



WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

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No. 4

NATIONAL RELATIONS

HEARINGS ON POSTAL RATES IN PROGRESS

Hearings on proposals for increased postal rates (see Vol. 1, No. 3) are in progress before the House and Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committees.

Paul Howard, Director, ALA Washington Office, testified before the Senate Committee on March 25, calling attention to the implications of the proposed increases for libraries and library patrons. He will appear before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee in a few weeks.

A copy of Mr. Howard's testimony is attached for your information.

Members of the House and Senate committees considering the postal rate legislation are given below. Now is the time to write to the committees or your congressman and express your views on the proposed legislation.

Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee

(Democrats)

Olin D. Johnson, S.C., Chairman
Kenneth McKellar, Tennessee
Herbert R. O'Connor, Maryland
Russell B. Long, Louisiana
Matthew M. Neely, W. Va.
J. Allen Frear, Jr., Dela.

(Republicans)

William Langer, N. Dakota
Ralph E. Flanders, Vermont
Raymond E. Baldwin, Conn.
Edward J. Thye, Minnesota
Zales N. Ecton, Montana
Robert C. Hendrickson, N. J.

House Post Office and Civil Service Committee

Tom Murray, Tenn., Chairman
James H. Morrison, Louisiana
George P. Miller, Calif.
James C. Davis, Georgia
John Bell Williams, Miss.
John A. Whitaker, Kentucky
Thurman C. Crook, Indiana
Raymond W. Karst, Missouri
Homer Thornberry, Texas
James V. Buckley, Illinois
Ertel Carlyle, North Carolina
Eugene J. McCarthy, Minnesota
A. S. Herlong, Jr., Florida
Chester C. Gorski, New York
George M. Rhodes, Penna.

Edward H. Rees, Kansas
Harold C. Hagen, Minn.
Robert J. Corbett, Penna.
Katharine St. George, N. Y.
Antoni N. Sadlak, Conn.
Edward H. Jenison, Ill.
Usher L. Burdick, N. Dakota
Gardner R. Withrow, Wis.
H. R. Gross, Iowa
James S. Golden, Kentucky

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BOOK IMPORTATIONS FAVORED UNDER PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TARIFF ACT

Books are included in merchandise to receive relief under a proposed amendment to Section 498 (a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930. The amendment proposes that the value of certain merchandise which may be imported without being declared be increased from the present \$100 to \$250.

The bill, S. 539, was introduced by Senator Herbert O'Connor (D.-Md.) and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. The Committee reports that letters have been received from a number of libraries, stating how much they would benefit from passage of the bill and urging its enactment.

Senator Walter F. George (D.-Ga.) is chairman of the Finance Committee.

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REPORT ON OTHER LEGISLATION

Library Demonstration Bill: Hearings before the House Committee on Education and Labor will not be held until the work on labor legislation now before the Committee has been completed. Action on these bills is running behind schedule. When the labor legislation is finished, then a real drive should be made for the Library Demonstration Bill.

Our support for the bill now stands at 69 in the Senate, 191 in the House.

Labor Education Bill: The Labor Education Extension Service Bill has been reported out favorably by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. It is expected that a subcommittee of the House Labor and Education Committee will be appointed to hold hearings on the measure, probably within three weeks.

The bill provides funds to educational institutions for encouragement of workers' education programs. Libraries interested in extension of workers' education may be eligible for funds.

If you are interested in receiving more information about the bill, write to Miss Hilda Smith, Chairman, National Committee for Extension of Labor Education, 1508 Seventeenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Social Security Bills: Hearings continue on these measures. A full report will be given in the NEWSLETTER as soon as information is available.

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ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY

A bill has been passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor of the State of Washington, which would permit the State Library to receive Federal funds which may be available for library service. The text of the bill reads as follows:

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"The State Library Commission is hereby authorized to accept and to expend in accordance with terms thereof of any grant of federal funds which may become available to the state for library purposes. For the purpose of qualifying to receive such grants, the State Library Commission is authorized to make such applications and reports as may be required by the federal government as a condition thereto."

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A PEG FOR RECRUITING

Career Opportunities, a publication of the U. S. Department of Labor, points out that at the present time there are very good opportunities for careers in library service. This is the first time the publication has boosted the field for professional librarians.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MILTON E. LORD APPOINTED TO UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION

Milton E. Lord, Director, Boston Public Library, has been appointed to the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO. The announcement was made at the conference of the Commission which was held in Cleveland, March 31-April 2. Mr. Lord replaces Mr. Ralph Ulveling, Director of the Detroit Public Library, who resigned from the Commission.

At the Cleveland conference, Mr. Lord spoke briefly on the contributions and plans of the A.L.A. in the international field.

Library features of the conference included two meetings of the libraries group on Friday, April 1, in the Cleveland Public Library. Mr. L. Quincy Mumford, Assistant Director of the Library, presided over the morning meeting. It was a demonstration program of meetings held monthly in the Cleveland Public Library for young people of high school and college age to develop "roads to world understanding". Methods, planning and organization by which the appeal to young people is made was indicated in a panel discussion by representatives of agencies sponsoring the monthly programs. This was followed by a discussion, "Indonesia and Ceylon: Nationalism Stirs in the Pacific", by students from the Cleveland schools.

Dr. Leon Carnovsky of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, presided at the afternoon session of the libraries group. The meeting was devoted to discussion of community programs to further world understanding. For children, suggestions were made for story-telling hours for study and "pen pals" in other countries; suggested activities for adults included great books discussion groups, radio programs, letters to congressmen, and appearance on public programs of foreign students and teachers in our schools and colleges.

Exhibits at the conference were viewed by thousands of visitors and delegates during the three-day meeting. The accomplishments and aims of UNESCO, of Government, and of private agencies here and abroad were traced through 68 exhibits covering 30,000 square feet.

The ALA Washington Office exhibit consisted of world maps showing the distribution of publications abroad and the exchange of persons under various ALA programs. A table of illustrative material was also exhibited.

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DETAILS OF THE CARE BOOK PROGRAM

The CARE program to replenish the shelves of overseas technical schools and universities with gifts of new American technical and scientific books will begin operating May 15. The plan is not a used book program. It is a program designed for institutions, not individuals. Here is how the program will operate:

Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, will head a committee to guide CARE in selecting the latest and best books published in the U. S. to meet overseas needs as determined by CARE Missions, in cooperation with UNESCO, Ministries of Education, and other authoritative sources. The committee, which will include members of the American Library Association and U. S. Book Exchange, will consider the possibility of utilizing foreign publications in English.

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CARE will fill the needs for books as funds are made available by the American people. An individual or group may contribute \$10, \$50, or other sums to purchase books to be sent directly from the publisher to the recipient national university, or technical library. Donors of sums over \$10 may designate country, type of institution or category of books (not titles). Donors will receive the usual CARE signed receipt of delivery. Donations under \$10 will be placed in the general book fund.

Books to be sent under the CARE program will be in the following categories: General - Health and welfare, nursing, medicine, dentistry, agricultural science, veterinary science, English language instruction; Applied Science - biology, chemistry, engineering, geology, library administration, mathematics, physics, physiology, psychology, sociology, and statistics.

Countries to receive books are: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Italy, France, Greece, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom, and American, British, French Zones of Germany -- Berlin.

For additional information and materials on the CARE book program write to CARE Educational Unit, 50 Broad Street, New York 4, New York.

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FOREIGN STUDENTS IN U. S. LIBRARY SCHOOLS

For your information, we are including a list of foreign students who were registered in library schools in the United States as of December 1948. It is probable that most of them are continuing through the Spring 1949 semester.

The attached list was furnished the ALA Washington Office by Mr. Rudolph Gjelsness, Chairman, Department of Library Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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PLANS FORMULATED TO BRING FOREIGN STUDENTS TO U.S.

The first large-scale Government program to bring students from former enemy countries to the United States as a part of the reconstruction effort in those areas will get under way immediately, according to an announcement by the Institute of International Education, 2 West 45th St., New York 19, N. Y. The program is made possible under terms of a contract recently signed between the Department of the Army and the Institute, providing funds set aside by Congress to assist nationals of Germany, Japan, and Austria to come to this country to study. The students will start arriving next fall for the academic year 1949-50.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made to bring a total of 300 students by September. The students selected will be those who, it is believed, will be able to interpret American democracy to their fellow countrymen on their return home. They will all be screened for academic qualifications by civilian selection committees in each country, and for political affiliations by Military Government officials. The Institute of International Education will, under terms of the contract, be responsible for the entire administration of this particular Army program.

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LIBRARIAN FROM SWEDEN VISITING IN THE UNITED STATES

Miss Dorothy Spofford, Librarian of the U. S. Information Library in Stockholm, now in the U. S. for a visit, called at the Washington Office recently.

Miss Spofford reported that Swedish librarians are very interested in American library associations and library practice. The Swedish Library Association would like to get in contact with scientific, industrial, and public library associations in the United States. The Association would also like to establish mutual exchanges of periodical publications.

Interested library groups in this country should contact Miss Ulla Gertz, Sveriges Allmänna Biblioteksforening Biblioteksbladet (Swedish Library Association Journal), Postgiro 688, Lund, Sweden.

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INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE OF IFLA TO MEET

The 15th session of the International Library Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations will meet in Basle, Switzerland, July 11-13. This session is intended as a preparatory meeting for the 3rd International Congress for libraries and bibliography to be held in the United States in 1950.

Milton E. Lord, Boston Public Library, is First Vice President of IFLA and Chairman of the American Committee on Arrangements for the International Library Congress for 1950.

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MRS. HELEN WESSELLS TO STATE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Helen Wessells has been selected acting chief of the Library Branch, Division of Libraries and Institutes, Department of State. Mrs. Wessells, formerly of the AIA International Relations Office, succeeds Mr. Clarence E. Walton in the State Department position.

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Statement of Paul Howard, Director, ALA Washington Office, before the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee, March 25, 1949.

Librarians have naturally been concerned over the increased cost of operating libraries and have been grateful for the consideration which has been shown by the Congress in establishing the special rate on library books. They are, of course, sympathetic with the desire of the Post Office Department to operate as nearly as possible on a sound financial basis.

However, we feel that your Committee should take into consideration not only the operation of the Post Office Department on a self-sustaining basis, but also the needs of various governmental and educational services such as libraries. For this reason we would like to call to your attention some of the implications for library patrons in the proposed increases.

As a background for this consideration, we would like to have the Committee consider the fact that more than 90% of all libraries are Governmental agencies, either state, local, or national; that they are supported by taxes; that any increase in operating costs for libraries either forces corresponding increases in taxes or a reduction in services. In this connection I would like to point out some of the additional cost to libraries which the increase in the bookrate, the additional cost of postal cards, and the elimination of the special rate for books mailed to or by public libraries will bring to these libraries.

Before the recent increase in the bookrate, most publishers or jobbers from which public libraries purchased books absorbed the shipping costs in the price of the books. With the recent increase there has been a very strong tendency to add the cost of postage to the cost of the books. This is likely to increase with the additional increase in the bookrate.

Public libraries, according to the figures of the Office of Education, are adding books to their collections at a rate of approximately 6,900,000 per year. A very conservative estimate of the added cost of postage which must be borne by the libraries in the purchase of these books would be not less than \$276,000 per year. The added cost of postal cards used by libraries in notifying readers of books available, books overdue, books and other materials desired, etc., would be not less than \$100,000 per year.

Assuming that the elimination of the library bookrate will place the mailing of library books on a self-sustaining basis, this would add to library costs approximately \$122,000 per year. The total in these three categories would then be, by very conservative estimate, at least \$498,000 per year.

The figures gathered by the Office of Education show that in 1945 the cost per capita for public library service to the population served averaged 70¢. At this rate, this increased cost in library service would either force an increase in taxes to compensate that or would result in denying library service to some 711,000 people.

A third possibility is that the quality of library service would be decreased for a much greater number of people.

Past Congresses have attempted to mitigate this effect to some extent by establishing the library bookrate on books mailed to or by libraries. This rate was an attempt to insure the wide dissemination of informational materials through libraries.

The figures given above apply only to public libraries which serve their communities. They do not apply to college and university libraries or other school libraries. If similar figures were worked out for these two types of libraries, the corresponding increase in cost would be apparent.

We feel sure that your Committee in its decision as to the postal rates will not wish to do anything to eliminate such valuable services as that which libraries render the general public of the United States.

We feel that the Congress will want to consider the distribution of informational materials in a quite different light from the distribution of ordinary goods. The survival of a democracy depends upon the information of its citizens and consequently a democratic government should make every effort to encourage reading and to insure the accessibility of reading materials.

We realize that this point of view may in some instances mean that we advocate the acceptance of loss on some categories of mail. This is not inconsistent with the American idea that the chief purpose of government and its reason for being is to serve the best interests of its people.

For this reason, we believe that books should be classed as second class matter and should receive the lowest rate in that category. In addition, we believe that if the Congress can not accept this recommendation that the library bookrate should be re-established at not more than 3¢ for the first pound and 1¢ for each additional pound.

This rate should apply to all books shipped to or by public, college, or school libraries as inter-library loan or as a service to readers.

We believe that the services which books and libraries render to the general welfare amply justify such actions.

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FOREIGN STUDENTS IN AMERICAN LIBRARY SCHOOLS, 1948-49

Catholic University of America Library Science Department Sister St. Margaret of Scotland Beaton -- Nova Scotia Father Fernando Pedro de Freitas -- Portugal Rita Drummond -- Brazil	Marywood College Department of Librarianship Maria Louise d'Auchamp -- Denmark Maria Rycerz -- Poland
University of Chicago Graduate Library School Pedro D. Dimaya -- Philippines Reidum Johnsen -- Norway Chia-Chieh Ku -- China Tsuen-hsuin Tsien -- China	University of Michigan Department of Library Science Elba Bonacia --Venezuela Aurora Corro --Panama Consuelo Damaso --Philippines David Foley --Canada Roberto Gordillo --Mexico Jose Munoz --Dom. Rep. Jagdish Sharma --India Surjit Singh --India Chai-Sook Syn --Korea Alberto Villalon --Chile Donald Young --China
Columbia University School of Library Service Peng T. C. Cheng -- China Yun-Min Chin -- China Lawrence S.S. Hu -- China Maria Alicia Izquierdo -- Chile Jean Koefoed -- Denmark D. Harriet Lockhart -- Canada June Newton -- Canada Bertrand M. Walsh -- Canada Charles Y. S. Yu -- China	George Peabody College for Teachers Library School Mei-Kyoen Kaung -- China Hsiu-Chen Lo -- China Kishori Sanzgiri -- India Ruby Swen -- China
University of Denver School of Librarianship Pao-cheng Chang Hsu -- China Boa-hwang Seng -- China	Carnegie Institute of Technology Carnegie Library School-Pittsburgh Flora Khalil Rizk -- Egypt
Drexel Institute School of Library Science Bohuslawa Zabko-Potapoqicz--Poland	Pratt Institute Maria L. Betances --PuertoRico Phyllis E. Bowlby -- Canada Clementine L. Combaz -- Canada Madge Williams -- Canada
University of Illinois Library School Mo-Ling Hwang -- China Rabieb Tantranon -- Siam Chiu-Chu Wang -- China	Rosary College Dept. of Library Science Rev. Enrique Almeida,O.P. -- Ecuador
Kansas State Teachers College Library School Lydia Shui-Chih Yu Wang-- China Percy Hung-Fan Wang -- China	Simmons College School of Library Science Maren Lund -- Norway Gloria Cortes Soroa -- Spain
Louisiana State University Library School Sara Andressian -- Syria Pedro Zamora -- Mexico	University of So. Calif. Graduate Library School Tsing S. Chu -- China Gwang-Lu Den -- China

Foreign Students in American Library Schools 1948-49 - 2.

Syracuse University
School of Library Science
Jessica Gower -- England
Josefa Jimenez-Guardiola -- Puerto Rico
Virginia Masis -- Costa Rica
Grace Quinones -- Puerto Rico

Texas State College for Women
Library Science Department
Amelia de Zambrana -- Puerto Rico
Marilyn Gay McKean -- Venezuela

University of Washington
School of Librarianship
Marjorie Ann Alldritt -- Canada
Nora Averil Dryburgh -- Canada
Nina Greig -- Canada
Joan Isobel Matheson -- Canada
John Grinde Rafto -- Norway
Effie Smallwood -- Canada
Clinton Wei-hsun Tao -- China
Gladys York -- Canada

Western Reserve University
School of Library Science
Laura M. Fuste -- Puerto Rico
Margaret Lovatt -- England
Ellen P. Webster -- Nova Scotia

University of Wisconsin
Library School
Mary Isabella Grant -- Canada