AUBREY LEE GRAHAM ACCEPTS WASHINGTON OFFICE POST

Beginning October 1, 1949, the A.L.A. will be represented in Washington by Mrs. Aubrey Lee Graham of Falls Church, Virginia. Mrs. Graham has been librarian of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, and New Rochelle, New York, public libraries. She has recently been working on a special project for the U. S. Register of Copyrights.

Mrs. Graham is a member of the A.L.A. Audio-Visual Board and has been active on other A.L.A. Committees.

Since the tentative budget approved by the A.L.A. Executive Board provides only a limited budget for Washington activities during the fiscal year 1949/50, Mrs. Graham will be working on a part-time basis, combining her A.L.A. responsibilities with her successful home business in Falls Church, the Graham Letter Service. Emphasis will be placed initially on A.L.A.'s legislative relations with top priority assigned to the Library Demonstration Bill. Other Federal liaison responsibilities will be added later as the legislative program permits.

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A.L.A. MEMBERS DISCUSS WASHINGTON OFFICE

An informal group of leading public and extension librarians from nearly twenty States recently took advantage of the University of Chicago Conference on the Public Library Inquiry to hold a series of discussions on the A.L.A. Washington Office and A.L.A.'s responsibilities to maintain an adequate staff to carry on national relations and international relations activities. Representatives were present from the Library Extension Division, Public Libraries Division, National Association of State Libraries, Federal Relations Committee, A.L.A. Executive Board, and the Headquarters Staff. Mr. Cory, Executive Secretary, met with the group in its final session.

Plans were discussed to provide ways and means for supplementing funds tentatively authorized for continuance of the A.L.A. Washington Office with a part-time representative. Recommendations will probably be submitted to the A.L.A. Executive Board meeting in late September when final budget decisions for 1949/50 will be made.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE STAFF

Following completion of Miss Ridgway's two-week stay in Washington to work on the Library Demonstration Bill, Mr. Cory has returned briefly to the Washington Office. Mr. Irving Lieberman, member of the A.L.A. Library Extension Board and formerly Head, Extension Division, Michigan State Library, has arrived to spend three weeks on the legislative relations program. Mr. Lieberman will also work with the Washington Office staff and the U. S. Office of Education to prepare data requested by or needed for Congress in connection with hearings and debate on the Library Demonstration Bill in the next session beginning in January, 1950.

Miss Clara Fielder, Publicity Assistant in the A.L.A. Washington Office since September 1947, will go on terminal leave on August 23, 1949, completing two years of very valuable service to A.L.A.

Mrs. Marcella Dovener, Secretary in the Washington Office since September 1947, will go on terminal leave October 1, 1949.

KELLEY INTRODUCES LIBRARY BILL

Representative Augustine B. Kelley, (D.-Pa.) has introduced a library demonstration bill, H. R. 6059. The bill is identical to the two sponsored in the House by Representatives Ray J. Madden and Wright Patman.

Mr. Kelley is a member of the House Education and Labor Committee and it is hoped that his sponsorship of the measure may give impetus to efforts to secure hearings before the Committee.

HOUSE GETS SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

The House Ways and Means Committee has approved legislation to extend social security coverage to 11 million more persons and to liberalize benefits. Librarians would be included among the new groups brought into the plan.

The new bill, H. R. 6000, embodies most of the provisions of the original legislation (ALA WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER Vol. 1, No. 3, March 10, 1949).

Briefly, here is a summary of the principal provisions of the measure:

Old-age and survivors insurance would be extended to add approximately 11 million new persons to the 35 million persons now covered during an average week. Groups to be added which would include members of the library profession are:

1. Employees of State and local governments, if the State enters into a voluntary compact with the Federal Security Agency. Employees in this group who are already under a retirement system shall be covered only if employees and adult beneficiaries of the retirement system shall elect to do so by a two-thirds majority.
Most librarians would come under this category of State and local government employees, which accounts for 3.8 million persons.

2. Employees of nonprofit institutions, other than ministers and members of religious orders. If the employer does not elect voluntarily to pay the employer's tax, the employee would receive credit with respect to only one-half his wage for the employer's tax which is compulsory.

Employees of private or special libraries would be included in this category, which accounts for about 600,000 persons.

Among other groups to be brought under the program are:

1. Non-farm self-employed persons other than physicians, lawyers, dentists, osteopaths, veterinarians, chiropractors, optometrists, Christian Science practitioners, and aeronautical, chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical, metallurgical, or mining engineers whose net earnings from self-employment total $400 or more per year (about 4.5 million).

2. Domestic servants in a private home whose cash earnings are $25 or more per quarter and who work 26 days or more per quarter, unless employed on a farm operated for profit (about 750,000).

3. Federal employees not covered under any retirement system except temporary workers, elective officials, "dollar-a-year" employees, etc. (about 100,000).

4. Americans employed outside the United States and employees on American aircraft outside the United States (about 150,000).

5. Salesmen, taxi-drivers, industrial home workers, contract loggers, mine lessees, and other persons technically not employees at common law, who were deprived of status as employees by the so-called Gearhart Resolution, 80th Congress (about 500,000).

Benefits. About 2.6 million persons currently receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits would have their monthly benefit increased on the average by about 70 percent. Increases would range from 50 percent for highest benefit groups to as much as 150 percent for lowest benefit groups. The average primary benefit of approximately $26 per month for a retired insured worker would be increased to nearly $45.

Persons who retire in the future would have their benefits computed under a new formula, resulting in benefits approximately double the average benefits payable today. The formula is: 50 percent of the first $100 of average monthly wage, plus 10 percent of the next $200 (based on the maximum wage and tax base of $3600 per year). This amount would be increased by 1/2 percent for each year of coverage, and would be reduced proportionately to take into account time not spent in employment covered under the program.

Other provisions concerning benefits are:

1. The minimum primary benefit under existing law of $10 per month would be increased to $25.
2. Maximum family benefit under existing law of $85 per month would be increased to $150, but not more than 80 percent of the average monthly wage of the insured person.

3. Lump-sum death payments would be made for all insured deaths instead of only for deaths with respect to which immediate monthly survivors benefits are not payable, as limited by the present law.

Another section of the legislation provides that a beneficiary may earn up to $50 a month in covered employment without loss of benefits, instead of $15 a month as now provided. After age 75, benefits are payable regardless of amount of earnings from employment.

**Rate of Contribution.** Contributions would be increased from the present 2 percent, employees and employers sharing equally, to 3 percent with further increases in future years.

**Permanent and Total Disability Insurance.** Under provisions for permanent and total disability insurance, all persons covered by the old-age and survivors insurance program would have available protection against the hazard of enforced retirement and loss of earnings caused by permanent and total disability. Permanently and totally disabled workers would have their benefits and average wage computed on the same basis as for old-age benefits, but no payments would be available for dependents of disabled workers.

The bill also provides funds for child welfare services in amounts double those now provided.

Early action on H. R. 6000 is expected in the House, but it is not likely that action will be taken by the Senate this session.

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**TRAINING OUTLINE**

There is attached an outline on training for library demonstration personnel which should be added to the outline on demonstration standards and planning sent out with NEWSLETTER No. 11.
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE WASHINGTON OFFICE

International relations activities previously carried on from Washington will be partially returned to the Chicago A.L.A. Headquarters and partially handled directly by the A.L.A. International Relations Board and the recently organized A.L.A. Round Table on Library Work Abroad. The A.L.A. will retain a study in the Library of Congress Annex for its international relations activities, many of which are carried on in close cooperation with the Library of Congress.

Mr. Cory has recently had opportunities to discuss A.L.A. international relations activities with Dr. Luther H. Evans, Chairman of the International Relations Board, Miss Marietta Daniels, Chairman of the Round Table for Library Work Abroad, and Mr. Marian Milczewski, Round Table Vice-chairman, as well as with representatives of the State Department and Library of Congress.

Tentative plans are being made for a meeting of the International Relations Board this fall.

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ALA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS ON DENMARK CONFERENCE

Mrs. Evelyn E. McCabe, Director of Library Service, United States Library at Copenhagen, Denmark, was the official A.L.A. representative at the UNESCO's International Conference on Adult Education, held at Elsinore, Denmark, June 16-25.

Mrs. McCabe has sent A.L.A. a comprehensive report of the Conference, which we summarize for the NEWSLETTER.

Official delegations were present from 26 countries and 25 international organizations, in addition to representatives of other organizations active in the field of adult education. Twelve of the 115 registrants indicated libraries as a main interest.

General purposes of the Conference were: To provide an opportunity for adult education leaders throughout the world to exchange ideas and experiences; to study the most urgent needs and common problems in adult education; and to examine new techniques and methods in adult education. Consideration was also given to helping UNESCO plan its future program in the field of adult education and to possible means for continued collaboration among adult education leaders and workers of different countries.

Mrs. McCabe reports that an impressive wall display showing adult education programs in American public libraries was a feature of the meeting. The display, prepared for the UNESCO by the Enoch Pratt Free Library, covered three walls of the exhibit room and was made up of a dozen or more colorful and striking wall boards, 3' x 4'. On these boards were mounted photographs, pamphlets, and announcements showing adult education activities in American public libraries.
A paper on "The Adult Education Service of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A." was included in the documentation for the Conference. The paper described the adult education services of the library and effectively illustrated the dynamic role that public libraries can play in adult education.

After four plenary sessions occupying two days, the members separated into four working commissions. Mrs. McCabe chose to work in Commission II, Agencies and Problems of Organization, where it was possible to propose that the Enoch Pratt paper be included in the Commission documents. It was also possible for the A.L.A. representative to propose that the Commission record its recognition of public libraries as essential agencies of adult education and its support of UNESCO's manifesto, The Public Library—A Living Force for Popular Education. This manifesto describes in three pages the potentialities of the public library, and states UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for popular education and for the growth of international understanding, and thereby for the promotion of peace.

The manifesto states that the public library should be:

"Established and maintained under clear authority of law.

"Supported wholly or mainly from public funds.

"Open for free use on equal terms to all members of the community, regardless of occupation, creed, class, or race."

It states concisely the services the public library should offer, the part it should take as a vital community force, and suggests steps that can be taken to realize these potentialities. When a strong public school system is established, and the potentialities of an adequate public library system are realized, the two minimum educational essentials of democracies will have to be provided. Governments of, for and by the people cannot flourish without these.

The following resolution regarding libraries was adopted at the Conference:

"Libraries and Adult Education. This Conference records its recognition of museums and public libraries to adult education. Appropriately to the circumstances of each member state the Conference supports UNESCO's statement, "The Public Library—A Living Force for Popular Education" and recommends its consideration in and so far as possible its adoption in member states, as a basis of policy."

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