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Library Resources and Training a Key Factor in College Aid Bill

As anticipated in the Newsletter of January 14, the legislation to carry out President Johnson's proposals for higher education was introduced within a matter of days - January 19. Like the elementary and secondary education bill, it is brimful of library-linked provisions -- college library assistance, library training and library research and demonstrations.

Once again, Senator Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) took the lead in the Senate to follow through on the comprehensive plan mapped out by the President to give the Nation's young people full educational opportunity. Upon introducing his bill to be cited as the "Higher Education Act of 1965" (S. 600), he repeated his intention to move with dispatch into hearings on this bill as soon as hearings on the elementary and secondary school bill (S. 370) are completed, probably in mid-February.

In the House, Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.), Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Education, introduced the Administration's bill to improve the Nation's higher education system, H.R. 3221, and began hearings on February 1. ALA witnesses are scheduled to testify on the bill on February 9.

Significant portions of the legislation follow.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (S. 600, H.R. 3220, H.R. 3221)

To strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students.

Title I. University Extension and Continuing Education

Purpose: To assist the people of the United States in solving community problems by enabling the Commissioner of Education to make grants and contracts to strengthen continuing education and extension methods and teaching, and the public service resources of colleges and universities.

Authorization: \$25 million for fiscal 1966 (July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966) and such sums for the four succeeding years as may be necessary.

From 80 percent of the sums appropriated each year, the Commissioner would allot \$100,000 to each State and \$25,000 each to Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands. In addition, he would allot an amount from the remainder of the 80 percent in proportion to the population of each State to that of the entire country.

Funds could be used in accordance with the State plan, to provide new, expanded or improved extension and continuing education activities and services such as:

training and educational services relating to aging; special educational programs for culturally disadvantaged adults; and other training, demonstration and public service programs.

Any State desiring to participate in this program must designate or create a State agency or institution which has special qualifications with respect to solving community problems and which is broadly representative of institutions of higher education in the State which are competent to offer extension or continuing education activities and services, and must submit a State plan to the Commissioner through the designated agency.

Title II. College Library Assistance and Library Training and Research

Part A. College Library Resources

Purpose: To assist and encourage institutions of higher education through grants to acquire for library purposes: books, periodicals, documents, magnetic tapes, phonograph records, audio-visual materials and other related library materials (including necessary binding).

Authorization: \$50 million for fiscal 1966 and such sums as may be necessary for the four succeeding years.

From 75 percent of the sums appropriated each year, the Commissioner would be authorized to make basic grants up to \$5,000 to each institution submitting an approved application, provided that: the level of other funds spent for this purpose does not fall below the yearly average expended for such materials during the two-year period ending June 30, 1965; and that additional funds be spent for those materials to match the grant on a dollar for dollar basis.

From the remainder of the 75 percent, the Commissioner would be authorized to make supplemental grants for the purposes established under this title to institutions of higher education and combinations of such institutions in amounts not exceeding \$10 for each full-time student (including the full-time equivalent of the number of part-time students). Applications for these supplemental grants, which carry no matching requirement, must, among other things, provide a general description of how the grants would be used to improve the size or quality of the institutions library resources.

With 25 percent of the sum appropriated for each year plus any amounts not needed under the preceding programs for basic and supplemental grants, the Commissioner would be empowered to make special grants (a) to institutions of higher education which demonstrate a special need for additional library resources and which demonstrate that such additional library resources will make a substantial contribution to the quality of their educational resources, (b) to institutions of higher education to meet special national or regional needs in the library and information sciences, including those in the bio-medical, physical, and social science fields, and (c) to combinations of institutions of higher education which need special assistance in establishing joint-use facilities. Grants under this section may be used only for books, periodicals, documents, magnetic tapes, phonograph records, audio-visual materials, and other related library materials (including binding).

To advise the Commissioner on developing criteria for supplemental and special purpose grants, an eight-member Advisory Council on College Library Resources would be established.

Part B. Library Training and Research

Purpose: To assist institutions of higher education through grants to train persons in librarianship, including the training of specialists in the communication of information in the bio-medical, physical and social sciences.

Funds granted to applicant institutions must be spent for new or enlarged programs of library training to substantially increase the opportunities for library training throughout the country.

Research and Demonstrations Relating to Libraries and the Training of Library Personnel

The Commissioner would be authorized to make grants to institutions of higher education and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions or organizations, and to individuals for research and demonstration projects relating to the improvement of libraries or library training, including development of new techniques, processing equipment, storage and information distribution.

Since Title II-B of the Higher Education Act would also authorize school library institutes as well as regular sessions and short term programs for recruits, included under this same title is a repealer section which would cancel on July 1, 1965, the provisions for training institutes for school library personnel under Title XI of the NDEA. As Commissioner Keppel stated in his House testimony: "The need for good initial training and continued upgrading of school librarians is critical, as the facts cited earlier have shown. We expect that the new authority contained in Part B will be used to ensure expanded training opportunities for school librarians."

Title III - Strengthening Developing Institutions

Purpose: To assist in raising the academic quality of colleges with good potential but poor finances, the Commissioner would be empowered to establish a national teaching fellowship program which would permit the struggling colleges to draw upon the talent and experience of the outstanding colleges and universities.

Authorization: \$30 million for fiscal 1966 and such sums as may be necessary for the four succeeding years.

Grants would be made under this title to developing institutions of higher education to pay part of the cost of planning, developing and carrying out cooperative arrangements such as the joint use of facilities, such as libraries or laboratories, including necessary books, materials and equipment.

National teaching fellowships of up to \$6,500 and an additional \$400 a year per dependent would be awarded to individuals to teach at a developing institution.

Title IV. Student Assistance

Part A. Undergraduate Scholarships

Purpose: To provide through institutions participating in the higher-education work-study program and student loan program scholarships for qualified high school graduates from low income families.

Authorization: \$70 million for fiscal 1966 and such sums as may be necessary for the four succeeding years. An additional authorized appropriation for fiscal 1967, and six succeeding years, the sums necessary for scholarships to undergraduate students for academic years other than the initial year.

Part B. Insurance of Reduced Interest Loans to Students in Institutions of Higher Education and Post Secondary Schools.

Purpose: To insure eligible lenders against losses on loans and to pay a portion of the interest on loans.

Part C. College Work-Study Program Extension and Amendments.

Purpose: To stimulate and promote the part-time employment of needy students in institutions of higher education.

Authorization: \$129 million for fiscal 1966 and such sums as necessary for the succeeding four years.

Part D. Extension of National Defense Student Loan Program.

This provision would amend Title II of the NDEA by: (1) authorizing the following appropriations: \$225 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969, \$250 million for fiscal 1970 and \$275 million for fiscal 1971.

(2) inserting "and such sums for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, and each of the next three fiscal years as may be necessary to enable students who have received loans for school years ending prior to July 1, 1971, to continue or complete their education."

Title V - General Provisions

Under this section of the bill the term institution of higher education is defined as an educational institution in any State which "(1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, (2) is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education, (3) provides an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree or provides not less than a two-year program which is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, (4) is a public or other non-profit institution, and (5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association or, if not so accredited, is an institution whose credits are

accepted, on transfer, by not less than three institutions which are so accredited, for credit on the same basis as if transferred from an institution so accredited. Such term also includes any business school or technical institution which meets the provisions of clauses (1), (2), (4) and (5)."

Other Legislative Proposals

Over 2,500 House and Senate bills were introduced in the first week that Congress was in session. Several of these deal with measures which were introduced in the 88th Congress and failed to win approval. Since legislation does not carry over from one Congress to the next, it is necessary that bills be re-introduced as new legislation. The procedure in the Senate is that a single bill is introduced by one Senator, with one or more other members announced as co-sponsors. In the House each Representative introduced a measure as his own bill even though it may be identical to bills already introduced. However, identical House bills are not usually printed for general distribution.

Falling in this category of legislation re-introduced for the consideration of the 89th Congress are the Appalachian aid bills and the humanities bills, both of which have library provisions.

The Appalachian legislation S. 3, introduced by Sen. Randolph (D-W.Va.) was passed by the Senate February 1 by a vote of 62-22. The companion House bill, H.R. 4, was introduced by Rep. Fallon (D-Md.), Chairman of the House Public Works Committee, who has scheduled hearings for this week. Congressional leaders have predicted that the measure will become law before April 1.

This measure would provide until July 1, 1971, public works and economic development programs and the planning and coordination needed to assist in the development of the Appalachian region.

Title II-B of the proposed Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 has a provision for supplements to Federal Grant-In-Aid Programs which specifically mentions the Library Services Act as one of the federal programs for which the 11-state area might obtain additional federal funds to add to state and local money for matching purposes. To implement this section of the bill, up to \$90 million would be authorized.

The 11 states that are included in this area legislation are: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Only in West Virginia would all counties be eligible to participate. In the other states, the bill would assist those counties designated as areas of special need.

The Humanities bill, H.R. 334, introduced by Rep. Moorhead (D-Pa.) - and nearly 90 other Congressmen - would provide for the establishment of a National Humanities Foundation to promote progress and scholarship in the humanities and the arts, and for other purposes.

This measure was originally introduced in a different version in the last session of Congress by Mr. Moorhead but no action was taken. A similar bill, S. 111, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska).

The significant feature of this legislation is the addition of the following provision to "Functions of the Foundation", Sec. 7(5):

"To foster the improvement of library resources and services for research and for teaching at all levels in the humanities and the arts, and to foster the interchange of information in the humanities and the arts in the United States and with other countries."

Librarians in academic institutions will be particularly interested in reading this bill for possible library involvement. Request copies from your Congressman or from the House Documents Room.

House Rules

On opening day, the House of Representatives adopted changes in its rules which are expected to move bills through the House more quickly. One change gives the Speaker of the House authority to call up for a vote any bill approved by a legislative committee that has not been cleared for House action by the Rules Committee within 21 days. A second change permits the Speaker to send to conference bills which have been passed by both Houses regardless of an objection. Previously, a single member might stop a bill from going to conference for House-Senate adjustment by voicing his objection. A third change prevents any one member from postponing a final vote on a bill until the next day by demanding that it be printed in amended form first.

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* Flash - Write your House Members Now! *
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* Late yesterday, the House General Education Subcommittee *
* concluded hearings on the proposed Elementary and Secondary *
* Education Act of 1965 (H.R. 2362). The subcommittee will now *
* consider the bill in closed session and modification of the *
* original bill is possible. After the subcommittee issues its *
* report, the bill will then be considered by the full House *
* Education and Labor Committee. *
*
* Now is the time to begin lining up widespread support for *
* this legislation to show what the measure can mean in terms of *
* better school library service and improved library opportunities *
* for all children in your community. Congressmen need many letters *
* from their constituents - librarians, friends of libraries, educa- *
* tors and civic leaders - showing substantial support for the *
* Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. *
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