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NDEA Extended for Three Years -- Institutes for School Librarians Authorized

Aiming for adjournment this Saturday (October 3), a sense of urgency prevailed as the House voted to accept the Conference report on the National Defense Education Act (H.Rept. 1916) on October 1. The overwhelming 320 to 20 final vote followed a last-ditch attempt by the minority to recommit the bill -- that is, to send it back to Conference -- which would have killed the measure for this Congress.

It is expected that the Senate will vote its final approval of the Conference report on S.3060 today, clearing it for the President's signature.

The major provisions of the new law will:

Extend the NDEA for three additional years, until 1968.

Extend Public Laws 815 and 874 (payments to Federally impacted areas) for one additional year and for the first time include the District of Columbia in the program.

Authorize student loans, with special consideration for superior academic achievement, in the following amounts: for 1965, \$163,300,000; for 1966, \$179,300,000; for 1967, \$190,000,000; and for 1968, \$195,000,000 (Title II).

Expand the subject area of Title III with a \$90 million authorization for each fiscal year to acquire certain equipment, audiovisual and printed materials for the teaching of science, mathematics, or modern foreign languages, plus the new categories: history, civics, geography, English, reading.

Increase the authorization for fellowships (Title IV) from 1500 each year to 3,000 for 1965, 6,000 for 1966, and 7,500 during 1967 and 1968.

Add a new Title (XI) which provides for: institutes for reading, for teachers of disadvantaged youth, for school library personnel, supervisors of such personnel, and those preparing to engage in this field in elementary or secondary schools, for educational media specialists, and for persons who are engaged in or preparing to engage in teaching, supervising, or training of teachers of history, geography, English, or reading.

For copies of the Conference report (H.Rept. 1916) and the new Act, write to your Congressman or to the House Documents Room, U.S. Capitol.

President Signs HEW Appropriations Bill

Public Law 88-605, signed by President Johnson on September 19, now makes funds available to the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, to carry on programs in the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1965.

In addition to the \$55 million for the Library Services and Construction Act, the new law provides finances for other library-related programs such as the Higher Education Facilities Act, the Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act, and the Communications Act, which authorizes grants for construction of educational television facilities.

For indirect costs of research, in connection with research projects, the bill limits the amount of reimbursement to 20 percent of the direct costs.

Academic Facilities Construction

Funds for grants, loans, and payments under the Higher Education Facilities Act amount to \$463,150,000 of the \$7 billion HEW appropriation bill. Of this total, an amount not to exceed \$230 million shall be for grants for construction of academic facilities under Title I; \$60 million shall be for grants for construction of graduate academic facilities under Title II; and \$169,250,000 shall be for construction loans under Title III.

According to the regulations which are given in the Federal Register for August 27, 1964, Pp. 12307-15, " 'Academic facilities' means structures suitable for use as classroom laboratories, libraries, and related facilities necessary or appropriate for instruction of students or for research or for administration of the educational or research programs ...". Library facilities are fully defined under Subpart A - General Provisions, section (e), P. 12307. In section (1)(2), P. 12308, reference is made to the Act's exclusion of library books from the definition of equipment.

So far, all but three States and two territories have appointed State Commissions to administer the undergraduate grants program (Title I).

Juvenile Delinquency Projects

For grants and contracts to finance demonstration, evaluation, and training projects and technical assistance to combat juvenile delinquency, \$10 million is provided in the HEW appropriation bill. An additional \$1.5 million is included to carry out a demonstration program in the District of Columbia, as authorized in the amended Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act of 1961. Since the Act authorizes grants to public and nonprofit agencies, libraries with young adult programs relevant to this legislation could qualify for funds.

Educational TV Facilities

To assist in the construction of educational television broadcasting facilities and related expenses, as authorized by Title III, Part IV of the Communications Act, \$13 million has been appropriated by PL 88-605. Public libraries are also eligible to participate in this program.

How Will Your Congressmen Vote?

With the national election in the offing and all U.S. Representatives and a third of the Senators up for re-election, this is a strategic time to ascertain the position of these candidates regarding further Federal assistance, to supplement State and local efforts in support of libraries. In the next Congress, Federal legislation will probably come up affecting all types of libraries -- school, college, university, research, and public libraries. In addition, those who are elected to the 89th Congress will have the responsibility of voting on the annual appropriations for the Library Services and Construction Act, the Higher Education Facilities Act, the National Defense Education Act, and other legislation bearing on libraries, such as postal rates, copyright, etc.

Furthermore, since the issue of extending the Library Services and Construction Act will have to be brought before the next Congress, it will be particularly important to have information on attitudes of these nominees toward this legislation as an indication of potential support. We suggest that special attention be given to the Congressmen who were opposed to the LSCA in 1964, as well as to new candidates. For a list of opponents to the Public Library Bill, refer to the Washington Newsletter for November 27, 1963 and January 23, 1964, or to the Congressional Record for November 26, 1963, P. 21612, and January 21, 1964, Pp. 732-5. Undoubtedly, many of those who voted against the LSCA did so because they were not sufficiently informed of the benefits which the bill would have for their own constituents. The campaign period offers an opportunity to meet the candidates personally, to give them information on specific programs, and to elicit their views. It is also highly desirable that leading citizens be enlisted in this activity to persuade prospective Members of Congress of the need for further Federal support of libraries.

Candidates are pleased to have the opportunity of expressing and publicizing their views on important issues. And undoubtedly, the Congressmen who have supported library legislation will welcome being asked for a statement. It will certainly be advantageous for them to recall this to the attention of their constituents, as well as to reaffirm their loyal support.

Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal 1965

H.R.12633, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965, was introduced on September 17 and favorably reported by the House Appropriations Committee (H.Rept. 1891). The bill, passed by the House on September 22 and by the Senate on October 1, must now have differences ironed out in conference. When finally approved, possibly today, it will provide funds for the following programs of interest to librarians: The Economic Opportunity Act, National Historical Publications grants, water resources research projects, the National Defense Education Act, and the National Council on the Arts.

NOTE

For an account of the floor action and the voting record on the NDEA, see the Congressional Record for October 1, 1964, Pp. 22625-51.

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