



# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



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### Appropriations, FY 1980

The House Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee completed markup of the FY 1980 Labor-HEW appropriations bill on May 16. In marked contrast to recent "government in the sunshine" years, the subcommittee under Rep. William Natcher's (D-KY) leadership voted 8-4 to close the meeting to the public, press, and lobbyists. After completing their work members then voted unanimously not to release the figures decided on until June 4, the date of the full Appropriations Committee markup.

While no official figures are available, this secretive situation has generated a spate of rumors. We believe that most library programs were held at the FY 1979 level, which would be a considerable improvement over President Carter's budget. However, the Higher Education Act title II-B library training and demonstration program was apparently cut from last year's level by \$1 or \$2 million.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Library educators and others concerned about funding of the II-B library training and demonstration programs should contact members of the full House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee. (See February 28 and March 14 newsletters for lists.) Urge that the House subcommittee recommendation not be followed but that funds for II-B be restored to the FY 1979 level of \$3 million or better. The timetable is as follows: House full committee action on June 4, House floor action shortly after, Senate subcommittee markup shortly after that.

### Postal Legislation

The House Post Office and Civil Service Committee issued its report (H. Rept. 96-126) on HR 79, the Postal Reform Act of 1979, on May 8. **ACTION NEEDED:** There is still time to contact your Representative to urge support of the bill when it comes to the floor shortly after the Memorial Day recess period (May 25-30).

\* \* \* \* \*

VISIT YOUR LEGISLATORS AT HOME DURING THE MEMORIAL DAY RECESS,  
THROUGH MAY 29 IN THE HOUSE AND THROUGH JUNE 3 IN THE SENATE.

Appropriations, FY 1980 - Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, which had requested approximately \$193 million for FY 1980, would have that amount reduced to \$177.5 million if the recommendations of the House Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee are upheld. The subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Adam Benjamin (D-IN), held a markup session on the Legislative Appropriations bill on May 3. The areas of the Library which would be hardest hit by the subcommittee recommendations are Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Copyright Office, and purchase of books.

The budget request for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) was a no-growth \$36.9 million, up only marginally over the \$36.7 million provided in the FY 1979 Legislative Appropriations bill. However, funds for NLS were reduced by \$2.6 million last year to help achieve a 5 percent cut in LC spending as required by an amendment to the FY 1979 funding bill. This cut was not to affect the base from which LC figured its FY 1980 budget request. Nevertheless, the subcommittee recommended a \$2.6 million cut for NLS for FY 1980, a reduction which would definitely affect services to blind and handicapped library users across the country. For the Copyright Office, 66 newly-proposed positions and three existing positions were eliminated by the House subcommittee. The LC book purchase request was reduced by \$647,000, which is \$100,755 less than was available last year.

**ACTION NEEDED:** The next decision points on the LC budget are the full House Appropriations Committee which is expected to take action on its subcommittee's recommendations early in June, and the Senate Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee which will probably meet shortly after that. Concerned librarians should write to Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-MS), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and to Sen. James Sasser (D-TN), Chairman of the Senate Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee. Write to your own legislators as well, particularly if they are members of the House committee or the Senate subcommittee (see February 28 and March 14 newsletters for lists). It is especially important to make the point that the \$2.6 million cut from Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped by the House subcommittee should be restored, but not at the expense of other essential LC programs.

Department of Education

The House Government Operations Committee issued its report (H. Rept. 96-143) on the bill (HR 2444) to establish a separate Department of Education on May 14. The measure is expected to reach the House floor early in June. A number of House members are still undecided on the issue, and the vote is expected to be close. **ACTION NEEDED:** Contact your Representative to urge support of HR 2444. Point out that the measure includes a clear prohibition against federal control of education, that it will require no additional expenditures--the cost of setting up the department will be offset by the elimination of duplicate positions and functions. See the January 29 newsletter for the text of the resolution supporting a Department of Education adopted by ALA Council at Midwinter.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission

The House extended the authorization for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for two years at the current level of \$4 million by passing HR 3923 by voice vote on May 21. Earlier, on May 11, the House Government Operations Committee chaired by Sen. Jack Brooks (D-TX) issued its report (H. Rept. 96-141) on the bill. As Rep. Thomas Kindness (R-OH) noted on the House floor (May 21 Congressional Record p. H3479, daily edition): "There was considerable sentiment in the Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee to increase the amount authorized for the Commission. In light of the current efforts to restrain Government spending in this time of inflation, I believe the committee correctly decided not to change the program authorization amount. The period of authorization, however, was reduced to 2 years instead of 4 years so that the committee could conduct an early review of the Commission's needs."

### Congressional Budget Resolution

By a vote of 144-260 on May 23, the House defeated the conference report (H. Rept. 96-211) on H. Con. Res. 107, the first congressional budget resolution for FY 1980. The conference version was a disappointment for library and education supporters, so its defeat is a promising sign. In overall budget targets for Function 500 which includes education, training and social service programs, the conference report included \$30.5 billion, much closer to the Senate-passed figure of \$29.1 billion than to the House-passed amount of \$32.3 billion and lower than the President's request of \$30.9 billion. The House action recommits the report to conference where the amount in Function 500 can be reconsidered. (See February 28 newsletter for background on congressional budget process.) If the conference version had passed, it would probably have required cuts in the Labor-HEW appropriations bill so that it would be in compliance with the budget resolution.

### National Library Act

The National Library Act, a legislative proposal initiated by the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries, was introduced May 14 as a study bill, S. 1124, by Senators Jacob Javits (R-NY) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA). The National Citizens Emergency Committee was founded in 1976 in response to the crisis in library funding; Whitney North Seymour, Jr., a New York Public Library Trustee, is Secretary. The proposal is also endorsed by the Urban Libraries Council. Introduced "to provide a focal point for debating the key issues for proposed new library legislation in connection with the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, "S. 1124 would replace the Library Services and Construction Act with an expanded program of aid to public libraries administered by a new National Library Agency with a presidentially-appointed director and board.

The bill would provide for direct financial assistance to public libraries for operating expenses on a matching 20 percent federal, 50 percent state, 30 percent local basis. In additional titles of the bill it would continue public library construction assistance, establish grants for services to special constituencies, assist interlibrary cooperation including development and maintenance of library and information networks, and fund special training programs for library personnel to supplement HEA II-B programs.

According to Sen. Javits (see May 14 Congressional Record, pp. S5789-5800, daily edition), "these and other issues will not be finally resolved until after there has been an opportunity to discuss them fully at the White House conference. Our objective in filing this bill is to help stimulate such discussion and give it focus. Every provision of the bill is subject to deletion, revision, refinement, or expansion after the members of the general public and the library community have had a full opportunity to be heard."

### ESEA IV Proposed Regulations

A notice of proposed rulemaking concerning revised regulations for Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was published in the May 14 Federal Register (pp. 28238-56). The proposed regulations implement changes made by the Education Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-561) and clarify existing provisions; they should be examined carefully by school library/media specialists.

Among the issues covered are changes in the formula for distribution of IV-B funds, special indirect cost rates, participation of private school children, clarification of the use of IV-B funds, maintenance of effort requirements, state requirements concerning advisory councils, monitoring and enforcement, and evaluation. The proposed regs must be used together with the title IV statute (included as an appendix), the proposed title V State Leadership regs, and the proposed Education Division General Administrative Regulations (see following article on EDGAR).

Comments on the ESEA IV proposed regulations are due by July 13. To comment on IV-B, Instructional Materials and School Library Resources, contact Louise V. Sutherland, School Media Resources Branch (room 3125-B, ROB-3), 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202 (202/245-2488). There will be public meetings in each of the ten HEW regions on June 19, 9:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00-5:00 p.m., and 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact the appropriate regional commissioner (location, name and phone number given in the notice) to make arrangements to comment.

#### EDGAR Proposed Regulations

Proposed regulations which will replace the General Provisions for Office of Education Program Regulations, implement changes to the General Education Provisions Act required by the Education Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-561), and consolidate common elements from all Education Division program regulations, were published in the May 4 Federal Register (pp. 26298-26400). Called the Education Division General Administrative Regulations, or EDGAR, they apply to direct grant and state-administered programs, but not to fellowship programs or student financial assistance except for EDGAR definitions which apply to all Education Division programs.

There are both advantages and disadvantages to the proposed regulations. They are written in much plainer language and in a logical order, and some requirements have been simplified. For instance, for state-administered programs a single consolidated state application for three years rather than one is proposed. For direct grants, only an original and two copies of an application would be required. However, the number of documents which must be consulted to apply for a grant is increased under the proposed rules. Additional requirements are imposed by 45 CFR Part 74, HEW's Administrative Regulations for the Administration of Grants. These requirements are adopted by reference in EDGAR, rather than being repeated. Part 74 is attached to the proposed regs, but will not be attached to the final rule although an index will be included.

To avoid further duplication, EDGAR itself will be incorporated by reference in all new program regulations, as in the proposed ESEA IV regulations (see above article). Thus, to apply for a grant, one would need the applicable statute, the individual program regulations, EDGAR, Part 74, and the notice of the Education Division's application closing dates.

Certain policy issues have been identified on which public comments are particularly desired. The options considered are given including the option adopted in the proposed regs. These issues are 1) affirmative action, 2) participation of private school children, 3) general selection criteria for direct grant programs, 4) copyright policy, and 5) cooperative agreements.

Only a limited number of copies of the proposed regulations are currently available, but it is expected that more will be printed. For further information or to submit comments which are due by July 3, contact: Dr. Marcel DuVall, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W. (Room 508, Reporters Building), Washington, D.C. 20202 (202/472-7773). In addition, workshops and hearings will be held during the first two weeks of June in each of the HEW regional cities. Contact the appropriate regional commissioner (location, date and time, name and phone number given in the notice) to make arrangements to attend or comment. Please send copies of comments on EDGAR or ESEA IV proposed regs to the ALA Washington Office.

STATUS OF LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO LIBRARIANS  96th Congress, 1st Session  Convened January 15, 1979  Chart Date: May 23, 1979	HOUSE					SENATE					FINAL ACTION		
	Introduced	Hearings Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report Number	Floor Action		Introduced	Hearings Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report Number	Floor Action		Conference Report	Final Passage	Public Law
Communications Act Revision	HR 3333	X				S 611, 622	X						
Congressional Budget Targets-FY 1980	H Con Res 107	X	95	X		S Con Res 22	X	68	X	211			
Department of Education	HR 2444	X	143			S 210	X	49	X				
Higher Education Act extension		X											
LC Madison Bldg-auth. addit. funds	HR 3846	X											
Literacy Commission	HJ Res 316					SJ Res 70							
Lobbying Disclosure	HR 81	X											
NEH reauthorization													
NHPRC extension	HR 3923	X	X	141	X								
National Library Act						S 1129							
National Science Foundation Authorization	HR 2729	X	X	61	X	S 527	X	X	106	X			
Postal Reform Act of 1979	HR 79	X	X	126									
Privacy Legislation	HR 2465 et al					S 865,867							
Revenue Sharing extension	HR 2291	X				S 513,263							
Taxation-artistic & literary donations	HR 2498					S 1078							
Taxation-Independent Research Libraries						S 1094							
Taxation-nonprofit organizations	HR 990, 1710												
Urban Universities	HR 3181												

For bills, reports & laws write: House & Senate Doc. Rms., U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515 & 20510 respectively.