



*File* *Mr. Smith*

# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

THE CORONET • 200 C STREET, S.E. • WASHINGTON 3, D. C.

Volume 13

May 2, 1961

Number 5

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## POSTAL RATE INCREASES

On April 17 Postmaster General Day sent to Speaker Rayburn of the House of Representatives a letter transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to increase postal rates. H.R.6418, reflecting this proposal, was introduced into the House by Representative Tom Murray (D., Tenn.) on the following day.

Hearings before the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service, of which Representative Murray is Chairman, began on April 25. ALA has asked for time to be heard along with other organizations opposing various aspects of the recommended increase. Here is a summary of the proposed rate increases:

1. The educational materials rate (fourth class) applicable to books, sheet music, 16 mm. educational films, records, educational tests or authors' manuscripts, and related items, is proposed to be increased from 9¢ on the first pound and 5¢ on succeeding pounds to 10¢ on the first pound and 6¢ on succeeding pounds. This increase will run from about 15 to 20% depending on the size of the package.
2. The library materials rate (fourth class), governing material circulating on loan from libraries, including cooperative processing, is increased from 4¢ on the first pound and 1¢ on succeeding pounds to 5¢ on the first pound and 3¢ on succeeding pounds, an increase of 20 to 65% depending on the size of the package.
3. The basic pound rate on editorial content on second-class matter remains at 2½¢, but an additional charge of 1½¢ per piece is proposed. This is a very sharp increase and would more than double the postal rate on second-class editorial matter.
4. The minimum piece rate for bulk third-class mail of advertising material and the like is proposed to be increased from 2½¢ to 3½¢, which would amount to 40%.
5. First-class mail would be increased from 4 to 5¢, an increase of 25%.

Last year the House Committee held extensive hearings on similar legislation but did not report a bill and the Senate Post Office Committee took no action at all. No Senate bill has been introduced to date, but it seems clear from the Postmaster General's testimony that the Administration will attempt to push the measure through in this session.

Letters from constituents to the Members of the House Post Office Committee are urgently needed now, giving specific information as to the effect on libraries of the proposed increases in postal rates. Members of the Committee are:

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

(Democrats)

Tom Murray, Tenn.  
James H. Morrison, La.  
James C. Davis, Ga.  
John Lesinski, Mich.  
Kathryn E. (Mrs. William T.) Granahan, Pa.  
Thaddeus J. Dulski, N. Y.  
David N. Henderson, N. C.  
Arnold Olsen, Mont.  
Joseph P. Addabbo, N. Y.  
Richard H. Ichord, Mo.  
G. Elliott Hagan, Ga.

(Republicans)

Robert J. Corbett, Pa.  
H. R. Gross, Iowa  
Joel T. Broyhill, Va.  
August E. Johansen, Mich.  
Glenn Cunningham, Neb.  
George M. Wallhauser, N. J.  
Robert R. Barry, N. Y.  
Katharine St. George, N. Y.  
John H. Rousselot, Calif.  
Edward J. Derwinski, Ill.

COLLEGE BUILDINGS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Following the conclusion of hearings on H.R.5266 the House Special Subcommittee on Education drafted a new bill, H.R.6483, which was then reported to the full Education and Labor Committee which now has it under consideration. Whereas funds for "classrooms and related facilities" were limited to loans under the original bill H.R.6483, (introduced by the Subcommittee Chairman Edith Green, D., Ore.), provides that the \$300,000,000 available per year over a period of 5 years be divided for grants and loans: 60% (\$180,000,000) for grants, 40% (\$120,000,000) for loans. ALA testimony on March 17 had pointed out that loans would not meet the needs of all institutions. No hearings have been held as yet by Senator Morse's Education Committee on the companion Senate bill, S.1241.

Provision for scholarships for undergraduate students in institutions of higher education is included in the present bill, as it was in the original. A new feature is the establishment of the "Presidential Award for Academic Excellence." Under this program, 1,000 such Presidential awards, consisting of \$1,000 and a certificate, would be made annually to students selected from among those receiving scholarships on the basis of a competitive examination.

THE SCHOOL ASSISTANCE ACT AND THE NDEA

Hearings on the School Assistance Act (H.R.4970 and S.1021) -- federal aid to public elementary and secondary schools -- have been completed in both Houses of Congress, but neither Committee has reported out a bill to date. Meanwhile, a surprising development was the introduction on April 27 of a bill (S.1726) "to extend and improve the National Defense Education Act." Newspaper articles describe the move as an effort by the Administration to devise a compromise in the church-state dispute over aid to elementary and secondary schools. By combining NDEA and the School Assistance Act, and by restricting the aid for non-public schools to categorical provisions, it is believed that the Administration hopes to assist non-public schools within its concept of constitutionality. The attitude of the Congress toward this development is uncertain.

For librarians this unexpected turn of events is unfortunate. It had been expected that the legislation to extend the NDEA would not be introduced until action on the School Assistance Act had been completed and that an amendment would be

included to provide funds for school library materials and services. The proposed bill as sent to the Congress by Secretary Ribicoff, however, and introduced by Senator Lister Hill does not include the school library amendment. Presumably, this is one of the changes brought about by the current attempt to use the NDEA as a compromise vehicle.

The Administration is requesting a number of amendments to the NDEA but among the major changes are these: Make the student loan program permanent (Title II); amend Title III by adding physical fitness; make permanent, enlarge and extend the program of fellowships for graduate students (Title IV); make permanent the language development program (Title VI); and a program for improvement of statistical services of State educational agencies (Title X). English would be added to the language training program. The disclaimer affidavit would be removed. Throughout the Act the ceilings on the amounts authorized to be appropriated would be eliminated.

#### EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

A bill "to expedite the utilization of television transmission facilities in our public schools and colleges and in adult training programs" passed the Senate on March 21. The bill (S.205 by Warren Magnuson - D., Wash.), which is similar to that passed by the Senate last year, provides for grants up to \$1,000,000 to each State for "the acquisition and installation of transmission apparatus necessary for television (including closed-circuit television) broadcasting" and specifically not for the construction or repair of buildings or for the purchase of land.

Introduced into the House on January 3 and referred to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, H.R.132 by Kenneth Roberts, D., Ala., is similar in intent but includes, in addition to matching grants for the construction of facilities, provision for grants "to survey the need and develop programs for the construction of educational television facilities." Hearings on H.R.132 and other bills were concluded on March 23 but no bill has been reported out and further House action this session seems unlikely pending an Administration recommendation on legislation in this area.

#### CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY RIBICOFF

On April 11, a small ALA delegation met with the Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff, recently appointed Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. In the group to discuss pending and proposed national legislation of concern to libraries were Mrs. Frances Lander Spain, President of the Association; Emerson Greenaway, Chairman, Federal Relations Committee; David H. Clift, Executive Director; and Germaine Krettek, Director, Washington Office. The interview was friendly and served to acquaint the new Secretary with some policies and programs of the American Library Association and gave ALA an opportunity to learn some of the viewpoints of the Department.