifelong education for all our citizens. It looks with great favor on any proposal which would provide financial assistance to land-grant colleges and State universities to enable them to bring programs of adult education to individuals and groups in their local communities.

It believes that our colleges and universities are falling short in this endeavor although they have accomplished considerable. The present bill, S.3477, should do much to aid and encourage them towards attaining these objectives.

The Association would like, however, to call attention to a serious oversight in the bill. No mention is made of the need for library services and materials to support this enlarged program and no provision is included specifically to permit the use of funds to pay for such services and resources.

In "Standards for Credit and Non-Credit Activities of Field Services Departments as adopted by the Association for Field Services in Teacher Education" (dated December 1, 1961), the statement is made that "classrooms, library materials and equipment, and laboratories of learning should be comparable to those for on-campus courses." The American Library Association agrees with this statement.

Under modern methods of instruction, carefully selected materials in sufficient quantities must be available to support the teacher and the course. Otherwise, as experience has shown, the desired results will not be achieved.

It follows that an expanded adult education program, as proposed in this bill, will require greatly increased quantities of books, periodicals and other library materials such as films and recordings. The greater number of upper division and graduate level courses being offered today through extension programs makes more pronounced the need for adequate and easily accessible library resources.

These demands will put additional strains upon the already heavily burdened college and university libraries. In some cases, they will also increase the strains upon public libraries, for these extension courses are often conducted in communities which do not have college or university library facilities and must depend upon the public libraries which are geared only to meet normal community demands and lack sufficient funds to furnish the materials required to supplement the university extension work. If good library service to extension students is desirable, and we believe that it is not only desirable but essential, it will cost something. It cannot be an incidental thing to come completely out of an already inadequate library budget.

Cooperation may help to provide library materials at reasonable cost in some cases. For example, a Committee on Cooperative Library Services for Extension Students has been appointed in the College Library Section of the Michigan Library Association to explore the possibility of having various institutions pool resources and through cooperative efforts provide better library resources at centers where more than one institution offers extension classes. But whether the efforts are individual or cooperative, additional funds for off-campus library resources are imperative.

In order to remedy the situation, the American Library Association recommends that the definition of the term "general university extension education

program" in Sec. 4(d) be amended to include language which would allow the expenditure of funds for library books and other materials and services which are required by such a program, whether such library resources and services are provided by the college or university library or through contract with a public library.

Or, if an amendment to the bill does not seem desirable at this time, we would urge that the Committee Report make it perfectly clear that Congress intends the definition of "general university extension education program" to be interpreted to authorize the expenditure of funds for library books and other materials and services which are required by such a program, whether such library resources and services are provided by the college or university library or through contract with a public library. The Association would expect that a firm Committee directive stressing the importance of library materials and services would enable the Commissioner of Education to include this specification in the regulations governing the Act.

We feel that such an action is highly necessary, because far too frequently the necessity for additional library materials and services to carry on an expanded extension program is overlooked by the administrators of college and university budgets. The same situation applies when the burdens are placed upon the local public library by the demands of university or college extension programs held off campus. It is urgent, therefore, that libraries be specifically mentioned in the bill, or that the intent of the Congress to include library materials and services be made clear.

With such modifications, the Association heartily endorses S.3477, and urges its approval by the Subcommittee.

Thank you for this opportunity to express the views of the American Library Association on this proposed legislation which we believe is important and will benefit the people of the United States.