



File Mr. Smith

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NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT

On June 23 the Senate Subcommittee on Education completed work on S.1726 to extend and improve the National Defense Education Act and turned the bill over to the full Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, which will now consider the bill and determine the form in which it will go to the Senate for approval or rejection.

Though detailed information has not yet been made public, we understand that the Senate Subcommittee has approved inclusion in the NDEA of a Library Title substantially the same as the school and college library proposals made by ALA. Our best information at this time indicates that the library provisions take the form of a new title in three parts. Part A would authorize an appropriation of \$30,000,000 for the Fiscal year 1962 and for each of the 3 succeeding Fiscal years for grants to State educational agencies for library service in public elementary and secondary schools, specifically to be used for acquisition of library materials and equipment, for the establishment and/or improvement of library supervisory services at both the State and local level, and for minor remodeling. Part B would authorize \$7,500,000 for training institutes for school librarians. Part C would authorize \$10,000,000 for the Fiscal year 1962 and for each of the 3 succeeding years for the purchase by college and university libraries of books, periodicals, documents, and related materials and for necessary binding. Mail now to all Senators urging their active support of the Library Title is essential. Letters should come from School Administrators, ETA Members, College Officials, etc., as well as librarians.

Detailed information as to the precise language of the new title will be available after the full Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare has considered the bill and made its report.

The House Education and Labor Committee is currently meeting in executive (closed) session to consider the House version of the NDEA extension, H.R.6774. No information is available at this time as to their attitude toward the proposed school and college library title. It is particularly important, therefore, that all members of the House be contacted without delay concerning the title's importance.

The House Committee hopes to complete action this week so that it can issue its report and send the bill to the House Rules Committee before the July 4 recess. Many Congressmen will be at home over this holiday and this will give you a good opportunity to talk to them in person about the legislation.

THE SCHOOL ASSISTANCE ACT

The School Assistance Act which authorizes funds for school construction or teachers' salaries to public elementary and secondary schools, passed on May 25 by the Senate, and reported out by the House Education and Labor Committee on May 24, is now held up in the House Rules Committee. The Rules Committee has voted not to consider the measure until the National Defense Education Act with provisions added which would aid parochial and other private schools is reported out by the House Education and Labor Committee.

The situation currently is complicated by many factors, the legislative schedule is uncertain, and the eventual outcome unpredictable. It is hoped, however, that House floor action can take place shortly after July 4 on both the School Assistance Act and the extension of the National Defense Education Act.

POSTAL RATE INCREASE

The House Post Office and Civil Service Committee voted on June 22 by a margin of 10 - 9 to table further consideration of the Administration's postal rate increase bill, H.R.6418. Although this Committee action could be reconsidered, the chances are that no rate increase bill will be acted upon this year. It is expected, however, that a revised bill will be submitted and pressed by the Administration in 1962. An identical bill, S.1812, was introduced into the Senate on May 4 but in the light of House action, no further developments are anticipated in the Senate this session.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Senator Robert S. Kerr (D., Okla.), with Senator Mike Monroney (D., Okla.) as co-sponsor, introduced on June 21 a bill, S.2119, "to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 so as to permit donations of surplus property to schools for the mentally retarded, schools for the physically handicapped, educational television stations, and public libraries." The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

This combination of beneficiaries, though somewhat incompatible at first glance is important in that it represents the Administration's position on the categories which it favors admitting to the surplus distribution program.

Letters are needed at this particular time to Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, who will be voting on the measure in the near future. Even though Senators from your State may not be Members of the Committee, it can be helpful to write to them and ask them to let the Senators who are on the Committee know of their deep interest in the proposed legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

(Democrats)

John L. McClellan, Ark. (Chmn.)
Henry M. Jackson, Wash.
Sam J. Ervin, Jr., N. C.
Hubert H. Humphrey, Minn.
Ernest Gruening, Alaska
Edmund S. Muskie, Maine

(Republicans)

Karl E. Mundt, S. D.
Carl T. Curtis, Neb.
Jacob K. Javits, N. Y.