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## THE EDUCATION BILLS

The Congress is currently considering three major education bills, sponsored by the Administration. The American Library Association presented testimony at the hearings in support of all three of these educational bills. Each contains provisions of importance to libraries and librarians. While these bills specifically affect school and college libraries, the proposals are of concern to all librarians. It is necessary, therefore, at this critical stage for all members of the Association, regardless of type of library or activity, to be informed on the bills and to take appropriate action when needed.

It is important to make clear when writing to Members of Congress at exactly which bill your remarks are directed. The following information attempts to explain the nature and status of each bill, the interest for libraries, and the action needed.

### THE SCHOOL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

S.1021, the Senate version of the School Assistance Act, is now being debated on the Senate floor. As reported out by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on May 11, the bill would authorize appropriations of \$850 million for each of 3 Fiscal years. Funds may be used by the States for public elementary and secondary schools for the payment of salaries of teachers, including school librarians, and/or construction of school facilities, including school libraries, and special educational projects.

Further, Section 109 of the bill, relating to Special Education Projects, has special implications for school libraries. The bill provides for the purchase and use of audio-visual and other instructional materials and equipment for: (a) remedial or special instructional programs for pupils with special language or adjustment problems; (b) for programs for deprived or disadvantaged pupils; (c) for programs for gifted children and for other special purposes.

Many divergent viewpoints threaten this bill and its companion in the House, H.R.4970. A Senate vote on S.1021 is anticipated this week. We suggest you keep in close touch with other education leaders in your State about any further action which may be needed in relation to the Senate bill.

The report of the House Committee on Education and Labor on H.R.4970, the House version of the School Assistance Act, is expected shortly. Letters to all

Representatives will be important when the bill is ready for floor action in the House. We shall try to keep you informed of developments, but suggest you watch the newspapers for information on the status of this legislation.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT

Hearings on the Senate bill to extend the National Defense Education Act (S.1726) were held by the Senate Subcommittee on Education (Sen. Wayne Morse, D., Ore., Chairman) on May 12 and 13. Though early Committee action is anticipated, no report has been issued to date.

The National Defense Education Act was originally passed in 1958 with its chief purpose to strengthen instruction in science, mathematics, and foreign languages in public elementary and secondary schools. Provisions for guidance, counseling and testing, area vocational education programs, improvement of statistical services of State educational agencies, loans for college students and graduate fellowships were included. A terminal date was set in the Act.

The present bill, S.1726 and its companion in the House, H.R.6774, are aimed at extending and in some cases making permanent certain provisions of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. The addition of physical fitness to the categories of science, mathematics, and foreign languages is one of the amendments proposed.

At the Senate hearings on May 12 and 13 witnesses proposed numerous additional amendments to the bill. As indicated in the Newsletter, May 12, ALA testified in behalf of two new Titles: Title XI -- to improve college and university library resources; and Title XII -- to strengthen school library resources and services. Edmon Low, President of the Association of College and Research Libraries and Librarian, Oklahoma State University, appeared in support of Title XI. The American Association of School Librarians was represented by Cora Paul Bomar, Supervisor of School Library Service, North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, who testified for Title XII.

Under the proposed Title XI \$10,000,000 would be authorized for the Fiscal year 1962 and for each of the 3 succeeding Fiscal years for the purchase by college and university libraries of books, periodicals, documents, and other related materials, and for necessary binding. Application would be made by the institution to the Commissioner of Education with allotments not to exceed 25% of the amount spent by the institution for books and related materials during the Fiscal year 1961 with minimum grants being provided for the various types of institutions.

The proposed Title XII would authorize an appropriation of \$45,000,000 for the Fiscal year 1962 and for each of the 3 succeeding years for grants to State educational agencies for library service in public elementary and secondary schools. Acquisition of library materials and equipment in all subject fields, establishment and/or improvement of library supervisory services at both the State and local level, and minor remodeling would be eligible uses of the funds. Approval of a State plan by the State educational agency would be required.

The Senate hearings on S.1726 were friendly and many significant statements concerning the importance of libraries in relation to education were made and will become a part of the hearings when they are printed. The Committee Chairman, Senator Wayne Morse (D.-Ore.), should be commended for his expressed interest in libraries and his support for the proposed library titles. Senators Yarborough (Tex.) and Clark (Pa.) also merit words of appreciation, especially from constituents.

House Hearings on H.R.6774 are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 31. At this time we do not know precisely which subcommittee will conduct the hearings but it seems certain that Representatives Bailey, Green, Brademas and Thompson will be closely involved. For the present, therefore, we suggest that communications be addressed to your own Representatives urging their support and asking them to contact the appropriate members of the House Education and Labor Committee. (For list of Committee see Newsletter for February 17, 1961). ALA will also testify before the House Subcommittee in support of the National Defense Education Act and specifically in support of the 2 proposed Library Titles. No date has been set for ALA witnesses to appear.

#### COLLEGE ACADEMIC FACILITIES

On May 22, Mrs. Edith Green (D., Ore.) introduced into the House H.R.7215, a bill replacing H.R.6483, the "College Academic Facilities and Scholarship Act." The bill is now under consideration by the full Committee on Education and Labor. As reported out by the Subcommittee, H.R.7215 includes both grants and loans for the construction of facilities, including college and university libraries. Changes have been made in the scholarship provisions since the original bill was introduced. It seems likely that further changes will be made before the bill finally goes to the House floor for action. Copies of H.R.7215 may be requested from your Representative.

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It should be emphasized that each of the foregoing educational bills has distinct implications for libraries and each acts as a supplement to the other. The three together would make a significant contribution to the improvement and strengthening of school and college libraries in every state.

#### THE LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

The House of Representatives on May 17 passed H.R.7035 making appropriations for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 1962. Included was an item of \$7,500,000 for the Library Services Act, the full appropriation authorized. Letters should go immediately to all Members of the House of Representatives thanking them for this action on behalf of LSA.

In the Report on the appropriations bill (House Report 392) the following statement appeared:

"Grants for library services.--The Bill included \$7,500,000, the amount of the request, and the same amount as was appropriated for 1961.

"For the small amount of Federal funds involved this has been not only one of the most popular, but one of the most worthwhile programs of the Federal Government. Since this program was instituted, over 100 rural counties and an equal number of New England towns formerly without any public libraries are now receiving library service. More than 6,000,000 books and other informational materials have been added to the resources of rural communities. This has not been done just with the Federal funds. This program is a fine demonstration of Federal leadership, and the local interest and contributions that can result from such leadership. Since this program started state funds for the development of rural public library service have increased 75% and local appropriations for rural libraries have increased 50%.

"While significant gains have been achieved there is still a big job which remains to be done in the whole field of library services. The Committee was rather disappointed to find that the Office of Education is not giving more attention to the study and assessment of the deficiencies that still exist."

Senate action should follow shortly.

#### POSTAL RATES

On Wednesday, March 24, Lucile Nix, Chief Library Consultant for Public Libraries, Division of Instructional Materials and Library Service, Georgia State Department of Education, testified before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee on behalf of the American Library Association in opposition to increases in the postal rate as proposed in H.R.6418, the "Postage Revision Act of 1961." The proposed rate increases are outlined in the Newsletter, May 2, 1961. Specifically, ALA expressed its concern over the proposal to increase the Educational Materials Rate from 9 cents on the first pound and 5 cents on each succeeding pound to 10 cents on the first pound and 6 cents on each succeeding pound. The Association also expressed its opposition to the proposal to increase the Library Materials Rate from 4 cents on the first pound and 1 cent on each succeeding pound to 5 cents on the first pound and 3 cents on each succeeding pound. The effect on libraries of the proposed increase in the first class rate was also brought to the attention of the Committee. Letters to Members of the House Post Office Committee are still urgently needed. (For list see Newsletter, May 2, Page 2).

An identical Senate bill, S.1812 was introduced into the Senate by Sen. Harrison Williams (D.,N.J.) on May 4 and referred to the Senate Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service. No hearings have as yet been scheduled.

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! ! ! FLASH NEWS ON S.1021 ! ! !

We have just learned that on Tuesday, May 23, the Senate passed by a vote of 51 - 39 an amendment introduced on May 16 by Sen. Winston Prouty (R.,Vt.). The Prouty proposal amends S.1021, the School Assistance Act, to include funds not only for school construction and teachers' salaries but for "other costs of providing public elementary and secondary education." Prominently mentioned among the "other costs" in the Senate discussion were school libraries. Janitorial services and bus transportation were also mentioned. Presumably the amendment would leave to State educational agencies all decisions as to disposition of the Federal funds for public elementary and secondary school education.

The effect of this unexpected and fundamental change in the bill cannot at this time be prophesied.

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