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COUNTDOWN CLOSE TO BLASTOFF!

LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT (H.R.4879) IS NOW IN RULES COMMITTEE!

On August 5, a few hours after the last Washington Newsletter was mailed, the House Committee on Education and Labor unexpectedly issued the printed report on H.R.4879 (H.Rept.635).

THE PROSPECTS FOR HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

The next formal action will be a hearing by the House Committee on Rules. A favorable "rule" by this Committee will permit the scheduling of the bill for debate and vote on the House floor. When the Rules Committee approves a bill, floor action usually follows within the next few days.

Despite Republican opposition expressed in House Report 635, prospects for favorable consideration of H.R.4879 by the House Rules Committee now seem bright.

ACTION

In view of current developments every single Member of the House of Representatives must be contacted now. The time has come for an all-out campaign - by librarians, by trustees, by organizations in your locality and individuals interested in public libraries.

Get everyone you can - especially community leaders - to urge his own Congressman to support H.R.4879, the Library Services and Construction Act. Give Congressmen concrete reasons as to why this legislation will benefit the public libraries in their districts and States.

State librarians and librarians in rural communities are urged especially to point out that removal of the population limitation from the present Library Services Act will benefit, not harm, the rural program by making possible the use of the resources of larger libraries by small libraries which cannot by themselves afford to support such a variety of materials and services.

Trustees and others with personal contacts in the House of Representatives are urged to use their best persuasive powers to garner positive support for H.R.4879.

The larger public libraries, which have so much to gain from this measure, should likewise take every possible step to alert Congressmen representing their districts to get behind the public libraries bill.

Constituents of members of the House Rules Committee should give particular attention to these Congressmen.

House Rules Committee

Democrats:

Howard W. Smith (Va.), Chairman
 William M. Colmer (Miss.)
 Ray J. Madden (Ind.)
 James J. Delaney (N.Y.)
 James W. Trimble (Ark.)
 Homer Thornberry (Texas)
 Richard Bolling (Mo.)
 Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. (Mass.)
 Carl Elliott (Ala.)
 B. F. Sisk (Cal.)

Republicans:

Clarence J. Brown (Ohio)
 Katharine St. George (N.Y.)
 H. Allen Smith (Cal.)
 Elmer J. Hoffman (Ill.)
 William H. Avery (Kans.)

If we lose this vote it may be years before we will have another chance under such auspicious circumstances. Education bills are seldom proposed in an election year (1964). If we have to wait to try again in 1965 we will be faced with a new Congress and be nearing the end of the present Library Services Act.

This seems to be the year! It can be if everyone makes a really concentrated effort during the new few weeks.

Please let us have copies of your letters and telegrams and the replies. A head count of votes is vital at this time and the replies are essential. Before the bill goes to the House floor we must have as accurate a count as possible of probable votes - the number for and those against. Ask your Member specifically to vote "yes" for this important measure.

For your guidance a summary of the provisions of H.R.4879 and justifications for amending the Library Services Act are attached to this Newsletter. It is important, however, to use local facts and figures to build up your case for H.R.4879.

THE OPPOSITION WE FACE

Presumably all Democrats on the Education Committee supported the bill. However, the action of the majority of Republicans is another story.

EIGHT REPUBLICANS SIGN REPORT IN OPPOSITION

Minority views in opposition to H.R.4879 were expressed in a report signed by eight Republican members of the Education and Labor Committee and included in House Report 635.

The eight Republicans are:

Peter Frelinghuysen, Jr., 5th Dist., N.J.	David T. Martin, 3rd Dist., Nebr.
Robert P. Griffin, 9th Dist., Mich.	Gene Snyder, 3rd Dist, Ky.
Donald C. Bruce, 11th Dist., Ind.	Paul Findley, 20th Dist., Ill.
John M. Ashbrook, 17th Dist., Ohio	Robert Taft., Jr., At large, Ohio

In Report No. 635, the Republican opposition advanced these arguments among others to support their minority views:

1. The existing Library Services Act does not expire until June 30, 1966 and was designed to meet the most urgent needs.
2. Removal of the 10,000 population limitation is not needed and might harm the library service in rural areas.

3. In 1955, proponents of the legislation stated that the Federal program for libraries would be terminal.
4. States and communities have not been willing to meet their needs for public libraries.

In rebuttal, facts such as these might be offered: Since the passage of the Library Services Act in 1956, many events have occurred which have greatly changed the thinking of our Nation and the significance of libraries. There have been great advances in science, technology, business, space and other activities, which were not even thought of at the time the original Library Services Act was being considered. Modern techniques of education have altered the role of the library in the community, State and the Nation.

Furthermore, during the existence of L.S.A., from 1956, the State appropriations for rural library service increased by 92%, and local appropriations by 71%.

In addition, the great growth and shifts in population during the past decade have caused many novel problems for public libraries. Metropolitan areas affecting library service areas and taxing bases have raised entirely new questions. In view of this situation, large cooperating systems of libraries are needed with central libraries, branch libraries, and auxiliary libraries in the small towns and communities.

In replying, facts and figures from your State and local communities would be especially convincing.

A reading of the minority report indicates political overtones. In writing these eight members, the point should be made that library legislation is too important to be used as a political issue and that we want and need bi-partisan support.

FOUR REPUBLICANS DID NOT SIGN REPORT

The remaining Republicans on the House Education and Labor Committee did not sign the Minority Report. They are:

William H. Ayres, 14th Dist., Ohio	Albert H. Quie, 1st Dist., Minn.
Charles E. Goodell, 38th Dist., N.Y.	Alphonzo Bell, 28th Dist., Calif.

It cannot be taken for granted that these four Congressmen will actively work for enactment of the measure but their support is vital and should be encouraged by their constituents. Every possible effort should also be made to get the other Republicans on the Committee to change their points of view on this important bill.

COLLEGE FACILITIES BILL SCHEDULED FOR FLOOR ACTION ON TUESDAY

After languishing since May in the Rules Committee, H.R. 6143, the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, received a rule from that body today, August 8, and is scheduled for House floor action on August 13. (For details of H.R. 6143, see Washington Newsletter, May 27, 1963, p. 2, and House Rep. 310.)

College librarians who receive this news in time are urged to wire or telephone their Congressmen in support of this measure before noon on Tuesday. Although the House bill does not contain the section providing grants for materials which the Administration's original bill included, H.R. 6143 does offer a very real opportu-

ity for funds for the construction of both public and private college libraries. Strong support of H.R. 6143 should be registered by college librarians and their governing authorities with Members of the House of Representatives.

LIBRARY SERVICES ACT FISCAL '64 APPROPRIATION PASSES SENATE

Among the bills passed in the very recent speed-up in Congressional action is H.R. 5888, the Labor-HEW Appropriation Bill, which was approved by the Senate on August 7. The \$7.5 million appropriation for the Library Services Act was passed as part of this measure.

Since House and Senate versions of this bill differ, the items in dispute now must be considered by a House-Senate Conference Committee. The full L S A appropriation -- \$7,500,000 -- was approved by both Houses, however, so this amount can be considered assured when the bill is finally approved.

ADULT LITERACY BILL REPORTED - H. REP. 638

The proposed Adult Basic Education Act of 1963, H.R. 5542, another segment of the Administration's education program, was reported by the House Education and Labor Committee on August 6 (H. Rep. 638). The Administration is also seeking funds to reduce adult illiteracy under amendments to the Manpower Training Act now under consideration and the vocational education program.

REMINDERS

Write for copies of House Report No. 635.

Write to:

House Document Room
U. S. Capitol
Washington 20025, D. C.

In writing your Congressman emphasize the positive. Expressions of anger and threats will do more harm than good. Assume the Congressman will support library legislation if he has the real facts.

Be positive, be specific, be quick!

Summary of Public Library Legislation
under Consideration by Congress

LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT

H.R. 4879 and S. 580, Title VI, Part C

Will amend the Library Services Act (P.L. 84-597) to expand its coverage to all areas, regardless of population, and to include provisions for construction of public library buildings on a matching basis.

Library Services: Annual authorization of matching grants to States increased from \$7.5 million to \$25 million for fiscal 1964, and such sums as Congress may determine for the next 2 years. Minimum State allotments for services and minimum expenditure requirements to insure maintenance of State and local effort would each be increased from \$40,000 to \$100,000, and the base year for determining maintenance of effort would be changed from fiscal 1956 to fiscal 1963.

Public Library Construction: Annual authorization of matching grants to States of \$20 million for fiscal 1964, and such sums as Congress may determine for the next 2 years. Minimum State allotments for construction for each fiscal year would be \$80,000, and the remainder of the sums appropriated for the fiscal year would be allotted on the basis of population, as is the case for allotments for services. Allotments for fiscal 1964 would be available for obligation for two years.

In order to qualify for construction grants, States would submit and have approved State plans containing provisions comparable to most of those in the plan for library services. The Federal share of expenditures for construction under the State plan would be determined on the same basis as for services (varying among the States on the basis of relative State per capita income, but with a maximum of 66% and a minimum of 33%).

Justifications

1. Although public libraries in rural areas of 10,000 or less have been helped considerably by the Library Services Act, much remains to be done for these and also the urban and metropolitan areas. Reports from the States indicate that 18 million persons still have no service at all and 110 million persons have inadequate service.
2. Demands exceed public library resources for expert service to special age groups such as senior citizens, children and young people, and in fields of adult education, business and technology, delinquency problems, and others.
3. Public libraries are being overwhelmed by students after school hours as a result of the new emphasis on independent study.
4. Demands on public libraries have accelerated tremendously as a result of the the higher educational and reading levels of the general population.
5. Public libraries are involved in supplying services and materials for job re-training, particularly in urban areas.
6. Many of the existing public library buildings are overcrowded, inefficient and largely inadequate to serve the educational, business and technical, and cultural needs of an expanding population.
7. As of March 1962, the median age of public library buildings has been estimated to be 53 years, 29% built before 1901.