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NATIONAL RELATIONS

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Federal Aid to Education -- A Federal-aid-to-education bill was introduced in the House last week by Rep. Graham Barden (D-S.C.). This bill differs from S. 246, recently passed by the Senate, in that it provides aid for public schools only. The Senate bill included aid for private and parochial schools as well as for public schools.

The House Education and Labor Committee began hearings on the Barden bill (H.R. 4643) and on S. 246 Tuesday, May 17. Paul Howard, Director of the ALA Washington Office, will present a statement in support of Federal aid to education on behalf of the Association. He will urge that a Federal aid plan, without Federal control, be approved as a means of getting aid for school libraries and of equalizing educational opportunities.

Library Demonstration Bill -- We have information that hearings on H.R. 874 will be held when action on the education bill is completed. Present plans are to complete action on the Barden bill in a month or less; so there is a good chance that hearings on the Library Demonstration Bill will be scheduled for sometime around the middle of June.

Books and Records for Handicapped Persons -- No action is scheduled as yet on H.R. 4034, a bill to provide books and sound-production records for certain physically incapacitated persons. The bill, introduced by Rep. Kenneth B. Keating, of New York, is pending before the House Committee on Administration, Subcommittee on the Library.

Under the measure, the Library of Congress would receive an annual appropriation of \$1,125,000 (in addition to regular appropriation) to provide the materials. The Librarian of Congress would then make arrangements with appropriate libraries to serve as local or regional centers for circulation of the books or records.

Depository Libraries Bill -- No action to date on the Huber bill, H.R. 1373. This bill provides that depository libraries be designated in cities with a population of at least 100,000 in which there is no depository library.

At this time it appears doubtful that the bill will be considered favorably because of economy reasons. The measure would add about 11 additional libraries to the list of those now receiving government publications and opponents say the cost would be prohibitive.

The bill is pending before the House Administration Committee.

Tax-free Typewriters -- Libraries will not have to pay the manufacturers' excise tax on typewriters if H.R. 4634 is approved. The bill, introduced recently by Rep. John E. Fogarty of Rhode Island, would exempt from the tax all typewriters intended for educational purposes (schools, libraries, all non-profit institutions).

The measure has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee but no action has been scheduled to date. That Committee is still considering the social security legislation.

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FSA REPORTS FAVORABLY ON LIBRARY DEMONSTRATION BILL

Last February the House Education and Labor Committee requested a report on the Library Demonstration Bill from the Federal Security Agency. In response to this request, Mr. J. Donald Kingsley, Acting Administrator, FSA, submitted a detailed report in favor of the bill to Rep. John Lesinski, committee chairman. The FSA letter is, in effect, the Administration's approval and blessing on the bill.

The report is printed in full in the Congressional Record for May 12, page A3043, under Extension of Remarks by Rep. Wright Patman of Texas. It states the purposes of the bill, outlines its provisions and explains how the program would operate.

The FSA letter is too long to reproduce in the NEWSLETTER, but we believe that two paragraphs bear quoting here:

"We would therefore recommend that the bills, modified as suggested above, be enacted by the Congress.

"The Bureau of the Budget advises that the broad objectives of this proposal are meritorious and that there is no objection to the presentation of this report to your committee."

Note: The modifications referred to in the first paragraph quoted are for clarification of technical details only.

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QUESTIONS ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY EXTENSION

Several librarians have asked the following question regarding the proposed social security legislation (Vol. 1, No. 3): "If the social security legislation is passed, will some special State legislation be needed in order to have librarians come under social security?"

In the event that this question may have occurred to others, here is the answer:

The proposed legislation makes it possible for units of State or local governments to join on a voluntary basis. Some State legislation would have to be passed to authorize this. If the State bill reads "all institutions supported wholly or in part by taxation", or some other such general statement to include all local and State employees, then a special bill for librarians would not be required to permit them to participate in the program.

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AMONG "LIBRARY-MINDED" CONGRESSMEN

Bouquets of bluebonnets to Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, of Texas. Mr. Rayburn, who recently won the annual Colliers magazine award for "distinguished Congressional service", gave his prize money -- \$10,000 -- to his home town of Bonham, Texas, for a library!

Representative George Miller, of California's Sixth District, has solved the problem of what to do with the many Government publications which cross a Congressman's desk. He sends them to libraries in his district.

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BUDGET FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES THREATENED

The budget for the State Department's Office of International Educational Exchange was cut from \$36 million to \$34 million by the House Appropriations Committee. The bill is now before the Senate Appropriations Committee and experiencing some difficulty there.

A reduced budget for this Office would curtail educational exchange programs and might affect to some extent the international libraries program.

Librarians can help by writing to the Senate Committee considering the bill, asking that the budget cut made by the House be restored in the Senate. Members of the Committee are:

Democrats

Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee.
Pat McCarran, of Nevada
Allen J. Ellender, Sr., of La.
Lister Hill, of Alabama
Harley M. Kilgore, of W. Va.
John L. McClellan, of Arkansas

Republicans

Kenneth S. Wherry, of Nebraska
Leverett Saltonstall, of Mass.
B. B. Hickenlooper, of Iowa
Theodore F. Green, of R. I.
H. Alexander Smith, of N. J.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A.L.A. REPRESENTED ON 'ROUND-THE-WORLD BROADCASTS

Milton E. Lord, Director, Boston Public Library, will represent the A.L.A. on a 'Round-the-World Town Meeting this summer, arranged by "America's Town Meeting of the Air", 14-year-old popular radio forum.

The unique program will feature Americans from national organizations representing agriculture, business and industry, labor, education and culture, women, and veterans who will travel together around the world to discuss common problems face-to-face with leaders of other countries.

Important purposes to be served by this program are: (1) To increase American understanding of world problems; (2) to increase understanding of America 'round the world; (3) to show our genuine interest in other peoples and their problems; (4) to strengthen and spread the democratic way of free discussion; and (5) to promote peace, freedom, and well-being.

Plan of 'Round-the-World Town Meeting is to originate programs in 12 world capitals, featuring two American speakers and two leading citizens of each country visited, on a subject of vital interest to both peoples. The programs will be recorded and flown back to the U.S. for broadcast over the regular ABC network of 260 stations during July, August, and September.

The U. S. Information Service in American Embassies have been asked to assist the program in appropriate ways, such as making contacts with local radio and non-governmental organizations and advising on many technical preparations. In Occupied Areas the American Military Command and the War Department will cooperate in facilitating arrangements for the meetings.

The entire trip will take approximately 65 days, starting about June 26th. Most of the trip will be via Pan American World Airways, which is providing special services in making arrangements for the tour.

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REPORT ON DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has published a report on the Conference on United Nations and Specialized Agency Documentation, held in Paris last November. The reports are available from the New York office of Carnegie Endowment, located at 405 W. 117th Street, New York 27, N. Y.

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LIBRARIANS VISITING IN U. S.

Mrs. Laureana E. Villaneuva from Manila, Republic of the Philippines, will arrive in the United States about June 1 on a six-month UNESCO fellowship. In Manila Mrs. Villaneuva is Chief of Circulating Division, Bureau of Public Libraries.

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Mrs. Villaneuva has had one year's training in library science at the University of the Philippines. While in the U. S. she plans to attend a library school during the summer session and spend the rest of her time here visiting State library agencies and library projects over the U. S. On her return home the librarian expects to organize municipal libraries as well as to reorganize the reference division of the public libraries in Manila.

The Institute of International Education is making arrangements for Mrs. Villaneuva's visit. The A.L.A. is cooperating with the Institute in planning her visits to libraries in this country.

Another UNESCO fellow who has been in the United States for about three months is Mr. Palle Birkelund, Assistant Librarian of the University Library at Copenhagen, Denmark.

Mr. Birkelund, whose special interests are microfilm and technical aspects of library organization, spent his orientation period at Columbia University. He has called on public and special libraries in and around New York City and has visited Princeton, Albany, Yale, and Mount Holyoke libraries. He is at present at Harvard University Library.

Before returning to Denmark, Mr. Birkelund will visit libraries in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Washington, D. C. He will attend the Special Libraries Association Conference in Los Angeles June 13-18.

Plans are for the Danish librarian to be in Washington from July 25 to August 20, when he will have an opportunity to devote special attention to microfilm and photoduplication facilities at the Library of Congress, National Archives, and the Department of Agriculture Library, as well as to visit other libraries in the Washington area.

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FOREIGN STUDY AWARDS LISTED

Over 6,300 additional opportunities for study abroad are listed by UNESCO in a 60-page pamphlet issued last week, the U. S. Commission for UNESCO has announced.

This brings the total number of international awards reported by the UNESCO to more than 16,800.

Over 500 of the newly tabulated awards may be granted under the U. S. Government Fulbright program. Fifty-six others are offered through private institutions in the U. S. Listings include opportunities for American nationals to study overseas, as well as for foreign visitors to study in this country.

In gratitude for the hospitality of the Lebanese people, the UNESCO General Conference, meeting in Beirut last December, authorized three "UNESCO Conference Fellowships" to be awarded candidates either in education, librarianship, science, museum development, art, music education, radio or press communications.

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The Commission has also called attention to a UNESCO film, produced jointly with the World Student Service Fund, which portrays student life and reconstruction in war-devastated universities of Europe and Asia. The commentary is made by students of different nationalities who describe their way of life, their need for aid in many forms and their own efforts to overcome disease and destruction. Included are scenes of reconstruction activity carried out on the international scale by UNESCO and the World Student Fund.

The film is available in both 16 and 35 millimeter prints. Inquiries may be directed to Film Program Services, Inc., 1173 Sixth Avenue, New York City.

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