



# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



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### Balanced Budget Amendment to Constitution

A major threat to federal funding for education and library programs as well as to many other domestic programs has arisen quite suddenly--a proposed constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget on an annual basis. Balanced budget amendments are currently being debated on the Senate floor (S J Res. 58, S. Rept. 97-151), and may soon be considered by the full House (H J Res 350).

The constitutional amendment would require that federal outlays not exceed receipts. The percentage rise in tax revenues would be limited to the previous year's percentage increase in national income. A majority vote in both Houses would be sufficient to raise taxes further, but a super majority of 60 percent of both Houses would be required to unbalance the budget. A waiver would be provided only in the case of a congressional declaration of war.

The disadvantages of such a constitutional amendment are many--starting with the dubious wisdom of tying the Constitution to the imprecise science or art of economic forecasting. It would erode the concept of separation of powers. Precise definitions of many terms and concepts are not included, but the amendment would seem to give the President impoundment powers and a line item veto, would undoubtedly lead to endless litigation, and would unwisely involve the courts in economic policy. The super majority requirement would effectively preclude Congress from reacting to such problems as depression, inflation, natural disasters or national security emergencies short of a formal declaration of war.

Several nonpartisan studies have pointed out that such a balanced budget amendment, by tying future growth to immediate past experience, would have deepened past recessions, increased unemployment, and in some cases, worsened inflation. Since defense spending and some other benefit programs would still have very high priority, social programs such as education and library assistance could be totally wiped out. If the aim is to lower deficits, Congress can do so under current law, or could increase its incentives to do so by statutory amendments to congressional budget procedures rather than by a constitutional amendment.

Both pending resolutions were introduced last year, but action was not generally expected in this Congress. However, President Reagan recently lent his support and prestige to a balanced budget amendment, despite the fact that his own budget was rejected by Congress because of its high deficit, and the Office of Management and Budget had earlier pointed out serious flaws, including the inherent bias of balanced budget amendments toward higher taxes rather than lower spending. Many state governments require a balanced budget, and 31 states have called for a balanced federal budget. However, balanced state budgets are required only for current accounts, not for capital expenditures as would be required at the federal level. In addition, the federal government has defense and counter-cyclical responsibilities not held by states.

The Senate is expected to pass S J Res 58. In the House, 171 Members have signed a discharge petition which, if signed by 219, would force H J Res 350 out of committee for a floor vote. Many Representatives do not realize that the discharge petition includes a closed rule which means one up or down vote with no opportunity for amendments. There have been no hearings on the resolution in the House.

ACTION NEEDED: Frustrated by the difficulties of dealing with the budget, many Members of Congress feel popular support is building for the simplistic solution of a constitutional balanced-budget amendment. Thoughtful objections have been raised by institutions, organizations, agencies, columnists and legislators of all persuasions -- conservative and liberal, Democrat and Republican. However, constituent mail so far is running heavily in favor of the amendment. ALA has not yet had an opportunity to take a position on a balanced budget amendment, but individual library supporters may want to contact their legislators immediately to urge they not support a constitutional balanced budget amendment, but conduct hearings and explore other approaches to fiscal responsibility. Urge Representatives not to sign the discharge petition.

#### Appropriations, FY 1982 Supplemental

After vetoing two earlier versions (HR 5922 and HR 6682) as too costly, President Reagan signed on July 18 a third (HR 6685) and pared-down version of the FY 1982 urgent supplemental appropriation bill. Now PL 97-216, the measure includes urgently needed salary funds for several agencies through the end of the fiscal year. Lost in the paring-down process was \$6.5 million in additional operating expenses for the National Archives. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting received an additional \$24.4 million, raising the amount appropriated in advance for FY 1984 to \$130 million, compared to \$137 million for FY 1983.

The amount of additional postal subsidy was reduced from \$62 to \$42 million in the final version, but that will still be sufficient to reduce the library rate from phased rate step 14 to step 13 (see following story) as it was before July 6. Sens. Quentin Burdick (D-ND) and Ted Stevens (R-AK) should be thanked by library supporters, especially their own constituents, for their key roles obtaining the additional postal subsidy. PL 97-216 also includes a provision repealing language enacted during the reconciliation process last year which applied any shortfall in revenue foregone first to the third class nonprofit rate, thus helping to protect other subsidized rates such as the library rate and free matter for the blind.

#### Postal Rate Decrease

As a result of the recent urgent supplemental passed by Congress and signed by the President (see preceding story), the amount of money available to support subsidized postage rates has increased. Therefore, subsidized rates will be reduced effective July 28. These reductions should hold through September 30, the end of the fiscal year. What happens after that depends on the amount of postal subsidy Congress provides for FY 1983. For phased rates, the July 28 reduction will mean a return to

step 13 which was in effect prior to July 6. For third-class bulk nonprofit rates, the basic minimum rate per piece will drop from 5.9¢ to 4.9¢. For the fourth-class library rate, the decrease is shown below:

<u>Library Rate</u>	<u>Step 13 as of 1/10/82</u>	<u>Step 14 as of 7/6/82</u>	<u>Back to step 13 as of 7/28/82</u>
First pound	32¢	35¢	32¢
Each addit. lb. through 7 lbs.	11¢	12¢	11¢
Each addit. lb.	7¢	7¢	7¢

Library mailers should note that the U. S. Postal Service has procedures for refunds if mailings after July 27 already have postage affixed at the old higher rate.

#### Postage Stamp for "America's Libraries"

The 20¢ commemorative stamp honoring "America's Libraries" was issued at a first day of issue ceremony July 13 at ALA's 101st annual conference in Philadelphia during the city's 300th birthday year. Among the distinguished guests on the platform were Betty Stone, ALA President, who made brief remarks; her husband Thomas Stone, Pastor Emeritus of the National Presbyterian Church, who gave the invocation; Keith Doms, Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, who made welcoming remarks; and Jane Kennedy, General Manager of the Library Division, U. S. Postal Service Headquarters, who gave the major address. As Betty Stone noted, the issuing circumstances were fortuitous. Philadelphia was the city of the founding in 1876 of ALA, and the city of the founding in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin of the Library Company of Philadelphia, the forerunner of America's public library movement. Franklin was also the first postmaster of the U. S., and before that served as Philadelphia's postmaster. As long as demand exists, USPS will continue to print the library stamp. ASK FOR IT AT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE. See an attachment to this newsletter for information on ordering first day covers.

#### Taxation - Manuscript Donations

Supporters of the effort to restore a fair market value tax deduction for donations of literary, musical or artistic compositions by their creators to libraries and museums received a major, though temporary, setback early this month when the pending bill, S. 2225, was not attached to a larger tax bill being developed in the Senate Finance Committee. Although a majority of Finance Committee members strongly supported the bill, its main sponsor, Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), felt that because no revenue-losing provisions were passing as amendments to the main revenue-raising measure, it was best not to offer S. 2225 rather than risk a negative vote. Instead, Sen. Baucus will attempt to solidify support and look for another vehicle to which to attach his bill.

Supporters of the bill include ALA, the Association of Research Libraries, the Librarian of Congress, the Independent Research Libraries Association, the Association of American Publishers, the Council of Creative Artists, Libraries, and Museums, the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, the American Association of Museums, numerous art organizations, and the Reagan-appointed Presidential Task Force on the Arts and Humanities. The effort to restore the tax deduction will continue.

#### Equal Rights Amendment

The deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U. S. Constitution expired June 30, three states short of the 38 needed. On July 14, 200 Members of the House and 51 Senators reintroduced the ERA. H J Res 533 was introduced by Rep. Peter Rodino (D-NJ) with particular leadership by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO); S J Res 213 was introduced by Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-MA).

## Telecommunications

Common Carrier. House telecommunications subcommittee Chairman Timothy Wirth (D-CO) has abandoned efforts to push HR 5158, the Telecommunications Act of 1981, through to completion this year. The bill had been approved unanimously by the subcommittee in March, and was in the process of markup by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Wirth stunned a markup audience July 20 by announcing that the "only way to pass legislation now would be to accept an agreement dictated by AT&T." The committee adjourned after Wirth read his prepared statement.

Following the January 8 announcement by the Justice Department of a proposed AT&T antitrust settlement, Wirth revised his bill to impose additional restrictions on AT&T in an effort to protect consumers from severe rate increases and to ensure the viability of the Bell operating companies (BOCs). HR 5158 would require divestiture of the BOCs prior to asset valuation, would require a separate subsidiary for AT&T's long distance network to avoid cross subsidization of the unregulated businesses AT&T would be allowed to enter, and would maintain for the BOCs several revenue sources such as Yellow Pages advertising, pay telephones, and already installed terminal equipment. In addition, Bell would be prohibited from offering information services over its transmission facilities.

Since the settlement announcement and revision of the bill, which said AT&T has waged an unprecedented "campaign of fear and distortion", spending over \$2 million to defeat the bill. Despite this effort, a majority of the committee members still favored the bill, so AT&T had switched to delaying tactics. Rep. Tom Corcoran (R-IL) and other opponents had begun offering the first of over 100 amendments which would have so prolonged markup that not enough time would remain before elections for adequate floor consideration and conference with the Senate. Wirth's staff had met with AT&T officials in an attempt to work out a compromise, but Wirth said he could not "compromise fundamental principles."

Wirth indicated he would use his influence to attempt to ensure "that decisions in other forums are in the best interests of ratepayers and competition." The next step is up to U.S. District Judge Harold H. Greene who must rule soon on the anti-trust settlement.

Cable TV. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee approved July 22 a major revision of S. 2172, the cable television bill introduced by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-AZ), Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee. Based on the information so far available, the revised bill would appear to have disastrous implications for public access. It would narrow the scope of basic service and the scope of local regulation. It would set a 10 percent limit on systems capacity for access channels, provide for almost automatic franchise renewal, and set a franchise fee cap. Telephone companies would be permitted to own cable systems if they could prove they would provide effective competition. The committee has not yet issued its report on the amended bill, which was approved 13-3. Sens. John Danforth (R-MO), Slade Gorton (R-WA), and J. James Exon (D-NE) voted against it; Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) did not vote.

## Classified Information

An implementing directive or final rule for the President's Executive Order 12356 of April 2 on National Security Information was published in the June 25 Federal Register (pp. 27836-42) by the Information Security Oversight Office of the General Services Administration. Approved by the National Security Council, the implementing directive takes effect August 1, and sets forth guidance to agencies on classification and related matters regarding national security information.

### Florence Agreement Protocol

S. 2685, legislation to implement the Nairobi Protocol to the Florence Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, was one of several tariff measures considered at a hearing July 21 by the Subcommittee on International Trade of the Senate Finance Committee. The Protocol or supplement would extend duty-free status to audio, visual and microform materials whether educational or not, and to products for the blind and other handicapped persons. Economist Robert W. Frase testified in support of the Protocol for ALA. The Association of American Publishers also testified in support. Implementing legislation (HR 6093) is also pending in the House, where a hearing is expected this fall.

### Proposed Standards for Federal Librarians

At the 1982 Annual Conference, the ALA Council voted to urge the Office of Personnel Management to make available to ALA copies of any revised classification/qualification standards for further review and comment prior to their final publication (see attached Resolution). The Resolution was prompted by concerns that OPM, although revising the initial draft in response to hundreds of comments received from ALA, federal agencies, the Federal Library Committee, other professional groups, and individuals, will publish the final standards without the opportunity for ALA to adequately review and submit written comments on a revised draft. OPM officials have told ALA that they intend to reintegrate the proposed GS 1409/10 series. However, the issues of the MLS as a basic requirement and the GS entry level have not been resolved.

ALA President Carol Nemeyer has appointed past president Elizabeth Stone to provide oversight in continuing to monitor the status of the proposed standards. Nemeyer also asked that the ad hoc committee which developed ALA's 95-page response to OPM this spring continue to serve with Stone until the outcome of the standards review process and implementation is settled.

### Department of Education - OLLT

A number of Senior Executive Service officers in the Education Department are being reassigned. Dick Hays, who since September 1981 has been on a temporary assignment as ED's Chief Negotiator of Collective Bargaining, will retain that position permanently. It was announced, but later withdrawn, that his replacement as Director of the Office of Libraries and Learning Technologies would be Lois-ellin Datta, previously Associate Director of the Teaching and Learning Program in the National Institute of Education. Malcolm Davis, Director of OLLT's Division of Educational Technology, will continue to serve as Acting Director of OLLT.

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FIRST DAY COVERS FOR "AMERICA'S LIBRARIES" STAMP STILL AVAILABLE!

Official ALA First Day Cover

Special first day covers of the 20-cent stamp commemorating America's Libraries are available for \$2.00 each. The cover envelope carries the stamp, an engraved cachet of Benjamin Franklin, and the Philadelphia postmark and official first day cancellation. A card inside reviews the history of the American Library Association.

To order, send a check or money order for the full amount plus 50¢ to:

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Special ALA Washington Office cachet envelopes bearing a Liberty Bell and the legend, "LIBRARIES - Ring Out for Information Access," are available for a limited time. They carry the America's Libraries stamp issued in Philadelphia during ALA's 101st Annual Conference with a first day of issue cancellation. Designed to tie in with three of ALA's major priorities--ACCESS and PUBLIC AWARENESS and LEGISLATION--the envelope contains a useful theme card expanding on the stamp design--AN ABC FOR DEALING WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS.

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RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED REVISION OF FEDERAL CLASSIFICATION  
AND QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION  
SERVICES POSITIONS

- WHEREAS, in April 1982, the American Library Association requested that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) prepare and circulate for review and comment a revised draft of the library and information services position classification/qualification standards; and
- WHEREAS, the American Library Association further recommended that distribution of any revised drafts prepared by OPM be made available for written comment and review to all federal libraries/centers as well as to all other participants in the first review process; and
- WHEREAS, the changes proposed by the federal library and information services community and federal agency personnel offices to the initial drafts were substantial, complex and extensive, and will require substantial revision of the initial draft standards; and
- WHEREAS, OPM has already undertaken a major revision to the initial draft by the merger of the proposed GS-1409 and GS-1410 series; and
- WHEREAS, OPM found it necessary to extend the review period of the initial draft from 60 to 120 days; and
- WHEREAS, the final standards will be legally binding for at least a decade on federal library and information services personnel; and
- WHEREAS, the American Library Association stands ready to assist OPM in the implementation of adequate and fruitful review processes of any and all revised drafts; and
- WHEREAS, the concerns of the entire library and information community have been articulated and expressed in over 400 written communications to Congress, to the Office of Personnel Management and to the American Library Association; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge most strongly that the Office of Personnel Management make available to ALA for comprehensive review copies of any and all revised classification/qualification standards for library and information services positions prior to their final publication; and be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Library Association also urge most strongly that OPM afford ALA representatives adequate time and opportunity to review and submit written comments on those revised standards prior to their final publication.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
July 14, 1982  
(Council Document #80 - a)

RESOLUTION ON RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

WHEREAS, the American Library Association has determined that its No. 1 priority is to "promote efforts to assure every individual access to needed information at the time needed;" and

WHEREAS, ALA in 1931 further confirmed its concern that there should be "free and equal public access to the data collected, compiled, produced, and published in any format by the government of these United States" (Council Document #71.2 adopted July 1931); and

WHEREAS, the present administration appears to have established a pattern of restricting access to government information, to wit:

1) The Office of Management and Budget Bulletin 81-16 resulted in massive curtailment of the executive agencies' publication of government books, pamphlets, periodicals and films, a few of which have been turned over to commercial publishers at much higher rates to the purchasers (Washington Post June 11, 1982 and CRL News June 1982);

2) Difficulties in obtaining statistical information: numerous Census Bureau studies are no longer available, and certain critical sections of the 1980 census are projected to be available only on microfiche; library and education statistics are collected and published less often at the National Center for Education Statistics; and the OMB Statistical Policy Branch, the unit which coordinated over 70 federal statistical programs has been abolished and its functions transferred to another OMB unit without adequate staff or funding;

3) Limitations on the Freedom of Information Act: The Executive Order of April 2, 1982 restricts the ability of the public to obtain the release of improperly classified government information; and pending Congressional legislation may impose further limitations (CRL News June 1982);

4) Severe restrictions have been placed by the Executive departments on the rights of the news media and of former government employees to write or speak critically of government activities (Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom January, March and May 1982);

5) Severe budget cuts for the National Archives and Records Service have resulted in reduced reference service, large processing backlogs, a halt in processing of the Nixon papers and in the declassification program, lack of service for the unique government publications archival collection at Suitland, and the elimination of interlibrary loan service by the Fort Worth Federal Archives Record Center, the main source of films of the census, diplomatic, pension and other records (Council Document #23.2 adopted January 1982), some of which restrictions have now been eased by a slight adjustment in the NARS budget; and

6) The Public Printer has implemented a policy not to offer for public sale government documents which are not expected to yield revenues of at least \$1000 in a twelve-month period; and

7) The present government is refusing to publish tax financial research studies whose conclusions it disagrees with, and refusing permission to the researchers to publish elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that the threatened closing of 23 Government Printing Office bookstores (Council Document #23.3 adopted January 1982) has now been postponed due to public pressure, and in other situations that sufficient public response can change the government's actions; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that ALA and its units recognize the responsibility to alert its members and the citizenry at large to the mounting threat to access to information needed for the fulfillment of the democratic process; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that ALA and its units will use all normal channels of communication, whenever possible, to alert members and the public to this increasing danger, so long as the need exists; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ALA Public Information Office issue a press release on this resolution, to be forwarded to the President of the United States and to members of the U.S. Congress, and to be further distributed and utilized to achieve library and public awareness, as the Public Information Office may determine, within its normal budget capabilities.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
July 14, 1982  
(Council Document #30)

## LESS ACCESS TO LESS INFORMATION BY AND ABOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT: II

A 1982 Chronology: January - June

This year, the Reagan Administration continues a series of actions begun in 1981 which reflect a trend to restrict government publications and information dissemination activities. These restrictions are due to a combination of specific policy decisions, the Administration's interpretation and implementation of the 1980 Paperwork Reduction Act (PL 96-511), and agency budget cuts. The current climate in which government agency activities are considered unnecessary frills goes well beyond the need to review information dissemination programs and to eliminate duplication and waste. The new ground rules in Washington represent more than the natural shift of priorities from one Administration to another.

ALA's conviction that a democratic government has an obligation to make available to its citizens the results of its actions was expressed in a resolution passed by Council in July 1981 (CD #71.2). The resolution states "... that in the development of information dissemination policies and procedures the underlying principle of any legislative or executive action continue to be free and equal public access to the data collected, compiled, produced, and published in any format by the government of these United States." With access to information an overriding ALA priority, members should be concerned about this series of actions which creates a climate in which government information activities are suspect.

The following partial chronology from January to June 1982 supplements a 1981 chronology (see p. 3) prepared by the ALA Washington Office in January 1982:

- January: The free Government Printing Office pamphlet Selected U.S. Government Publications used for years to alert readers to new general interest and consumer oriented government documents will no longer be mailed to the public because GPO says it is too expensive to mail out every month. GPO suggests that readers subscribe to the comprehensive bibliography, the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications which costs \$90 a year. (Washington Post, January 22)
- February: The President's FY 1983 budget requested zero funding for the Library Services and Construction Act; Titles II A, B, and C of the Higher Education Act which provide funds for college library resources, research and training programs and research libraries, and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Less money was proposed for the state block grant which contains funding for school library resources and for the U.S. Postal Service subsidy which supports the fourth class library rate and other nonprofit mailing rates. (Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the U.S. Government FY 1983)
- March: A 300 percent increase in the cost of an annual subscription to the Federal Register -- from \$75 to \$300 -- went into effect. (February 25 Federal Register, p. 8151). In 1981, the price of a year's subscription to the Congressional Record increased from \$75 to \$208. Sen. Charles Mathias (R-MD) stated that circulation of the CR declined almost 20 percent in the last three years as the price increased (New York Times, June 2)
- March: Many publications formerly distributed free are now available only for a fee and government agencies are urged by OMB to start charging prices high enough to recover their costs. For example, because of budget cuts, Agriculture Dept.'s Economic Research Service will stop free

distribution of its publications and make these reports available only on a paid subscription basis. The alternative was to curtail basic research activities. (March 29 FR, p. 13178).

- March: A reference collection standby, the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, is threatened because 87 of the 97 jobs remaining in the Labor Department's occupational analysis division are being eliminated. (Washington Post, March 2)
- April: The President signed Executive Order 12356, National Security Information, which substantially increases the amount of information that can be classified. (April 6, FR, pp. 14873-14884). Critics see the Executive Order as a reversal of a 30-year government policy of automatic declassification of government documents. Although the National Archives still has the authority to review classified documents, budget cuts are likely to limit the ability for Archives to carry out this function effectively (Chronicle of Higher Education, April 14).
- May: The Administration supports Senate amendments to the Freedom of Information Act to restrict the type and amount of government material available to the public (Washington Post, May 4).
- May: The government's two biggest collectors of statistics, the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, have cut programs because of budget reductions. The Census Bureau has dropped numerous studies and the Bureau of Labor Statistics has asked Congress for an emergency \$5.6 million appropriation "to maintain the accuracy" of such key economic indicators as the Consumer Price Index. According to a May 4 Washington Post article, "Many of the programs being trimmed helped the government monitor how its programs were being used. Others helped policy makers predict economic trends." The article also quoted a business leader testifying at a congressional subcommittee hearing in March: "A million dollars saved today through short-sighted reductions in the budgets for statistical programs could lead to erroneous decisions that would cost the private and public sectors billions of dollars over the long run."
- May: The Office of Management and Budget has agreed to make available a complete list of discontinued government publications as a way "... to assure an orderly and equitable transfer of discontinued government publications to the private sector." The list, which should be available in mid-July, can be obtained from Bill McQuaid (202/395-5193). (Association of American Publishers Capital Letter, May)
- May: In April, the General Services Administration closed the Washington, D.C. Federal Information Center, leaving the 40 information centers in other parts of the country still operating. However, citing budget cuts, walk-in services have now been eliminated, leaving only the telephone numbers and people to answer them. A saving of \$260,000 of the centers' \$4 million annual budget is anticipated. (Washington Post, May 25)
- May: The New York Times (May 10) reported that GPO destroyed \$11 million worth of government publications that were not selling more than 50 copies a year or earning more than \$1,000 in sales a year. The millions of documents were sold as wastepaper for \$760,000. Although a few copies of most titles have been kept in stock, generally people looking for one of the destroyed publications will be told to find it in one of the depository libraries.

- June: In keeping with its policy to refuse to offer for public sale anything that won't yield \$1,000 a year in sales, GPO has selected only 25 of the 69 publications which the National Bureau of Standards wanted to offer for public sale. As a result, the rejected publications are available to the public only through the National Technical Information Service whose prices for NBS publications are generally two to three times higher than GPO's for the same document. (Memo from NBS official, June 14)
- June: Continued cutbacks on free publications result in the Health and Human Services Department no longer distributing copies of Infant Care without charge as it has for 58 years. (New York Times, June 2)
- June: The Office of Management and Budget permits federal agencies to begin putting out new publications and films, but OMB will keep a close eye on costs and top agency officials will monitor content. According to a preliminary count, the Administration has eliminated about 2,000 of the 13,000 to 15,000 publications distributed before the President's April 1981 moratorium on government books, periodicals and audiovisuals. (Washington Post, June 11)

In January 1982, the ALA Washington Office issued a partial chronology from 1981 to show what seemed to be an emerging pattern of restricting government information. An update of the previous chronology follows:

#### A 1981 Chronology

- April: President Reagan imposed a moratorium on the production and procurement of new audiovisual aids and government publications using the rationale that the federal government is spending too much money on public relations, publicity, and advertising. "Much of this waste consists of unnecessary and expensive films, magazines, and pamphlets." (Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, April 27, 1981)
- April: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Bulletin No. 81-16 which provided procedures and guidelines for the moratorium. All agencies were required to review and reduce planned or proposed publications and to develop a management control plan to curtail future spending on periodicals, pamphlets and audiovisual materials.
- June: OMB issued a model control plan to assist agencies in developing new or improved control systems to carry out the policies and guidelines in Bulletin No. 81-16, "Elimination of Wasteful Spending on Government Periodicals, Pamphlets, and Audiovisual Products."
- June: OMB Bulletin 81-21 required each federal agency to submit its plan for reviewing its information activities by September 1, 1981. The objective was to establish a process "...which forces agencies to focus on and allows us (OMB) to influence decisions on how they process, maintain, and disseminate information." Bulletin No. 81-21 also required the designation of the single official in each federal agency in the executive branch who will be responsible for information resources management as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.
- September: David Stockman, Director of OMB, issued Memorandum 81-14, requiring heads of executive departments and agencies to pay special attention to the major information centers operated or sponsored by their agency.

Among the types of information centers to be evaluated are clearing-houses, information analysis centers and resource centers. Evaluation criteria included these questions: Could the private sector provide the same or similar information services? Is the information service provided on a full-cost recovery basis?

- October: OMB Bulletin 81-16, Supplement No. 1, required agency review of all existing periodicals and recurring pamphlets to reevaluate their necessity and cost-effectiveness using OMB-approved control systems. Agencies must submit a new request for all series to be continued after January 15, 1982.
- October: Public Printer Danford Sawyer, Jr. proposed to close all Government Printing Office bookstores outside of Washington, D.C. plus a few Washington locations. Approximately 24 of the 27 GPO bookstores would be closed, because, it is claimed, they compete with the private sector and are losing money. (Letter to Sen. Mathias, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, Oct. 9, 1981)
- October: The Justice Department submitted to Congress the Administration's proposal to severely limit the applicability of the Freedom of Information Act. (Washington Post, November 28, 1981)
- November: According to the Washington Post (November 9, 1981) over 900 government publications have been or will be eliminated and the government claims that millions of dollars will be saved as a result.
- November: The Washington Post (November 20, 1981) also reported that the Commerce Department was considering replacing the National Technical Information Service with contracts to private firms. NTIS indexes and distributes at cost thousands of federally funded technical reports and research studies.
- November: One example of a discontinued publication is the Securities and Exchange Commission News Digest, hardly an ephemeral public relations piece. The SEC will continue to print it for internal use, but will no longer offer subscriptions or make it available for depository library distribution. Instead, a private firm will publish it at a 50 percent increase in price (from \$100 to \$150 per year). (Security and Exchange Commission News Digest, November 10, 1981)
- December: Citing budget cuts, the National Archives discontinued the inter-library loan of microfilm publications from the Fort Worth Federal Archives and Records Center. About 400,000 reels of census, diplomatic, pension and other records used heavily by genealogists were lent to libraries annually. (Letter sent from the National Archives to "All Librarians", November 30, 1981)

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