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WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



110 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002 • TEL. 202-547-4440, TWX 710-822-1976

Box 54

ISSN: 0001-1746

Vol. 29

March 14, 1977

No. 3

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Appropriations, FY 1977 Supplemental

The House Appropriations Committee reported out the FY 1977 supplemental appropriations bill on March 11 (HR 4877, H. Rept. 95-68), and the measure is scheduled for floor action on March 16. So far as library programs are concerned the House committee followed the President's budget recommendations, except for the Higher Education Act Title II-B training program to which an additional \$500,000 was added, thanks to an amendment offered in subcommittee by Rep. Edward Roybal (D-CA).

	<u>FY 1977 Budget</u>	<u>FY 1977 House Committee bill</u>
<u>White House Conference on Library and Information Services</u>	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
<u>Higher Education Act Title II</u>		
College Library Resources (Part A)	9,975,000	9,975,000
Training (Part B)	500,000	1,000,000
Demonstrations (Part B)	1,000,000	1,000,000
Research Libraries (Part C)	-0-	-0-

Also included in the bill is \$18 million for the new challenge grant programs of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, \$3 million below the amounts requested for each of the Endowments.

The Senate Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee is tentatively slated to mark up its version of the supplemental bill on March 17.

LSCA Extension

The Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities held a hearing on extension of the Library Services and Construction Act on March 9, in the nation's capital. Regional hearings in New York City and Providence are scheduled for March 18-19. The day before the Washington hearing, Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY) introduced a bill (S. 941) to create a separate Title V to LSCA. The Javits bill is the proposal sponsored by the Urban Libraries Council and the American Library Association. Much of the hearing centered on the problems of urban libraries and the alternative approaches represented by the Javits bill and the Pell bill (S. 602) which would add a trigger provision to the existing LSCA Title I to help urban resource libraries in SMSAs of over 100,000 population.

Opening the hearing, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) noted that the amount of money the federal government actually gives out to libraries is small in relation to the amount states and communities spend. He said: "The agreement we reach today and in the weeks ahead on how to distribute that money will guide library programs for years to come; so we must pay extra attention to our work in order not to pass a law that is too involved with immediate problems and too circumscribed to deal with a rapidly evolving field." He also noted the establishment of library networks in cities and regions throughout the country, which he called "a very positive development."

ALA was represented by Clara Jones, Director of the Detroit Public Library, and President of ALA; Carlton Thaxton, Director of the Georgia Division of Library Services; and Wyman Jones, Director of the Los Angeles Public Library. Whitney North Seymour, Jr. spoke on behalf of the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save our Public Libraries; Ralph Newman, for the Urban Libraries Council; John Lorenz for the Association of Research Libraries; and Al Trezza, for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

On the House side, the full Education and Labor Committee met on March 8, and with great dispatch unanimously ordered the Brademas bill (HR 3712) reported. No changes were made in this measure by the full committee, which may file its report this week and schedule floor action next week. On the Senate side, more time will be required, first to hold the two regional hearings, and then to come to some conclusion on the various approaches suggested for assisting urban libraries.

Medical Libraries

On March 10, ALA sent letters to Rep. Paul Rogers, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, and Sen. Edward Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, in connection with extension of the expiring Medical Library Assistance Act. Both Senate and House have proposed a one-year extension of this and other expiring health authorities to allow the Carter Administration time to develop its own legislative proposals. ALA asked both subcommittees to hold in-depth hearings on medical libraries next year. ALA cited the new copyright law which is expected to have substantial impact upon hospital and other health science libraries throughout the country, and urged the subcommittees to invite representatives from medical libraries, both large and small, regional and local, to present their views on library and information service in the health sciences field.

CATV -- Federal-State/Local Relations

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has scheduled a conference on March 16 for a discussion of inter-governmental relationships in cable TV regulation. Among the participants who are to include state and municipal officials, industry representatives, public interest groups and FCC staff will be Margaret Cleland, Chairperson of the Legislation and Regulation Committee of ISAD's Video and Cable Communications Section. The Conference, entitled "Federal-State/Local Cable TV Relations-A Reappraisal," will consist of a morning session of presentations before the assembled FCC and an afternoon session with three concurrent panels covering rate regulation; stability of franchises; and pole attachments.

Public Works

The Senate version of the Public Works Employment Act (HR 11) was debated, amended, and passed by a 74-11 vote on March 10. The Senate immediately named conferees (Randolph-WV, Burdick-ND, Muskie-ME, Bentsen-TX, Anderson-MN, Moynihan-NY,

Stafford-VT, Chafee-RI, Domenici-NM, and McClure-ID). The House had not named conferees as this newsletter went to press, but likely candidates are members of the House Subcommittee on Economic Development (Roe-NJ, Roberts-TX, Oberstar-MN, Nowak-NY, Lloyd-TN, Risenhoover-OK, Cornwell-IN, Evans-GA, Edgar-PA, Bonior-MI, Flipppo-AL, Rahall-WV, Applegate-OH, McCormack-WA, Hammerschmidt-AR, Cleveland, NH, Clausen-CA, Shuster-PA, Taylor-MO, and Myers-PA). In addition, the chairman and ranking minority member of the full Public Works and Transportation Committee (Johnson-CA and Harsha-OH) could be involved in the conference.

Differences between the Senate-passed bill and the House version are several, chief among them, the state allocation formula. The House bill would provide a state allocation based on the total number of unemployed persons within each state. The Senate-passed bill would allocate 65 percent of the funds based on each state's number of unemployed persons, and 35 percent to states with unemployment rates above 6.5 percent. An amendment sponsored by Sen. John Heinz (R-PA) to adopt the House formula was rejected by a vote of 32-56. To help the smaller states, the Senate did adopt an amendment offered by Sen. John Durkin (D-NH), guaranteeing a minimum allocation to each state amounting to 3/4 of one percent of the total allocation.

Unlike the House bill, which eliminated the statutory requirement that 70 percent of the funds be distributed within states to areas with unemployment equal to or in excess of the national average, and the remaining 30 percent to areas with unemployment below the national average but above 6.5 percent, the Senate bill maintains the approach of present law, but increases the amount which must be provided to high unemployment areas to 85 percent of the total. This leaves 15 percent for areas between 6.5 percent and the national average. In the Senate bill, the 85-15% requirement could be waived in certain instances.

The Senate bill gives projects requested by school districts equal priority with those of general purpose local governments. Applications from states or from special purpose districts would receive full priority only if their projects were specifically endorsed by the general purpose local governments in which they are to be located. Like the House bill, the Senate version eliminates the provision that allowed applicants to include in their applications the unemployed persons in nearby jurisdictions, and both versions change from 3 to the 12 most recent consecutive months the period of time for unemployment data. Both give priority to applications already on file; the Senate bill contains an "error setaside" to fund projects not selected last year due to procedural errors on the part of the Economic Development Administration. The Senate bill contains provisions requiring accessibility for handicapped.

While Congress is still working out the details of the authorizing legislation, the House Appropriations Committee is already moving forward with a supplemental bill to fund the new Public Works Employment Act amendments. The funding measure (HR 4876) was reported from the committee on March 10 (H. Rept. 95-66) and is scheduled for floor action March 15. Among other things, the bill provides \$4 billion for public works employment projects.

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The Washington Office supply of the November 15, 1976 (copyright) issue of the Newsletter is exhausted. Those desiring an additional copy should send their order, with \$2.00 and a mailing label to, Publishing Services, Attn.: Bob Hershman, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.