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SENATE APPROVES SOCIAL SECURITY BILL, H. R. 6000

June 20, 1950 the Senate passed H. R. 6000, the Social Security Bill which extends coverage to 10 million additional persons. They increased from \$3,000 to \$3,600 the amount of wages subject to social security tax, and raised the maximum individual monthly benefit under the bill to \$80.00. The payroll tax rate of $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ each on worker and employer would be held where it is through 1955, in a five-year "freeze". After that the tax would gradually rise from 2%, beginning in 1956 to $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ in 1970.

Four amendments to qualify state and local government employees now under a retirement system for social security failed.

The bill now goes to conference to reconcile differences with the House bill, after which both houses must again approve before it is sent to the President for signature.

Librarians not included under a state or municipal retirement system will be included if the state enters into an agreement with the Federal Government. All public employees under a retirement system are excluded on a mandatory basis.

Librarians of non-profit institutions are covered on a mandatory basis with both employers and employees making contributions. Lay employees of religious denominations and of organizations owned and operated by a religious denomination may be covered on a voluntary basis.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SECURITY.

President Truman's plan for a new Department of Health, Education, and Security, known as Reorganization Plan 27 was approved June 20, 1950 by the House Committee on Executive Expenditures. The House will pass on the question later, as will the Senate Committee on Executive Expenditures, and the Senate. This would bring the Federal Security Agency Cabinet status with coequal status for the three branches, each headed by a presidentially appointed commissioner, who must possess appropriate professional qualifications.

S. 2496 CARE BOOK BILL PASSED SENATE

Thursday, June 8, 1950, the Senate passed S. 2496, the CARE Book Bill. The next hurdle is House action.

SENATE APPROVAL GIVEN LAND-GRANT COLLEGE BILL

June 8, also witnessed the passage of the Land-Grant College-Veterans Administration Bill. H. R. 7057 - S. 2909.

POSTAL LEGISLATION

Hearings on H. R. 2945 and S. 1103 will be continued June 27 and June 28. Fourth-Class mail hearings will be held on the 27th, while the 28th will be devoted to special services. This means hearings will be completed, but whether the Committee will report out a bill before the end of the session is problematical.

PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Recent replies to the Newsletters and letters sent to Coordinators and State Agencies indicate a general, but not universal, approval of the April 16-18, 1950 decisions of the Federal Relations Committee. Two letters indicate, however, that we have not made clear our feelings regarding the Library Demonstration Bill defeat. In spite of the disappointment, we feel that positive gains have been made for the profession in terms of "good-will, publicity, and public opinion." We, as librarians, have made friends of organizations, congressmen and citizens throughout the country, and have a firm foundation on which to build continued and increasing support of public library development.

Just as we know the value of increased organization and citizen support, we believe certain things can be done to strengthen the library bill to better meet the needs of the various states in developing their programs of extending and improving library facilities, as well as meeting criticism of friends and critics outside the profession. The Federal Relations Committee did not reject the Library Demonstration Bill; rather, it sought to strengthen the bill to permit greater latitude as to the way the state extension agency might develop its program. It is not an indication that librarians are no longer concerned with bringing library service to the 33 million now without, but that we are trying to strengthen the means of accomplishment. Few laws are enacted as originally drafted even though the basic idea remains the same.

We will continue to promote the extension of library service to 33 million now without, and the improvement of existing facilities by demonstration and other techniques. We must continue to stress the services we want people to have, rather than the detailed procedures of a program.

That does not mean that within our own ranks we can not discuss certain features which can be exceedingly important in the development of the program. The formula for aid is important and serious thought should be given all the possibilities. Do we want every state to have an outright grant with the privilege of matching some funds? Do we want each state to match the initial amount? Do we want the matching of funds to be on a dollar for dollar basis, on equalization, or ability to pay? Since we are so vitally concerned with extending library service to rural areas, do we want a formula which takes into account rural population, and if so, shall we use Census definition of rural population?