



# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

HOTEL CONGRESSIONAL . . . WASHINGTON 3, D. C.

Vol. 2

April 26, 1950.

No. 6

## FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WASHINGTON MEETING APRIL 16-18, 1950.

The Federal Relations Committee, under the Chairmanship of Raymond Lindquist, met at the Hotel Congressional, Washington, D. C., April 16-18, 1950, to draft a federal relations program for consideration by ALA members and groups, and for review by the Council at the Cleveland conference in July. Eleven committee members, five ALA staff members, twenty library and government specialists, as well as representatives of non-library organizations, reviewed library interests at the federal level. Representatives of the Grange, PTA and similar organizations expressed a vital interest in the development of our future legislative program. Recognition of the limited financial resources of the Washington office gave legislative problems priority, although non-legislative responsibilities were recognized as well, particularly in the fields of research libraries, international relations, the Library of Congress and the USOE.

PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT was recommended for top legislative priority even though reintroduction of the Library Demonstration Bill was not thought feasible. Tentative outlines were made for a bill designed: to strengthen state library extension agencies; to stimulate public library service and encourage public library demonstrations; to provide a preliminary survey of state library agencies; a definition of purpose designed to retain and enlarge the support given the Library Demonstration Bill; development of a formula for federal aid; provisions for the strengthening of USOE to offer consultant, clearing house, and fiscal services; limitations of the purposes for the expenditure of funds; amounts of funds; duration of bill; and protection from federal control. ALA groups, federal officials, members of Congress, and friends will be consulted before any bill is drafted and criticisms and suggestions will be welcomed.

## H. R. 6000 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Social Security legislation was given next highest legislative priority. H.R. 6000 was recommended to the Federal Relations Committee by the ALA Committee on Annuities, Pensions, and Life Insurance since the following librarians could be covered by social security:

1. Librarians who are state and local employees if the states pass enabling legislation.

2. Librarians, also state and local employees, under an existing retirement plan would be eligible by means of a written referendum with a 2/3 majority vote of those voting.

3. Librarians working for private non-profit institutions (such as John Crerar) would have to contribute but employer contributions would be optional.

The recent survey made by Lily May David of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the American Library Association shows the need for improved retirement provisions. The survey of libraries open thirty hours a week, including public, special, college, school, and business libraries and covering 20,000 librarians, revealed:

Retirement Provisions for Library Employees

	<u>Non-Professional</u>	<u>Professional</u>
Not covered by social security nor other retirement plan . . . . .	31%	23%
Covered by retirement plan but not social security . . . . .	59%	72%
Covered by social security only . .	5%	2%
Covered by social security and other retirement plan . . . . .	5%	3%

These facts are responsible for the high priority rating given social security legislation.

Since the Federal Relations Committee made its decision, the Senate Finance Committee announced today (April 25) their first report after three months of hearings. The Senate sharply reduced the number of persons covered under H. R. 6000. State and local government workers already covered by retirement plans were excluded. Employers of non-profit organizations are included except those of religious organizations. This eliminates those librarians now under a retirement plan, and those librarians working for religious schools, colleges and similar religious institutions.

Still included under H. R. 6000 are librarians who are state and local employees not covered by a state or local retirement system and librarians employed for private non-profit institutions which are not religious.

Coverage is the first phase to be reported by the Senate Finance Committee. Senate action on the bill in June or July is predicted to be followed by conference with House Committee. Since Social Security is so important for all citizens ALA will continue to support this legislation.

#### POSTAL LEGISLATION - S. 1103

The Committee marked postal legislation for attention with emphasis on those features in S. 1103 which favor libraries' special rates for library books, and postal cards. General book rate increases will receive consideration as well.

The Senate Postal Committee has decided to hold additional hearings on S. 1103, with the April 27 and May 11 hearings dealing with the features of interest to librarians. ALA will be represented. Since S. 1103 is more favorable than H.R. 2945 we earnestly hope the Committee will retain those features. The Post Office's need for revenue influenced House action.

#### OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Committee also gave attention to: federal aid to education, recommending that ALA Council limit support to public education only; the CARE book program from conscientious objectors' reserve funds; the S. 2909 land-grant college bill to eliminate reduction of veterans' funds; S. 539 to raise customs limitations on book importations; labor extension service through libraries; school building construction grants; the Benton proposal for Marshall plan for ideas; and technical assistance abroad. Opposition was recorded to S. 4034, on the extension of the talking book program to a vaguely defined additional group, and to H. R. 5903, a depository library extension bill which was thought to be premature pending a recommended survey of the depository system.

#### WASHINGTON OFFICE FUNDS CAMPAIGN

Chairman Raymond Lindquist reported that the minimum quota of \$11,000 for 1949-1951 has been nearly reached with \$10,030 paid or pledged already. If all groups renew their first year pledges ALA federal relations activities can probably be somewhat expanded next year.

FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR BUILDING PLANS

May we remind you that Public Law 352 instituted October 3, 1949, provides \$100 million for the next two years to be spent in the various states, by state, county, or municipal units in planning future construction through the blue-print stage. Public libraries are included but not libraries of private, non-profit organizations. Funds for planning are available on a non-interest basis. Application should be made to the Division Engineer, Community Facilities Service, General Services Administration, 1729 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, 25, D.C., who will provide application blanks that explain qualifications in detail.

MAILING LISTS NEED REVISION

The Washington office would like to bring its mailing list up to date. Will each one of you check to see whether your copy reaches you properly addressed? Will you also assume personal responsibility to see that we get a complete list of the officers of your state organization, and the head of the state library agency? Recent correspondence indicates that our files are inaccurate and out of date. We want to be sure that the people empowered to act for the various organizations receive the needed materials.

DETAILS OF LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM IN FUTURE ISSUES

This Newsletter has given a resume of library legislation considered by the Federal Relations Committee, and has indicated the priority ratings of legislation. Future issues of the Newsletter will go into detail on certain items. This will be particularly true of the proposed bill to strengthen state library extension agencies. We are most anxious to have suggestions and points of view of the membership and friends.

KEEP WASHINGTON OFFICE INFORMED

ALA Committees are urged to present their opinions on legislation that affects their group. Feel free to call to our attention legislation in which you are interested.