ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned sine die at 4:21 A.M. on Wednesday, September 27 and the Senate at 6:16 A.M. on the same morning, and thus ended the first session of the 87th Congress. The date for convening the second session has been established as Wednesday, January 10, 1962.

FUNDS FOR CENTURY 21

In the last supplemental appropriation bill which was finally approved by both Houses in the last hours before adjournment (H.R.9169, Public Law 87-332) there was included an item of $70,000 to permit the Office of Education to participate in the exhibit of modern library services and design at the 1962 Century 21 Exposition in Seattle, Washington.

$100,000 for this purpose had previously been added by the Senate to the Labor-HEW Appropriation Bill (H.R.7035) but was deleted by the House-Senate Conference Committee on this bill. Through the efforts of Senator Warren Magnuson (D., Wash.) the $100,000 figure was added by the Senate a few days before adjournment to the final supplemental appropriation bill. The House-Senate Conference Committee reduced the amount to $70,000 and thus it was approved.

The Federal funds will be used for the training and expenses of personnel to staff the Library 21 exhibit.

NEW POSITIONS FOR THE LIBRARY SERVICES BRANCH

President Kennedy on September 22 signed the Appropriation Bill for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare for Fiscal 1962 (H.R.7035, Public Law 87-290). Among the items of interest to libraries in the bill as finally approved was an appropriation of $20,000 for three new positions for the Library Services Branch of the U.S. Office of Education. No item for this purpose was included in the bill as it originally passed the House. $50,000 for new LS2 positions was added by the Senate Appropriations Committee and passed by the Senate on August 2, but the figure was reduced to $20,000 in the prolonged House-Senate Conference on differences in the two versions of the bill.
LIBRARY SERVICES ACT APPROPRIATION

In signing the Labor-HEW Appropriation Bill, the President also gave final approval to the appropriation of $7,500,000 for the Library Services Act for Fiscal 1962. However, since both House and Senate had supported this figure, the full amount authorized had been assured since the Senate passed the bill on August 2.

POSTAL RATES AND CENSORSHIP LEGISLATION

The House Post Office Committee on September 7 reported the latest version of H.R.7927, a compromise Administration bill to increase the postal rates. The bill provides for increases from 4 to 5 cents in first class mail, from 7 to 8 cents in air mail and modest increases in second and third class mail. The increases in the library and educational materials rates proposed in the earlier bills and opposed by ALA have been dropped entirely from this new bill.

When the bill was brought to the House floor on September 15 under a rule which permitted no amendments, the House in a surprise move reversed the rule. Fearing that this action jeopardized passage in the Senate, House leadership a few days later decided to withdraw the bill from further consideration for this session.

A startling addition to H.R.7927 when it was reported by the House Post Office Committee was an amendment incorporating without hearings the substance of a bill introduced on August 31 by Representative Glenn Cunningham (R.,Neb.), which would prohibit the delivery under any postal rate whatsoever of mail considered by the Attorney General to be Communist propaganda. Floor debate indicated some opposition to this aspect of the postal rate bill. Because of the implications for research libraries, ALA asked for hearings on the Cunningham amendment before the Senate Post Office Committee. After the bill was withdrawn from House consideration, however, no further action was taken in either Chamber. Resumed activity on the postal rate bill may be expected during the next session.

THE WALTER CENSORSHIP BILL

On September 18 Representative Francis Walter (D.,Pa.) brought to the House floor under suspension of the rules a greatly modified version of a bill, H.R.5751, which he had introduced on March 21.

In its original form the bill would have amended the Foreign Agents Registration Act so as to legalize and reinstate a program of censorship of so-called foreign political propaganda which had been terminated by White House order on March 17, 1961. As it reached the House floor on September 18, the bill would merely authorize the Postmaster General to send notices to postal patrons and to put up notices in post offices indicating that Communist political propaganda from abroad might be received in the mail. The latter form is believed to have Administration support and to have been offered as a substitute for the Cunningham amendment. It was passed by the House on September 18, reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on September 21, and brought to the Senate floor on September 26. As reported by the Senate Committee, however, H.R.5751 was amended to cover "obscene, lewd, lascivious and indecent matter" as well as Communist propaganda. Meanwhile, the postal rate bill had been withdrawn from House consideration, and when it appeared on this last day of the session that prolonged debate on the
Walter bill would delay adjournment, the Senate leadership withdrew H.R.5751 before a vote was taken. The bill will still be "live" in the next session.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

Though the House version of the Academic Facilities and Scholarship Act (H.R.7151) remained stalled in the House Rules Committee, the Senate held hearings in August on the companion bill, S.1241 and related measures. Edmon Low, immediate past president of the Association of College and Research Libraries and Librarian, Oklahoma State University, testified in support of S.1241 on August 21. The bill was reported by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on September 15 (S.Rept.1072).

As opposed to the house bill which provides loans and grants for construction of academic facilities, as well as undergraduate scholarships, the Senate bill as reported would authorize only loans for all institutions of higher education (2-year institutions) but grants for public community colleges (educational institutions under public supervision and control and limited to first and second year college grade courses). The undergraduate scholarship provision in S.1241 likewise varied from the House bill. Action was not completed on S.1241 before adjournment.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, H.R.8666 (see Newsletter, August 30, 1961, p.3) passed the House on September 6. The companion bill, S.1154 had passed the Senate on July 14. After differences in the two versions were resolved in conference, the President signed H.R.8666 on September 21. It is now Public Law 87-255.

PEACE CORPS

Also cleared for the President's signature in September was the bill to provide for the establishment of a Peace Corps. Because of the great concern of underdeveloped countries with education, including librarians, ALA has watched the bill with interest and has discussed with Peace Corps officials possible library implications. The bill is now Public Law 87-293.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND

H.R.9030, a bill to amend the Act of 1879 to promote the education of the blind by authorizing wider distribution of books and other special instructional materials for the blind and by increasing the appropriation authorized for this purpose was reported by the House Committee on Education and Labor on September 7 (H.Rept.1142) and passed by the House on September 12. Approved by the Senate on September 15, the bill was signed by the President on September 22, to become Public Law 87-294.

One important result of the bill was to remove the present ceiling of $400,000 on appropriations to the American Printing House for the Blind authorized under the Act. Subsequently in the Supplemental Appropriation Bill referred to under Funds for Centenary 21 (H.R.9169) an additional $270,000 was appropriated for the American Printing House for the Blind.
COMMUNITY HEALTH FACILITIES

Cleared for the President when the House approved the Conference Report on September 28 was the Community Health Services and Facilities Act, H.R. 4958 (Public Law 87-395), which greatly increases funds authorized for hospital and out-of-hospital health services. Many of the many provisions of the bill, are with library implications in that which increases from $1.2 million to $10 million the annual authorization for appropriations for research projects related to the effective utilization and development of hospitals and other medical facilities.

The bill also increases the amount authorized to States to provide out-of-hospital health services to the aged and chronically ill and to develop new methods of providing health services outside of hospitals, particularly for the aged and chronically ill. Public or nonprofit private agencies or organizations are eligible for grants for such studies, experiments and demonstrations. The new act also changes the termination date of the loan program under the Hill-Burton Hospital Facilities Act which extends for 3 years and increases the authorized funds for the present matching program for the construction of health research facilities.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

H.R. 4172, a bill to establish a 21-member Federal Advisory Council on the Arts failed to pass when brought up under suspension of the rules on September 21. The vote was 166-13. The lateness of the session and consequent absence of 96 members may have had some bearing on the defeat of the bill. A similar bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.) with several cosponsors, has not been reported by the Labor and Public Welfare Committee. If such legislation is eventually enacted, it is hoped that a librarian may be appointed to the Council.

VISIT YOUR CONGRESSMAN

From now until January most Senators and Representatives will be in their home States. At this time they will welcome visits from constituents who have specific business to discuss with them. It is always good to make an appointment in advance, make your presentation concisely and quickly, and then leave a brief statement of facts for later reference by the Congressman.

Let your members of Congress know about present projects under the Library Services Act and plans for the future which require adequate funds for effective operation. Arrange for him to ride on a bookmobile if at all possible.

Talk to him about the Library Title in the Senate bill to expand and extend the National Defense Education Act (S.2345). Ask his help in getting that bill passed in the next session. Explain in concrete terms what this matching grant program could mean to school library development in your own State. If possible, take your State Superintendent of Schools, the President of the PTA, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce or the President of your college with you. Librarians are a basic part of education at all levels of learning and need support at all levels of government if they are to meet adequately the needs of all citizens.