



# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



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### Appropriations - FY 1978

The conference committee appointed to reconcile differences between the House and Senate-passed versions of the FY 1978 Labor-HEW appropriations bill (HR 7555) filed a conference report (H. Rept. 95-538) on July 26. The conferees reached an accommodation on all items except federal funding for abortions. The House version says that none of the funds in the bill shall be used to perform abortions except where the life of the mother is endangered. The Senate version contains additional conditions where abortion is permitted. Both House and Senate will vote shortly on the abortion issue alone to determine in which direction members are willing to compromise. Then the conferees must meet again until agreement is reached. After that both House and Senate must approve the entire conference report.

However, the conference report as issued does settle amounts for the following library and education programs for which House and Senate amounts differed:

	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Conference</u>
ESEA Title IV-B	\$160,000,000	\$180,000,000	\$167,500,000
HEA Title II-C (research libs.)	3,000,000	7,000,000	5,000,000
Educ. broadcasting facilities	15,000,000	22,500,000	19,000,000
Teacher centers	5,000,000	12,500,000	8,250,000

Concerning Title IV-B, School Libraries and Learning Resources, the conference report states that "the Conferees are concerned that school library assistance is not being directed toward schools with the greatest need, and direct the Secretary of HEW to conduct an assessment of need, particularly in rural and inner city areas, prior to the submission of the 1979 budget." Funds for the Library Services and Construction Act and other Higher Education Act library programs are included in the bill but were not conference items. (See funding table attached to June 30 newsletter.)

Congress has completed action on the Library of Congress' FY 1978 appropriations (contained in the FY 1978 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, HR 7932, which now goes to the President). The Senate Appropriations Committee had cut \$6.5 million from the library's budget request which was to be offset, according to the

committee's report (S. Rept. 95-338), by allowing receipts from the sale of catalog cards and library publications to be credited to the library's budget. The other Senate cuts were not as severe as those made by the House Appropriations Committee (see June 30 newsletter). The Senate Appropriations Committee did not restore funds for the National Telephone Reference Service, but did include 49 positions and \$400,000 beyond the House allowance to permit the library to proceed on schedule with automation of its cataloging process, and an additional \$1 million for computer equipment rental. In conference after House and Senate passage, House conferees agreed to the \$6.5 million reduction to be made up by receipts, and accepted half of the Senate increases for automation and computer rental (H. Rept. 95-506).

### ESEA Extension

The House Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education is in the midst of four days of hearings on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title IV consolidated programs. A panel of ALA witnesses testifying on July 27 included Mary Ann Hanna, Director of the School Library/Media Program and ESEA Title IV-B Consultant, Michigan Department of Education; Carol Kearney, Director of School Libraries, Buffalo, New York, Public School System; and Louise Bedford, Instructional Media Coordinator, Montgomery County Schools, Kentucky. Subcommittee Chairman Carl Perkins (D-KY), in opening the hearing, expressed his strong support for federal assistance to school libraries, and admitted he had some doubts as to the wisdom of the 1974 consolidation of the school library, equipment, and guidance and counseling programs.

The major thrust of ALA's testimony involved the joint proposal for ESEA Title IV-B worked out by ALA, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and the American Personnel and Guidance Association. The joint proposal involves two main points as changes to Title IV-B: 1) Remove the local guidance and counseling salaries from the 95 percent pass-through funds, leaving a rational consolidation of library resources, equipment, and guidance and testing materials. 2) Create a separate authorization for statewide leadership activities for all the IV-B program purposes, divided 50 percent for guidance and counseling leadership and 50 percent for library/media leadership.

On July 13, AASL President Frances Dean, Director, Division of Instructional Materials, Montgomery County, Maryland, Public Schools, testified at a hearing convened by Assistant Secretary of Education Mary Berry and Commissioner of Education Ernest Boyer. The hearing was held to provide public input into the development of the administration's position on the expiring ESEA programs.

On the Senate side, the Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities has begun hearings on the quality of education and the effectiveness of educational testing. Subcommittee Chairman Claiborne Pell (D-RI) has introduced both a 5-year (S. 1752) and a 1-year (s. 1752) extension of ESEA and related education provisions. The 5-year extension bill will be the basis for Senate hearings, but a simple 1-year extension may be necessary if Congress does not move quickly enough. ESEA is advance funded and appropriations being considered now provide funds for FY 1979.

### Educational Energy Assistance

On July 20 the Senate passed S. 701, the Educational and Health Care Facilities Energy Efficiency Act of 1977. The bill provides matching grants to public or private schools, colleges and hospitals to make energy conserving improvements in their facilities and operating practices. The authorization is \$200 million for FY 1978, \$300 million for 1979, and \$400 million for 1980. Funds would be allocated among the states on a per capita basis, and within states, divided 25 percent for hospitals

and 75 percent for schools and colleges. Introduced by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) and considered by the Human Resources Committee, the bill was referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where it was modified (one major change was to have it administered by the Federal Energy Administration instead of HEW) so that it could be included as Part C of President Carter's National Energy Plan. In the House, a hearing was held in May on a similar bill (HR 5996) introduced by Rep. Carl Perkins (D-KY), but no further action has been taken.

LC Center for Books

The Senate passed on July 12 by voice vote the bill (S. 1331) to establish a Center for Books in the Library of Congress. The Center, which would be supported entirely by private gifts, would provide a program for the investigation of the transmission of human knowledge and heighten public interest in the role of books and printing in the diffusion of this knowledge, according to the report (S. Rept. 95-315) of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. On the same date, the House companion bill (HR 6214) was reported out (H. Rept. 95-491) by the House Administration Committee, and is expected to come to the floor sometime after the House returns from recess in September.

Medical Library Assistance Act

A one-year extension of the Medical Library Assistance Act (MLAA) and other expiring health authorities (HR 4975) has gone to the President after both House and Senate approved a conference report (H. Rept. 95-500) reconciling differences between the two versions of the bill. For MLAA the conference report authorizes \$14.6 million for FY 1978, a drop from the previous level of \$20 million (the Senate recommendation), but up from the House recommendation of \$9.2 million.

LSCA Extension

Conferees have not yet scheduled a second meeting since the first brief meeting on June 21 to resolve differences between House and Senate versions of the LSCA extension bill (S. 602). Resolution of the major differences--aid to urban libraries--does not seem any closer at this writing. However, one additional reason for delay has been the honeymoon trip of a key conferee--Rep. John Brademas (D-IN), Chairman of the Select Education Subcommittee. Brademas will be returning August 1, and it is essential that the conferees act before Congress recesses on August 6. LSCA expires September 30.

ACTION NEEDED: Time is short, so call or wire conferees immediately. Urge prompt resolution of the differences between the House and Senate versions of S. 602, the LSCA extension bill. Conferees are Senators Williams, Pell, Cranston, Randolph, Kennedy, Eagleton, Stafford, Schweiker, Hayakawa, and Javits; and Representatives Perkins, Brademas, Beard (RI), and Quie. In addition it is especially important that all Senators be asked to contact the conferees to urge that a compromise be worked out.

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\*                   Congressional Recess: August 6 through September 6                   \*  
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\*   Contact your members of Congress while they are at home during the recess.   \*  
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