

NOMINATIONS TO THE POST OF ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

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50.7

Whereas Public Law 98-497, the National Archives And Records Administration Act of 1984, states that "The Archivist of the United States shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Archivist shall be appointed without regard to political affiliations and solely on the basis of the professional qualifications required to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Archivist." And

Whereas "The Archivist may organize the Administration [of the National Archives and Records Administration] as the Archivist finds necessary or appropriate." (44 USC 2104 (c)) And

Whereas "The Archivist is authorized to establish, maintain, alter, or discontinue such regional, local or other field offices as the Archivist finds necessary or appropriate to perform the functions of the Archivist or the Administration." (44 USC 2104 (d)) And

Whereas "The Archivist shall provide guidance and assistance to Federal agencies with respect to ensuring adequate and proper documentation of the policies and transactions of the Federal Government and ensuring proper records disposition." (44 USC 2904 (a)) And

Whereas the above powers and others cited in Public Law 98-497 document the major impact of the Archivist of the United States upon the public's access to information and historical records, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the American Library Association shall seek to participate in the formal review of recommendations and nominations for the position of Archivist of the United States whenever a new appointment to that post is under consideration.

NEW POLICY

REVIEWED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH
GUIDELINES
by Council Resolutions Committee

Joan F. Higbee
Moved by: Joan F. Higbee, Councilor at Large

Josephine McSweeney
Seconded by: Josephine McSweeney, Councilor at Large

Approved

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Director, and that an Editorial Advisory Committee be established with functions described in the Exhibit, and MOVED adoption of the two recommendations. While the chairperson of the former Publishing Board (now Council Publishing Committee) would have liked more administrative tie-in with the new Publishing Committee under recommendation #1, he supported the recommendation and reminded Council of the need for the function of an editorial advisory committee. It was

VOTED, That the ALA Council approves the recommendations of the Committee on Organization that
(1) The Editor of American Libraries report directly to the Executive Director of ALA; and
(2), An Editorial Advisory Committee for American Libraries be established.

Miss Hatfield stated that COO's study of the above problem led to the need for revisions in ALA Policy 215.5.3 as stated in the Exhibit, and MOVED adoption of Recommendation II. As noted on page 6 of these Minutes, Councilor South rose to support the recommendation, whereupon it was

VOTED, That the ALA Council approves the amendments proposed in Item II, Exhibit 7 for the editorial policy of American Libraries (ALA Policy #215.5.3).

Miss Hatfield then MOVED adoption of Item III which recommended a change in the ALA Audiovisual Committee's statement of responsibility. Councilor Hill, member of the Audiovisual Committee reported that the Committee during its Conference meeting had voted to recommend that it be dissolved, since the committee members were unanimous in the feeling that they were not fulfilling any specific activity and were unable to communicate with all of the other audiovisual units who are doing things of value; "because the activity throughout the years has been absorbed and we could see no need for our existence." In the light of this statement, Miss Hatfield WITHDREW THE MOTION expecting COO to take further action at Midwinter.

RESOLUTION ON THE NOMINATION OF DR. DANIEL J. BOORSTIN TO BE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS (CD #58). Because of the timeliness, this item was moved up on the agenda with Council's consent. After asking Council to note two revisions, and pointing out that the Executive Board on July 2 voted its support of the Resolution and is seeking ALA privilege to testify at the Senate hearings on the nomination, Councilor Josey, with Councilor Schuman's second, MOVED, and it was VOTED, That

WHEREAS, The Library of Congress has achieved and maintains an eminent position among the libraries of the world on the basis of rendering a sustained high quality of service to the Congress, to the academic community, to other libraries, and to the public, and

WHEREAS, The Librarian of Congress has the direct responsibility to maintain the Library's position and to improve it, through his leadership and administrative expertise, and



(WHEREAS, the ALA has previously gone on record that the person nominated by the President of the United States to be Librarian of Congress should be a qualified professional librarian, and)***

WHEREAS, Daniel J. Boorstin has been nominated to the post of librarian of Congress, and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Boorstin's background, however distinguished it may be, does not include demonstrated leadership and administrative qualities which constitute basic and essential characteristics necessary in the Librarian of Congress,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association continue to strongly oppose the nomination of Daniel J. Boorstin to be Librarian of Congress and urge the President of the United States to withdraw the nomination, and, should he fail to do so, to urge the United States Senate to reject his nomination.

THE REPORT OF THE TELLERS FOR THE COUNCIL ELECTION OF BUDGET ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES AND THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES, presented by Councilor Chong, is attached as Exhibit 4.

The Third and final Meeting during Council's 1975 Annual Conference Session adjourned at 10:05 A.M.

Robert Wedgeworth
Secretary of the Council

*** The parenthetical paragraph was inserted by action of the Membership at its Meeting on July 4, 1975.

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September 16, 1975

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION ON ALA POLICY ON THE POSITION OF LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

Whereas, The statement by the Executive Board of the American Library Association on the nomination of James H. Billington as Librarian of Congress [EBD#83.1.1] contained a series of exemplifications on the requirements for an individual serving as Librarian of Congress; and

Whereas, Those statements are clearly in the realm of policy, and policy creation is the prerogative of this Council; and

Whereas, The final draft of the ALA Legislative Policy contains no formal reference to the qualifications of Librarian of Congress nor is there a statement on the Library of Congress as a national library; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That Council direct the President to charge the Legislative Committee with the task of drawing up a formal policy statement on the Library of Congress and its chief officer, the Librarian of Congress. Such policy shall stand to serve as a separate document ready to be transmitted to the President of the United States and members of the Legislature when future vacancies occur in that office. The essence of this policy is to be included in future draftings of the ALA Legislative Policy.

ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
June 30, 1987, in San Francisco, California
Transmitted by


Thomas J. Galvin
Secretary of Council

