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WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



BOX 54, 110 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002 • TEL. 202-547-4440
TWX 710-822-1976 ISSN: 0001-1746

Vol. 32

July 29, 1980

No. 9

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Higher Education Act Extension

House-Senate conferees on HR 5192, the Higher Education Act extension bill, have been meeting to resolve differences between the two versions, but have not yet completed work. The next meeting is expected to be during the week of August 18 after the Democratic Convention recess. Decisions reached so far on title II library programs include acceptance of the House amendments to II-A (raising the college library basic grant authorization to \$10,000) and II-B (expanding II-B to a three-part program of library training, research and demonstrations, and special purpose grants). Both versions continue the II-C research library program unchanged.

Conferees agreed to the Senate version of the new II-D, which would authorize a National Periodical System Corporation to design a system which would require congressional approval before implementation. Conferees also retained the trigger provision from the House version, which means that funds for the periodical system study could not be appropriated unless the other title II programs were funded at FY 1979 levels -- that is, \$9.975 million for II-A, \$3 million for II-B, and \$6 million for II-C.

Still unresolved is the question of authorization levels for the existing title II programs. House and Senate levels are compared in the table below:

	<u>House Authorizations</u>	<u>Senate Authorizations</u>
HEA II-A	\$60 million per year	\$10.5 to 18.2 million over 5 years
HEA II-B	\$60 million per year	\$ 4.5 to 7.8 million over 5 years
HEA II-C	\$20 million per year	\$ 8 to 14 million over 5 years

Appropriations, FY 1981 - Library of Congress

A bare-bones budget for the Library of Congress became even barer July 21 when the House passed HR 7593, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for FY 1981 after agreeing to a two percent across-the-board cut offered by Rep. Clarence Miller (R-OH). The Library requested \$196,526,000; the House-passed bill would provide \$176,844,000, \$4.4 million less than the FY 1980 funding level of \$181,264,000.

Even before the two percent cut was added, the bill did not allow any of the 146 additional positions LC requested; it goes the other direction and requires a reduction of 120 positions from the current level. The two percent cut will require additional positions to be eliminated, not all of which can be handled by attrition. While the federal civilian work force accounts for about 10 percent of the federal budget, for the Library of Congress, personnel costs are about 60 percent of the budget. The Miller amendment specifies that the overall two percent reduction may not exceed 5 percent for any particular appropriation account, activity and project.

Rep. Adam Benjamin (D-IN), Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee Chair, called the Miller amendment "a meat-ax approach" in a bill which already contained "the largest reductions ever proposed for the legislative branch." Because most legislative branch obligations are mandated by law and therefore exempted from the two percent cut, it would fall hardest on agencies like the Library of Congress. However, he ended by giving his reasons for accepting the amendment:

Having explained that the gentleman's amendment is unnecessary, and perhaps unwise, I reluctantly accept the amendment on the thesis that it will compel this body to examine any requests for supplemental appropriations with greater sensitivity. Hopefully, it will also mandate greater productivity -- a source of subcommittee concern. Finally, it will force the legislative branch to reexamine its priorities. (July 22 Congressional Record, p. H6310, daily edition.)

ACTION NEEDED: In this election year, Congress wants to make an example of itself and show that it can lead the way in cutting its own budget. Unfortunately, LC's services to the nation's library community may suffer as a result. The Senate Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee will probably not act on this bill until after the Democratic Convention, which should give library supporters at least until August 17, perhaps longer, to contact this subcommittee. Members are Senators James Sasser (D-TN), Chair; Dale Bumpers (D-AR), John Durkin (D-NH), Ted Stevens (R-AK), and Richard Schweiker (R-PA).

Inform these members quickly about the importance of the Library of Congress to the nation's libraries, including your own. Be specific about the cataloging and other services LC provides. If your library contributes cataloging to LC's data bases, that point is important to mention also. You may want to include with your letter a copy of the resolution just passed on July 3 by the ALA Council at the New York Conference in support of adequate funding for LC. A copy is attached to this newsletter.

Appropriations, FY 1981 - Government Printing Office

The two percent cut in the Legislative Appropriations Bill (HR 7593) described above will also affect the Government Printing Office. The budget request for GPO's Superintendent of Documents for FY 1981 was \$26.2 million. The House-passed bill would take the funding level below the FY 1980 amount of \$23 million.

The House adopted an amendment proposed on the House floor by Rep. Silvio Conte (R-MA) to prohibit the use of funds to distribute government publications to the Soviet Union, Cuba or Iran. The House on June 3 passed a bill (HR 7302) transferring responsibility for the international exchange of U.S. government publications from the Smithsonian Institution to the Government Printing Office. The Library of Congress is the recipient of foreign materials sent in return. Sen. James Sasser (D-TN), Senate Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee Chair, had expressed his concern several times in the Congressional Record (see the June 30 ALA Washington Newsletter for details) about the wisdom of sending publications of a military and defense nature to hostile nations. However, the Conte amendment to the House bill was unexpected. It was passed by voice vote.

ACTION NEEDED: Contact Senate Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee members and inform them of the importance of obtaining information from foreign governments, especially those governments where publishing is State controlled and the material is difficult to obtain through commercial sources.

Appropriations, FY 1981

In this most political of years, Congress has been ignoring its own timetables and breaking its own rules on budget and appropriations matters. The House Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee has not yet made its recommendations on library and education funding for FY 1981. This leaves more time for library supporters to make their views known. There is serious concern in Congress among the staunchest library champions about the ability of the library community to support funding for the Higher Education Act title II programs especially. Apparently the trigger mechanism was retained by HEA conferees on the periodical system provision because of strong feelings on the House side that the library community must pull together on title II, and that the II-A college library and II-B training and demonstration programs have been abandoned by parts of the academic library community.

ACTION NEEDED: All parts of the library community have a stake in seeing that the II-A and B program funding is raised from the current level of \$4.9 million and \$1 million respectively to the FY 1979 levels of \$9.9 million and \$3 million. Academic librarians, and other librarians who make use of academic and research libraries as back-up resources should support adequate II-A funding. The interest of all librarians in federal support under II-B for recruiting additional minority librarians and for research and demonstrations in a time of rapidly-changing information technology should be obvious. See the March 5 newsletter for lists of House and Senate Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittees, and let these members know of your support.

Appropriations, FY 1980 - Supplemental and Rescissions

Congress approved July 2 a bill (HR 7542) providing supplemental appropriations for FY 1980 (mainly in the areas of increased pay costs and emergency funding) and rescinding certain funds already appropriated for FY 1980. The bill, signed by President Carter on July 8 and now PL 96-304, is based on a complex array of administration-proposed supplemental appropriations, supplemental amendments, transfers, deferrals, and rescissions. Although Congress did not meet the 45 day deadline for acting on proposed rescissions, it went along with some rescissions, rejected others, and included some new ones.

Library programs affected include the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for which \$26,000 was requested to cover part of the cost of underpayment of postage in FY 1976-79 and a reestimate of 1980 postage. Neither chamber approved this request, but both did approve an \$18,000 request for increased pay costs. For the National Library of Medicine, supplemental funding of \$544,000 was requested for increased pay costs, together with a \$500,000 reduction for the Toxicology Information Program. House and Senate denied both, meaning no specific cut in the toxicology area, but the increased pay costs must be absorbed somehow.

Other programs affected include the new ESEA IV-D guidance, counselling and testing program -- the bill rescinds the entire \$18 million as proposed by the President. Congress also went along with the requested rescission of the \$1 million HEW telecommunications demonstration program. HR 7542 includes a requested deferral until FY 1981 of \$203 million for CETA VI public service jobs, reducing the number of jobs from 200,000 to 149,000, to be accomplished through a hiring freeze.

Some proposed rescissions were not accepted by Congress. Both House and Senate rejected a \$3 million rescission in Educational Information Center funds. The House approved a \$55 million reduction (from \$197.4 to \$142.4 million) in ESEA IV-C support and innovation grants, but the Senate did not agree and IV-C survived intact. The Senate eliminated \$143 million in state revenue sharing, which was accepted by House conferees, but after reconsidering, the funding was restored.

Federal Information Policy

ALA submitted comments July 16 to the Office of Management and Budget concerning the proposed circular, "Improved Management and Dissemination of Federal Information," published in the June 9 Federal Register (pp. 38461-63). The ALA letter transmitted a resolution passed July 3 by ALA Council at the New York Conference recommending certain changes in the proposed circular -- a broadening of the definition of "public information," the addition of an appeal mechanism to resolve disputes, and urging the utilization of libraries for dissemination of federal government information beyond the use of the depository library system. A copy of the resolution is attached to this newsletter.

Paperwork Reduction Act

On July 28 ALA sent a letter to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-CT), Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, transmitting an ALA Council-passed resolution regarding the House-passed version of the Paperwork Reduction Act (HR 6410). The resolution, passed on July 3 at the New York Conference, supports the principle of paperwork reduction but also 1) notes the importance of urging compliance with existing policies and laws regarding access to government information, 2) opposes the concentration of authority for federal information policy in the Office of Management and Budget without a publicly-accountable oversight body, and 3) urges that OMB consult with the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Joint Committee on Printing, and the Federal Library Committee. A copy of the resolution is attached. The Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Practices and Open Government is expected to approve the bill informally, so that full consideration can be undertaken by the full committee, which might act before the August 7 recess.

National Library and Information Services Act

The ALA Council passed a resolution at the New York Conference on July 3 supporting the concepts of the National Library and Information Services Act (S. 2859), urging that public hearings be held and that ALA members make their views known at such hearings. A copy of the resolution is attached. A revised version of the National Library Act (S. 1124), S. 2859, was introduced by Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY) on June 20 as a replacement for the Library Services and Construction Act. The text was attached to the June 30 newsletter. The ALA Washington Office is interested in receiving reactions to or comments on the provisions of S. 2859.

RESOLUTION ON FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress serves a dual role as the library for the Congress and the nation, and
- WHEREAS, Congress has long generously shared its library with citizens of the United States whether students or scholars or librarians, and
- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress has provided bibliographic cataloging information for the nation's libraries since 1901, and
- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress has created automated bibliographic data bases central to providing access needed by all citizens to information and materials for further education, and
- WHEREAS, Creation of these data bases and the sharing of bibliographic information has resulted in economic savings in cataloging and other costs for school, public and academic libraries, at a time when costs faced by libraries are increasing at a rate greater than the general rate of inflation, and
- WHEREAS, Over 600,000 blind and physically handicapped citizens depend on the Library of Congress for talking books and other materials to bring them the latest news and current books, and
- WHEREAS, The Library of Congress serves as the major center providing research materials from all over the world for Congress and for citizen-scholars, and
- WHEREAS, The reduction of the services of the Library of Congress would handicap not only the Congress but also thousands of libraries and the citizens they serve throughout the country; now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association strongly urge that Congress maintain its current level of support in appropriations for the Library of Congress and that it call to the attention of the Senate and House the importance of the Library of Congress as a major contributor to the efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's libraries as a major co-operating partner in meeting the nation's information needs.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
New York, New York, July 3, 1980

RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED OMB CIRCULAR AS PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER,
vol. 45, no. 112, Monday, June 9, 1980, pp. 38461-38463.

- WHEREAS, The American Library Association consistently supports free access to government information as defined in the U.S. Code, Title 44, which encompasses all information published at government expense, including material for administrative and operational purposes which has public interest or educational value, and
- WHEREAS, The White House Conference on Library and Information Services has passed resolutions encouraging free citizen access to information through libraries as well as encouraging support and expansion of regional and local depository libraries providing access to government information, and
- WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget has published a proposed circular for the purpose of regulating the management and dissemination of information held by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government which is produced or created with federal funding, and
- WHEREAS, This proposed circular defines as public information only that material which the issuing agency itself actively seeks to disseminate or otherwise make available to the public, and
- WHEREAS, The above definition may seriously restrict the kind of materials distributed to libraries and the public, and
- WHEREAS, The proposed circular provides no appeal from an internal agency decision which limits public distribution, now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support the concept of improved management in the implementation of existing laws and regulations governing the dissemination of government information, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support a change in the definition of public information in the proposed circular which will provide for public access to information produced at government expense as defined in Title 44, U.S. Code, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association supports an addition to the proposed circular requiring all agencies to utilize the nation's library system for the dissemination of government information, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support an amendment to the proposed circular to create an appeal mechanism to prevent the limitation of information available to the public, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association convey these positions to the Office of Management and Budget and the appropriate congressional committees before July 25, 1980, and encourage its chapters and members to do the same.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
New York, New York, July 3, 1980

RESOLUTION REGARDING H.R. 6410, A BILL TO REDUCE PAPERWORK

WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 6410, a bill to reduce paperwork and enhance the economy and efficiency of the Government and the private sector by improving Federal information policymaking and for other purposes, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Federal Spending Practices and Open Government is presently considering incorporating provisions of H.R. 6410 in Senate bill 1411, for the same purpose, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 6410 is vague in its reference to established policies and activities of such other concerned agencies as the Library of Congress, the Government Printing Office, or the National Bureau of Standards, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 6410 does not specifically address compliance with the public access and distribution requirements for government information through the sales and depository library programs as provided for in Chapter 19 of Title 44, U.S. Code, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 6410 assigns to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget complete authority to develop and implement Federal information management policies, principles, standards and guidelines which would govern the collection, use and dissemination of information by executive agencies, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support the principle of paperwork reduction in the federal government, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge compliance with established policies and existing laws which ensure full and free public access to government information, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association oppose the concentration of authority in the Office of Management and Budget to govern the collection, use and dissemination of information by executive agencies without a publicly-accountable oversight committee or commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge that the Office of Management and Budget consult with the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Joint Committee on Printing, the Federal Library Committee and other concerned federal agencies in the development of policies and plans for the collection, use and dissemination of government information, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association convey these concerns to the U.S. Congress and encourage the American Library Association chapters and members to support this position.

RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES ACT, S. 2859

WHEREAS, Libraries and information services are urgently in need of adequate funding and support if they are to fulfill their critical role in today's information-based society, and

WHEREAS, The National Library and Information Services Act, S. 2859, is responsive to the resolutions of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services and the national legislative program of the American Library Association as adopted in Chicago on January 24, 1980, and

WHEREAS, Continued support and adequate funding of the Library Services and Construction Act is necessary until such time as other legislation replaces it; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the American Library Association reaffirms its support for the concepts of a National Library and Information Services Act as contained in S. 2859, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the American Library Association continues its support for adequate funding of the Library Services and Construction Act until such time as it is replaced by other legislation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the American Library Association supports the proposed public hearings on S. 2859 and urges its members to make their views known at such hearings in order to strengthen and improve the proposed legislation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the American Library Association expresses its appreciation to the sponsors for the introduction of S. 2859, the National Library and Information Services Act.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
New York, New York, July 3, 1980