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Appropriations, FY 1979 - Labor-HEW

ACTION NEEDED: The Senate is expected to act on the FY 1979 Labor-HEW Appropriations bill (HR 12929) at about the time the federal fiscal year ends on September 30. Because of this delay, conference action to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions may follow quickly. The Senate figures for major library programs are generally higher, as shown in the table on page 2. Write immediately to the conferees and urge them to retain the Senate amounts in conference. Explain why the increases are essential to your programs.

Conferees will most likely include Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee members Magnuson (WA), Byrd (WV), Proxmire (WI), Hollings (SC), Eagleton (MO), Bayh (IN), Chiles (FL), Burdick (ND), Brooke (MA), Case (NJ), Schweiker (PA), and Mathias (MD) from the Senate; and Flood (PA), Natcher (KY), Smith (IA), Patten (NJ), Obey (WI), Roybal (CA), Stokes (OH), Early (MA), Michel (IL), Conte (MA), and O'Brien (IL) from the House; plus Appropriations Committee chairmen and ranking Republicans, Sens. Magnuson (WA) and Young (ND), and Reps. Mahon (TX) and Cederberg (MI).

Meanwhile the House Appropriations Committee approved September 21 a continuing resolution (H. J. Res. 1139) which would continue funding for Defense and Labor-HEW programs through next March or until the applicable appropriation bills become law. As explained in the committee's report (H. Rept. 95-1599), the level of funding in the continuing resolution is based on the status of appropriations bills as of October 1. If passed by House and Senate it would affect library programs as follows: If the Senate has passed its bill by October 1, programs would be funded at the lesser of the House or Senate amounts; if the Senate has not passed its bill, funding would be at the current level or the House amount, whichever is lower. Where funding for a program has been deferred because a new authorization is needed, as in the case of the Medical Library Assistance Act, funding would be continued at the current rate. H. J. Res. 1139 was due for House floor action within a few days.

It would be most advantageous for library programs if the Senate passed its bill and conferees could agree quickly. If that doesn't happen, and the continuing resolution is necessary, libraries would fare better if the Senate bill has at least been passed by October 1. In any case, letters to your House and Senate conferees, as called for above, are most important.

	FY 1978 <u>Appropriation</u>	FY 1979 <u>House Bill</u>	FY 1979 <u>Senate Bill</u>
<u>Elementary & Secondary Educ. Act</u>			
Title IV-B, School Libraries	\$167,600,000*	\$175,000,000*	\$185,000,000*
<u>Higher Education Act</u>			
Title II-A, College Lib. Resources	9,975,000	9,975,000	9,975,000
II-B, Training	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
II-B, Demonstrations	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
II-C, Research Libraries	5,000,000	5,000,000	7,000,000
VI-A, Undergrad. Educ. Equip.	7,500,000	-0-	-0-
<u>Library Services & Construction Act</u>			
Title I, Public Library Services	56,900,000	60,000,000	65,000,000
II, Construction	-0-	-0-	-0-
III, Interlibrary Cooperation	3,337,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
<u>Medical Library Assistance Act</u>			
	7,987,000	deferred	deferred
<u>National Library of Medicine</u>			
	28,759,000	31,887,000	35,000,000
<u>National Comm. on Lib. & Info. Science</u>			
	563,000	648,000	648,000

* Advance funded program

ESEA Extension

House-Senate conferees have been meeting to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of HR 15, but have not yet completed their work. The Senate passed its version of the legislation extending and amending the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and related programs on August 24 by a vote of 86-7. Although a number of amendments were adopted on the floor, no major changes were made to the ESEA IV-B school libraries and learning resources program.

Postal Legislation

The Senate version of HR 7700, the Postal Service Amendments Act of 1978, was reported by the Governmental Affairs Committee on September 13. As reported (S. Rept. 95-1191) the committee bill contains amendments affecting the fourth-class library rate which are an improvement over the subcommittee version and bring the Senate measure more closely in line with that passed by the House on April 6.

Both bills would allow libraries to return books to a publisher or distributor at the library rate. The earlier Senate version would have limited this to libraries open to the public, but in the reported bill it applies to all nonprofit libraries. The Senate committee also added a provision similar to one in the House bill allowing additional material, including catalogs of books, reading guides, maps, and other interpretative material to be sent at the library rate. These improvements were added at the full committee level by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) who should be thanked by his constituents and friends. Also added was a provision for lower rates equal to classroom rates for publications carrying no paid advertising designed specifically for use at home as supplemental, educational reading by children 14 and younger.

ACTION NEEDED: The question now is whether the bill will get to the Senate floor in the crush of legislation awaiting action before Congress adjourns about mid-October. Contact your Senators and ask them to urge the Senate leadership to bring HR 7700 to the floor quickly. Write also to the key leadership figure in this decision, Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd (WV).

Federal Information Centers

Legislation which has passed the Senate (on September 12) and is pending in the House would authorize the permanent establishment of a system of federal information centers (FICs). Begun in 1966 as an experiment, the centers now number 38 with toll-free telephone tie-lines to 40 other cities. They provide information and referrals about federal programs and activities. Both bills (HR 13688, S. 3259) would authorize \$7 million for FY 1980 and such sums as necessary for succeeding years to expand the FICs to the 22 states which do not currently have a center, and to make other improvements to the system.

In cooperation with the Government Documents Round Table and the Federal Librarians Round Table, the ALA Washington Office wrote to the subcommittees considering the legislation and to the Joint Committee on Printing, to express concern about possible duplication of effort between the FICs and the services provided by federal agency libraries and federal depository libraries and to suggest that locating FICs in such libraries be considered. Subsequently the reports of the House Government Operations and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committees (H. Rept. 95-1530, S. Rept. 95-1129) directed the General Services Administration, which administers the FICs, to specifically explore such cooperation and coordination.

Following up on this, library representatives met with GSA officials to discuss cooperative efforts. Federal or depository librarians who are interested in coordination with FIC services are urged to contact their respective round table presidents or the ALA Washington Office.

CETA Extension

On August 25, the Senate passed S. 2570, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Amendments of 1978. The bill extends most CETA programs for four years. Amendments added on the floor include giving special consideration to public assistance recipients and those eligible for public assistance in filling public service employment jobs, eliminating the provision requiring the first \$3 billion available for public service employment be used for the structural public service employment program, increasing to 15 the required number of weeks of unemployment to be eligible for Title II or VI public service employment, requiring stricter penalties for abuses of the public service employment program including reimbursement of misspent funds, and placing restrictions on the use of CETA funds to pay retirement benefits for short-term jobs. The House has not yet completed consideration of its CETA extension bill.

Telecommunications

The Senate passed its version of HR 12605, the Public Telecommunications Financing Act of 1978, on September 19. The bill continues long-term financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and amends and extends the Educational Broadcast Facilities program and the Telecommunications Demonstration program. A conference committee will be necessary to work out differences between the Senate bill and House measure, passed earlier on July 10.

USOE Grant Deadlines

Closing dates for most of the direct, discretionary grant programs administered by the U.S. Office of Education were listed in the August 23 Federal Register (pp. 37618-59). Included are the following Higher Education Act library programs:

<u>Program title</u>	<u>Closing date</u>	<u>Date application forms expected to be mailed</u>
College Library Resources	November 6, 1978	September 22, 1978
Library Training	December 1, 1978	September 25, 1978
Library Research & Demonstration	December 11, 1978	October 5, 1978
Research Library Resources	March 1, 1979	December 11, 1978

College librarians should note particularly the November 6 closing date for the college library basic grant program. This date is considerably earlier than in previous years. Last year the deadline was in February.

Application forms and program information packages for Higher Education Act programs will be widely distributed, and will also be available on request. Specific instructions related to each program closing date and names and addresses for further information are included in the Federal Register notice.

Research Library Grants

Grant awards for the Higher Education Act Title II-C research library program were announced on August 18 by the U.S. Office of Education. The FY 1978 awards, based on a \$5 million appropriation, are the first to be made under the program authorized by the Education Amendments of 1976 (PL 94-482) to assist major research libraries to maintain and strengthen their collections and make them available to other libraries and users. The following libraries received grants:

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY	\$250,000
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO	219,103
Duke University, Durham, NC	250,000
Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC	142,023
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	383,131
Henry E. Huntington Library & Art Gallery, San Marino, CA	171,500
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	389,106
Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO	200,000
New York Public Library, New York, NY	550,700
New York State Education Dept., Albany, NY	250,000
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ	219,395
University of California-Berkeley, CA	675,000
The Art Institute of Chicago, IL	163,200
Public Library of Boston, MA	238,240
University of Chicago, IL	250,000
University of Illinois, Urbana, IL	70,216
University of Texas, Austin, TX	250,000
University of Washington, Seattle, WA	93,327
University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI	85,255
Yale University, New Haven, CT	149,800