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## LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

The item of \$7,500,000 for the Library Services Act, previously passed by the House, was also recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee in its report on the Labor - HEW Appropriation bill issued on July 25 (S.Rep.618). The Senate vote on the bill is likely during the week of July 31.

## POSTAL RATES

After having voted on June 22 to table further consideration of H.R.6418, the Administration's bill to increase the postal rates, the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee agreed to a motion to reconsider the bill on July 11. Strong pressure from the Administration is believed to have caused the reversal. A compromise bill, H.R.7927, from which were deleted the Administration proposals for increases in the educational and library materials rates, was introduced on June 29 by Representative David Henderson (D.,N.C.), but on July 20 the Post Office Committee met and agreed to defer action until August 17. With an apparent disinclination on the part of the Committee to act on the one hand and a will on the part of the Administration to achieve increases on the other, the outcome during the session is uncertain.

## DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

The House has twice passed bills (in 1958 and 1959) to revise the laws relating to depository libraries but in each instance the Senate failed to consider the bills. On May 17 Representative Wayne Hays (D.,Ohio) again introduced a bill, H.R.7138. A "clean bill," H.R.8141, embodying certain technical amendments not affecting the substance of the measure was reported out on July 17 by the House Administration Committee. Early House action is anticipated. Your Congressman should know of your support.

In the Senate a corresponding bill, S.2029, has been introduced by Senator Frank Lausche (D.,Ohio) and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. Apparently the press of other business is one of the chief deterrents to Senate Committee consideration of the bill. Letters to Senators expressing your interest are urgently needed, therefore, if there is to be Committee consideration and a Senate vote in this Congress.

P.L. 480

Included in the Legislative Appropriation bill (H.R.7208) passed by the Senate on July 20 was an item of \$400,000 to permit the Library of Congress to begin the program of acquisition of foreign library materials authorized under Public Law 480. Of the amount appropriated, \$36,500 would be available for salaries and expenses of a staff to carry out the work and \$363,500 would be paid into the U. S. Treasury in return for foreign currencies used to purchase library materials in the United Arab Republic, India and Pakistan for deposit in libraries and research centers in the United States.

Since the bill as previously passed by the House omitted the appropriation for this project, a House-Senate Conference Committee must now consider the item. It is hoped that a favorable decision will be forthcoming shortly.

\$721,700 had been sought by the President for this purpose. Though a more effective job could be done with this amount, the \$400,000 would permit the operation of a pilot program which would demonstrate the value of this new method of assigning staff in foreign countries to acquire important and difficult-to-obtain native materials.

THE EDUCATION BILLS

On July 18 the House Rules Committee voted 8-7 to table all 3 major education bills, the School Assistance Act (H.R.7300), the National Defense Education Act (H.R.7904), and the College Academic Facilities and Scholarship Act (H.R.7215). The action appeared final and hope for all three bills wilted.

School Assistance Act

Since that time advocates of aid to public elementary and secondary schools have kept alive the issue with speculation on the several methods by which the Rules Committee might be circumvented and the School Assistance Act brought out on the floor. Since these methods are hazardous, undue optimism is unwarranted, but it now appears that once the foreign aid bill has been disposed of, some attempt will be made to retrieve at least some elements of the School Assistance Act.

National Defense Education Act

Prior to the action of the Rules Committee on June 28 the House Committee on Education and Labor had reported out a bill, H.R.7904, to extend the NDEA. Provisions for non-public school aid were added but the Library Title, proposed by ALA witnesses during the hearings, was not included in this bill developed by the Committee. In the Senate, however, the full Committee on Labor and Public Welfare completed action on its version of the bill to extend the NDEA and approved a new Library Title incorporating the provisions as outlined in the Newsletter of June 27. The Senate Report is expected momentarily. Floor action usually follows shortly after the report is filed. A favorable Senate vote on the NDEA extension, including the Library Title, is of vital importance. The situation is complicated, however, by the provision for loans to private schools which has also been added and the action of the House Committee on Rules.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

A bill granting the consent of Congress to interstate compacts "for the development or operation of library facilities and services" was passed by the Senate on June 29. The bill, S.464, was introduced by Senator Norris Cotton (R., N.H.) with

Senators Robert S. Kerr (D., Okla.) and Mike Monroney (D., Okla.) as co-sponsors.

Identical bills have been introduced into the House by Representatives Chester Merrow, R., N.H. (H.R.3306), Victor Wickersham, D., Okla. (H.R.3592), and John Fogarty, D., R.I. (H.R.7251). They are now under consideration by Subcommittee Number 3 of the House Judiciary Committee. Letters to your Congressman urging favorable action on this bill will be helpful. If your Congressman is a Member of Subcommittee Number 3, a letter will be especially important.

SUBCOMMITTEE NUMBER 3  
(House Judiciary Committee)

Democrats

Edwin E. Willis, La., Chairman  
Jack Brooks, Tex.  
William M. Tuck, Va.  
Roland V. Libonati, Ill.  
Herman Toll, Pa.  
Robert W. Kastenmeier, Wis.

Republicans

William C. Cramer, Fla.  
John V. Lindsay, N. Y.  
Charles McC. Mathias, Md.  
James F. Battin, Mont.

GIFTS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Legislation has again been introduced which would give to individuals making gifts to public libraries the same tax benefits as they now receive for gifts to churches, educational institutions, and hospitals (30%). H.R.7659, by Representative John Watts (D., Ky.), to amend Sec.170(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code would permit the standard charitable tax deduction for contributions to a museum of history, art, or science, or a library, provided these institutions are open to and operated for the benefit of the general public and are tax supported in whole or in part.... The bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. A similar bill, S.788, is pending in the Senate Finance Committee, introduced by Senator Eugene McCarthy (D., Minn.).

OBSCENE MATTERS

S.162, "creating a Commission to be known as the Commission on Noxious and Obscene Matters and Materials," passed the Senate on June 12. Though several organizations had asked to testify, the bill introduced into the Senate by Senator Karl E. Mundt (R., S.D.), was reported out on May 23 without hearings by the Senate Committee on Government Operations. In the previous Congress legislation was proposed to establish a commission which will make a scientific study to determine whether there is a causal relationship between printed material and anti-social behavior. Later versions of the bill, including the present, eliminated this purpose in favor of a commission "to explore methods of combating the traffic in obscene matter and materials;" to coordinate Federal, State and local efforts to suppress such traffic and to obtain public and mass media support of the objectives of the program.

As passed by the Senate, S.162 provides for a commission of 19 members. Seeing no hope of deterring passage of the bill in the Senate, ALA efforts, along with those of other organizations opposing the legislation, centered on composition of the commission. Although a librarian is not specifically listed among the categories from which the Commission membership is to be appointed, two categories might lend themselves to such representation, and Senator Mundt in the floor discussion at the time when the bill was passed noted that the American Library Association "would like to have one of its members included on the National Commission" and expressed the hope that the Association would be so represented. S.162 has now been referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor where identical bills introduced by Representatives Davis (D., Ga.), Scherer (R., Ohio), and Kearns (R., Pa.) are also pending.