



# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



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Attachment: House Government Operations Committee  
Senate Governmental Affairs Committee

### Appropriations, FY 1980 - Labor-HEW

Hearings before the Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittees in both the House and Senate have now been completed. ALA testified in the House on April 26 in support of the amounts listed in the April 9 newsletter for major library programs. Also testifying on that date in favor of increased funding for library programs were Rep. Carl Perkins, Chairman of the Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education Subcommittee, and Rep. Bill Ford, Chairman of the Postsecondary Education Subcommittee.

### ACTION NEEDED:

The House Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee will develop its recommendations for funding library and other programs in markup sessions beginning May 10. If you have not yet contacted your Representative in support of increased funding for federal programs affecting your library, it's important to do so quickly by phone or mailgram. It is also crucial that all Senators hear from library supporters now. The Senate subcommittee will most likely act in early June after the full House Appropriations Committee has reported its bill. See the committee lists attached to the February 28 and March 14 newsletters. If your legislators are not members of Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittees, request that they write to the subcommittee chair to convey your message. The subcommittees are keeping track of how many members they hear from and on which programs, so your letters, and the action your Representatives and Senators take in response to your letters, are all-important. Please send blind copies of your letters and any responses to the ALA Washington Office.

### Higher Education Act Extension

Hearings are underway in the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee on reauthorization of the expiring Higher Education Act. On April 26 a panel of ALA witnesses supported continuation of HEA title II library programs as follows: David Bishop, Assistant Director for Technical Services, University of Chicago Libraries, and Chair of the ACRL Committee on Legislation, and Ann Turner, Librarian, Norwich University Library, Northfield, VT, on HEA II-A, College Library Resources; David Hessler, Professor, School of Library Science, University of Michigan, on HEA II-B, Library Training; Susan K. Schmidt, Head, Regional Library Service Center, Caldwell, OH, on HEA II-B, Library Research and Demonstrations; and Carlton C. Rochell, Dean of libraries, New York University, on HEA II-C, Strengthening Research Library Resources.

In his opening statement, Chairman Bill Ford (D-MI) noted that "we again unfortunately have to face the reality of the administration's less than enthusiastic support for funding these most worthwhile programs. I'm convinced," Ford continued, "that these programs are vital to the continued well being of many of the nation's higher education institutions." Ford returned again and again during the course of the hearing to the outlook for funding of existing programs for the coming year. How many college librarians are there in the U.S., he asked. If everyone of them contacted their legislators about funding for the college library program, it would "boggle their minds." He also cautioned the library community against weakening its case for funding by having supporters from different sizes and types of libraries press separately for their own special priorities.

#### Postal Legislation

The House Post Office and Civil Service Committee ordered reported the Postal Reform Act of 1979 (HR 79) by voice vote on April 25. The two postal subcommittees, Postal Operations and Services, and Postal Personnel and Modernization, had approved the bill on April 4. Although some minor amendments were added, the bill survived several attempts at major amendments, and an undocumented administration charge that the provision extending the fourth-class library rate to materials mailed from libraries and to the mailing of additional material such as catalogs of books, teaching aids, maps and other interpretative material would cost tens of millions of dollars. The committee's report on HR 79 is not yet available.

**ACTION NEEDED:** HR 79 is expected to reach the House floor withing the next month or so. Since several public service provisions of the bill--an increase in the public service subsidy, an extension of phased rate increases over a longer period of time, and the library provision noted above--will cost a little extra, some resistance may be expected. Write to your Representative urging support of the bill when it comes to the floor.

#### Department of Education

By a vote of 72-21, the Senate passed S. 210, President Carter's proposal to establish a separate cabinet-level Department of Education, on April 30. The Senate rejected by voice vote an amendment to the bill sponsored by Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-NY) which would have added some 80 educational activities located in other departments (all those listed in the catalog of federal education assistance programs). The Moynihan amendment included several Library of Congress services and the GPO depository library program.

Following closely on Senate passage, the House Government Operations Committee ordered its version, HR 2444, of the Department of Education legislation reported on May 2 by the slim margin of 20 to 19. The issuance of the committee report and House floor action are expected to follow shortly. **ACTION NEEDED:** Write to your Representative to urge support for HR 2444 when it comes to the floor.

#### Literacy

Sen. George McGovern (D-SD) and Rep. George Miller (D-CA) introduced on May 2 and 1, respectively, identical joint resolutions to establish a Commission on Literacy. The National Commission on Literacy Act (S.J. Res. 70 and H.J. Res 316) would establish a 15-member commission appointed by the President with representation from state, local and federal education institution personnel; public and private library staff and trustees; minority groups; labor, business, and industry; Congress; and educational experts. The Commission would make a "full and complete investigation with respect to illiteracy," including evaluation of governmental and private programs relating to illiteracy and recommendation of programs and policies to implement its findings. A report to the President and Congress would be due 18 months after the first meeting.

### LSCA Regulations

Final regulations for the Library Services and Construction Act were published in the April 23 Federal Register (pp. 23843-51). The regulations, which take effect June 13, implement the changes made by the Library Services and Construction Act Amendments of 1977 (PL 95-123). In addition, "the wording of the entire final regulations has been revised and simplified to make them easier to read and understand." Changes made by the 1977 amendments include an additional emphasis on strengthening major urban resource libraries. When appropriations for LSCA I exceed \$60 million, the amount in excess of \$60 million (not to exceed 50 percent of that excess) is to be reserved by the states for libraries serving cities of over 100,000, based on the ratio of the cities' population to the population of the entire state. Other new provisions include the requirement that federal funds spent for administration be matched with state or other non-federal funds, and that the base year from meeting maintenance of effort requirements for services for handicapped and institutionalized persons be changed to the second preceding fiscal year.

### ESEA Basic Skills Regulations

Proposed regulations for the Basic Skills and Educational Proficiency Programs established by the Education Amendments of 1978--ESEA titles II and IX-B as amended by PL 95-561--were published in the April 27 Federal Register (pp. 25148-57). School library/media specialists should note the potential for library involvement in many of these programs. Comments on the proposed regulations are due by June 26 to: Thomas M. Keyes, USOE, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W. (Donohoe Bldg. Rm. 1150), Washington, D.C. 20202 (202/245-2710). Public meetings on the proposed regs will be held between May 7 and May 10 in the HEW regional office cities. See the FR notice for the specific time and place, and name and phone number of the appropriate person to contact.

### Title 44 Revision

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to the Joint Committee on Printing on Revision of Title 44 held its last meeting to accept the draft of the Advisory Committee's final report on May 4. Copies of the report are expected to be available about May 21 from: Joint Committee on Printing, Rm. S-151, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20510. A "major bill", as it is termed by JCP staff, will probably be introduced by June 1. Few details are available yet, but the bill will be a complete rewrite of the law governing government printing and the depository library system, that is, Chapters 1-19 of Title 44, except Chapter 15 (Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations). Hearings have been scheduled for June 12, 14, 19, and 21, with the 26th and 28th as backup dates. Since the JCP does not have legislative jurisdiction, the hearings are being held by the House Committee on Administration's Subcommittee on Printing.

A revised ALA statement was sent to the JCP on April 6, updating the earlier version of November 6, 1978, in which ALA spelled out recommended changes in the public printing and documents statutes. In sum, the April 6 statement called for increased accessibility of federal information in all its formats, a centralized national depository of last resort, improved bibliographic control of government information products, and the separation of the printing function from the distribution function with the goal of improved support of public access via the sales and depository programs.

### National Historical Publications and Records Commission

On April 30, the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights held a hearing on reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Immediately following the hearing, the subcommittee approved for full Government operations committee action a two-year extension (HR 3923) authorizing \$4 million each year for grants for the preservation and publication of historical records.

On April 27 ALA submitted a statement to Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-NC), subcommittee chair, in support of NHPRC extension as recommended in the 1978 NHPRC Report to the President. This report (which has not yet gone to the printer), which was approved by the Commission's parent organizations, the National Archives and Records Service and the General Services Administration, recommended a three-year extension with authorizations of \$6, \$7, and \$8 million for fiscal years, 1980, 1981 and 1982 respectively. The proposal in the report would also allow the Commission's operating expenses (currently running about \$500,000) to come out of funds appropriated to NHPRC instead of being carried by the National Archives, and would make other technical changes.

President Carter acknowledged the report, but proposed legislation to Congress which would retain the current \$4 million per year authorization, although accepting most other changes recommended by the Commission. Meanwhile Rep. Jack Brooks (D-TX), Government Operations Committee Chair, introduced HR 3717, a simple five-year extension with no increase in funding. The subcommittee, although expressing strong support for NHPRC activities, felt that this was not the year to try for an increased authorization. They settled on a simple two-year extension recommendation, hoping that the climate would be better in two years for another attempt at expanding the NHPRC authorization.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Librarians who have received NHPRC grants or who are interested in preservation grants are urged to write to members of both the House Government Operations Committee and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee (see attached lists) expressing support for NHPRC activities and explaining why the current \$4 million per year is not adequate to meet the great need for identification and preservation of materials of historical interest. Action on the Senate side is expected soon; it is not yet known whether the full Senate Governmental Affairs Committee or one of its subcommittees will handle NHPRC reauthorization.

#### Copyright - Off-Air Taping

A copyright Off-Air Taping Conference was held March 2 by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice with the cooperation of the Register of Copyrights. ALA members Phil Baker, Library/Media Center Coordinator, Stamford (CT) Public Schools; Lynne Bradley, Video Librarian, District of Columbia Public Library; and Judy Sessions, Learning Resource Center Director, Mt. Vernon College, Washington, D.C.; testified on off-air taping for educational purposes in libraries. Following up on this meeting, Rep. Robert Kastenmeier (D-WI), subcommittee chair, asked 18 individuals representing a cross section of affected groups to constitute an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines on fair use for broadcast audiovisual works. The ad hoc committee's first meeting was held April 27. Members elected a chair, Eileen Cooke of the ALA Washington Office, and a co-chair, Leonard Wasser of the Writers Guild of America, East. Librarians who have suggestions to make concerning copyright and off-air taping for educational purposes should contact the ALA Washington Office.

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96th Congress, 1st Session

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(See over for Senate Committee  
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96th Congress, 1st Session

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