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Appropriations, FY 1980 - Labor-HEW

The snows have melted and signs of spring are evident, but warning signs are also popping up like crocuses all over Capitol Hill--it's going to be a tough year to get funding for federal library programs increased. It will be tough even to get them restored to last year's levels. Recent actions of the House Appropriations Committee and the full House in rescinding \$12.5 million in funds already appropriated for FY 1979 for career education are a portent of battles to come.

Another indicator was a special meeting of education and library association representatives called on March 1 by Rep. Carl Perkins (D-KY), Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, on the prospects for funding. Regardless of the economic outlook, Perkins emphasized, education programs are important to the nation and it is not the time to give up on funding education programs. Don't settle only for a cabinet-level Department of Education, he warned, and don't spend a lot of effort on proposing new programs. It will take every bit of effort available just to achieve adequate funding of currently authorized programs, was the final message.

ACTION NEEDED: Following the March 1 meeting, staff members said there had not been enough protest from citizens regarding Carter's budget cuts in education to make an impact. They warned that lobbying by association staff in Washington might not be very effective this year. The only efforts likely to make a difference would be for key members of Congress to hear loud and clear from the folks back home.

See the January 29 newsletter for the specifics of Carter's FY 1980 budget as they apply to federal library programs. See also the Congressional committee lists attached to this issue and the February 28 newsletter. The key members of Congress for funding purposes are those on House and Senate Appropriations Committees (especially Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittees) and House and Senate Budget Committees. It is important that these members hear from their library constituents in the next few weeks. Senate appropriations subcommittee hearings will be completed this month, in the House by late April. Subcommittee funding recommendations for FY 1980 will follow shortly thereafter. This is the most opportune time to influence the appropriations process--as the subcommittees deliberate. There will be no bill numbers for some time; simply refer to the FY 1980 Labor-HEW appropriations bill. Send the ALA Washington Office copies of your letters.

Oversight Hearing on Federal Library Programs

April 3 during National Library Week, the date of the fifth annual Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.. will also be the date for a congressional oversight hearing on the major federal library programs. The House Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Carl Perkins (D-KY), and the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Bill Ford (D-MI), will hold a joint hearing on the Library Services and Construction Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act title IV-B Instructional Materials and School Library Resources program, and the Higher Education Act title II college and research library and library training and demonstration programs. A panel of ALA witnesses will discuss their own experiences with these programs, the current situation and future prospects of libraries, and the need for federal funding to supplement state and local efforts. Participants in Legislative Day lobbying activities will be able to attend the hearing. Contact the state library or school/media association president for details on Legislative Day participation.

Congressional Committees

Attached to this newsletter are lists of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee. Attached to the February 28 newsletter are lists of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Human Resources Committee. Please correct the Senate Human Resources committee list to reflect a change in the name of the full committee--now the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

A change in programs covered by two House Education and Labor Committee subcommittees will affect library programs. In order to devote more time to his duties as House Majority Whip, Rep. John Brademas (D-IN) has given up the chairmanship of the Select Education Subcommittee. The new chair of Select Education is Rep. Paul Simon (D-IL). However, jurisdiction over programs in the area of libraries, arts and humanities, and museums has been transferred to the Postsecondary Education Subcommittee under Rep. Bill Ford (D-MI).

ESEA IV Draft Regulations

The March 1 Federal Register (p. 11567) contained a notice that the first draft of proposed regulations for Elementary and Secondary Education Act title IV programs is available to the public. The 90-page draft document includes proposals to implement the changes in the IV-B school library resources program made by the Education Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-561). Also available are draft regs for ESEA V, the new state leadership program. Copies of ESEA IV and V draft regs have been sent to each Chief State School Officer. Copies may be obtained from: Louise Sutherland, School Media Resources Branch, Rm. 3125B, ROB-3, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202 (202/245-2488), or from any of the ten regional OE offices. The next step in the regulation development process will be publication of the proposed regulations in the Federal Register, expected in late March or early April, to be followed by a period for public comment and public meetings in each OE region.

Department of Education

The administration's proposals for a separate cabinet-level Department of Education (see February 28 newsletter) have been introduced as legislation in the House (HR 2444) by Rep. Jack Brooks (D-TX), chair of the Government Operations Committee, and in the Senate (S. 510) by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-CT), chair of the Governmental Affairs committee. Meanwhile, hearings on Sen. Ribicoff's own bill (S. 210) have been completed, and markup of the measure by the Governmental Affairs Committee is scheduled for March 14. ALA submitted the resolution supporting a

separate department passed by ALA Council on January 11 during Midwinter for the Senate hearing record. No hearings have yet been scheduled on the House bill.

Energy Impacted Area Development Assistance

Libraries may be eligible for grants for site acquisition or site development under a Department of Agriculture rural development program administered by the Farmers Home Administration. The Energy Impacted Area Development Assistance Program will provide assistance to areas impacted by increased coal and uranium production, processing, or transportation as designated by the governor of the affected state and approved by the Department of Energy. Proposed regulations for the program were published in the March 8 Federal Register (pp. 12936-51).

Within designated areas (an estimated 20 states will be affected), local governments, councils of local government, and state governments will be eligible for grants to develop growth management and/or housing plans, and grants for site acquisition and site development for housing and public facilities. Public facilities are defined in the proposed regulations as "installations open to the public and used for the public welfare." Examples given include libraries. In a designated area, if the need for a library facility were included in the growth management plan, and if the local or state government were willing to provide 25 percent of the funds, 75 percent of the cost of site acquisition or site preparation could be provided under this program.

Comments on the proposed regulations for the Energy Impacted Area Development Assistance Program are due by May 7. Send comments to, or request further information from: Paul Kugler, Directives Management Branch, Farmers Home Administration, USDA, Rm. 6348, South Agriculture Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20250 (202/447-2573). The proposed regs would implement Section 601 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (PL 95-620). Funding in the amount of \$20 million has been appropriated for FY 1979.

*Grant Opportunity - NSF Research in Information Science

The National Science Foundation's Division of Information Science and Technology recently issued a program announcement for research in information science. NSF supports basic and applied research in information science to advance understanding of the properties and structure of information and to contribute to the store of scientific knowledge applicable to the design of information processing systems. Research proposals in four specific categories are considered: 1) standards and measures, 2) structure of information, 3) behavioral aspects of information transfer, and 4) infometrics. Awards range from two months' salary support for one person to a maximum project cost of \$150,000 per year. Proposals may be submitted at any time, and while normally initiated by an individual, must be submitted by an academic institution, a non-profit or profit making organization, or a unit of government--or by a combination (which is encouraged). For special research initiation awards for new investigators in information science (that is, recent doctorates in fields related to information science), the deadline is April 15. To request the program announcement or discuss potential proposals, contact: Division of Information Science and Technology, National Science Foundation, Washington, D,C, 20550 (202/632-5824).

U. S. SENATE

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96th Congress, 1st Session

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Jake Garn, Utah
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American Library Association
Washington Office
March 1979

(See over for Appropriations
Subcommittees on Labor-HEW,
Legislative, and Treasury-
Postal Service-General
Government.)

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March 1979

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96th Congress, 1st Session

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Mickey Edwards, Oklahoma
E. Thomas Coleman, Missouri
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Arlen Erdahl, Minnesota
Thomas J. Tauke, Iowa
Daniel B. Crane, Illinois
Jon Hinson, Mississippi
*

*Appointment yet to be made

American Library Association
Washington Office
March 1979

(See over for Subcommittees on
Elementary, Secondary and
Vocational Education, and
Postsecondary Education.)

Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education Subcommittee

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