



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. 35

March 15, 1983

No. 2

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: may be reprinted for distribution :

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Congressional Committee Lists: House & Senate Budget Committees,
House Appropriations Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee,
House Education and Labor Committee, Senate Labor and Human
Resources Committee.

Public Library Construction

Emergency Supplemental. The House passed an emergency supplemental (HR 1718) for FY 1983 for jobs and help to the needy on March 3. The Senate version of HR 1718 includes \$50 million for Library Services and Construction Act title II public library construction and renovation. The Senate bill has been on the floor for several days; passage has been delayed by unrelated but controversial amendments. Action is expected to be completed by the end of the week, and will be followed by a quick conference with the House version which does not contain LSCA II funds.

The LSCA II provision originated with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Mark Hatfield (R-OR) who included it in his own funding bill, S. 484, and then transferred it into the Senate version of HR 1718. One pending amendment by Sen. Dan Quayle (R-IN) would prevent obligation of funds unless at least 50 percent would be expended in FY 1983 and '84. LSCA II is listed among the programs which may have a slow spend-out rate. Whether or not this amendment passes, it is Congress' intent to put the unemployed to work quickly as well as to make needed improvements to the country's "infrastructure." State library agencies should anticipate possible receipt of modest LSCA II funding and have projects ready.

Construction Authorization. A further congressional approach to unemployment and hardship is also developing through numerous measures. Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI) introduced March 1 HR 1720, the Emergency Educational Facilities Repair and Renovation for Jobs Act, which includes authorization of \$500 million for public library repair and renovation, with higher amounts in areas of high unemployment. The library component would be administered through LSCA II. HR 1720 is expected to be included in a larger jobs bill being prepared by Rep. Gus Hawkins (D-CA).

ACTION NEEDED: Urge Representatives likely to be supportive to become co-sponsors of HR 1720.

Library Services and Construction Act

LSCA Reauthorization. The House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee scheduled three days of hearings in Washington, D.C. on extension and revision of the Library Services and Construction Act for March 15, 16, and 17. Subcommittee Chairman Paul Simon (D-IL) was expected to introduce as a bill a revision of his December 8 discussion draft of LSCA reauthorization at about the same time as the hearings.

LSCA Regulations. A proposed revision of the regulations governing LSCA was published in the February 28 Federal Register (pp. 8303-7). The intent of the revision is to "reduce regulatory burden." Some provisions in the current regulations would be dropped because they are spelled out specifically in the statute itself. The major change proposed would remove regulatory provisions for title II, Public Library Construction, and for title IV, Older Readers Services. As most recently extended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, no funds are authorized for either title, although both remain in the statute.

LSCA II, besides serving as a useful conduit for construction funds from other federal programs such as the Appalachian Regional Development Act, has the potential to be called into play when Congress feels additional funding for existing public works authorities is needed. The Senate version of the emergency supplemental (HR 1718), for instance, includes \$50 million for LSCA II. The public library renovation provision of a pending House bill (HR 1720) would be administered under LSCA II. With LSCA II regulations in place, as they currently are, such emergency legislation could be administered quickly and efficiently. Without such regulations for title II, as in the proposed revision, delays would result.

Comments on the proposed regulations are due by April 29 to Robert Klassen, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. (Room 707, Brown Building), Washington, D.C. 20202 (202/254-9664).

Appropriations, FY 1984

Administration Testimony. Education Department witnesses had a hard time defending the Administration's proposal to eliminate federal library programs at a March 11 hearing before the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Members present (Chairman William Natcher, D-KY; Reps. Silvio Conte, R-MA; David Obey, D-WI; and Louis Stokes, D-OH) asked over and over for hard evidence that libraries could do without the federal funds. No convincing evidence was forthcoming. Rep. Stokes asked to what extent minorities are underrepresented in librarianship. When the answer was not immediately available, he chided ED for not having a rationale for eliminating minority fellowships. He also criticized eliminating the research program.

Rep. Obey said: "You take library program funding out every year; we put it back every year. It's a phony situation. We pretend we do something, and you pretend you cut spending. This nonsense shouldn't happen." His own experience with libraries indicated that the quality was worse than ten years ago, that libraries often weren't able to meet the needs required of them today.

All four Members were aware that the Senate emergency supplemental included \$50 million for the Library Services and Construction Act title II public library construction program. Rep. Natcher asked about ED's proposed revision of LSCA regulations which would eliminate regs for title II (see related stories). "You don't want these construction funds?" asked Natcher. "That's a correct assumption," responded Sally Christensen, ED's budget director. In response to questions by Rep. Conte, Christensen said that only five percent of construction funds are spent the first year. However, many states and libraries have reported to the ALA Washington Office that they have urgently needed renovation projects planned and ready to go -- lacking only funding.

Rep. Conte was critical of the college library program for awarding all academic libraries the same small amount regardless of need, and of the research library program for making grants mainly to "rich" institutions. Constituents may want to inform Rep. Conte that through library resource sharing and networking mechanisms, both programs help all library users.

Oversight Hearing. Annette Phinazee, Dean of the School of Library Science at North Carolina Central University, pointed out the cumulative effect of the Higher Education Act II-A college library resources grants in testimony before the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee. The March 2 hearing was one of several oversight hearings on the impact of the Administration's FY 1984 budget on higher education. In support of HEA II-B training and research, Phinazee noted she receives many more requests for minority librarian candidates than she can fill. Her testimony also covered the HEA II-C research library program, as well as noting other federal programs which affect academic libraries and library education programs.

ACTION NEEDED: The House Education and Labor Committee has recommended to the House Budget Committee that it allow enough room in the congressional budget resolution for a 10 percent increase in library program funding. This is an encouraging sign, but there is no guarantee that this recommendation will be followed in either the budget or appropriations process. See the attached lists of appropriations committee members in House and Senate, especially the L-HHS-ED appropriations subcommittees. These subcommittees will continue hearings through March, April, and part of May before beginning to develop recommendations for funding. These key Members need to hear from constituents soon, as do all Members of Congress. Contacts from home will help to counteract the Administration's testimony, and will reinforce the need for continued funding. Be sure to send blind copies of your letters and fact sheets to the ALA Washington Office; we need your impact data and examples.

Taxation - Manuscript Donations

Revised legislation to restore a tax deduction for manuscripts and artwork donated by their creators to libraries and museums has been introduced by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), sponsor of similar legislation approved by the Senate Finance Committee last year, and by Rep. Thomas Downey (D-NY), Chairman of the Congressional Arts Caucus. For texts of the bills (S. 427 and HR 1285) see the Congressional Record of February 3 (pp. S996-8) and February 7 (pp. H326-7).

Changes from last year's S. 2225 in these new and identical bills include the following safeguards against abuse: (1) the property must have been created at least one year prior to its donation, (2) a written appraisal of the fair market value of the property must be made within one year of donation, (3) the use of the donation must relate to the institution's primary tax-exempt function, (4) donations are limited to "50-percent charities" such as public libraries, public museums, and universities, and (5) high-income individuals using the alternative minimum tax would not be eligible for the deduction. As before, papers of public officials would not be eligible.

William Styron and Kurt Vonnegut, who attended a reception and press conference for the introduction of the Downey bill, are examples of authors who donated manuscripts to the Library of Congress prior to the Tax Reform Act of 1969 which removed the deduction. Since then, neither has donated any papers pending a change in the tax law. Styron keeps the yellow tablet sheets on which he writes in pencil; Vonnegut's papers are on deposit at LC.

ACTION NEEDED: To generate support for these bills, interested librarians should urge their own Representatives and Senators to cosponsor HR 1285 and S. 427.

Math and Science Education

By a vote of 348 to 54, the House agreed March 2 to provide assistance to improve math and science education. HR 1310 (the Emergency Mathematics and Science Education and Jobs Act) is a revised version of an earlier bill (HR 30) and represents the combined efforts of the Education and Labor Committee chaired by Rep. Carl Perkins (D-KY) and the Science and Technology Committee chaired by Rep. Don Fuqua (D-FL).

HR 1310 would authorize \$250 million for FY 1984 and such sums as necessary for FY 1985 to state and local educational agencies for teacher training and improvement of math and science education programs. The Education and Labor Committee report (H.Rept. 98-6, Part 1) indicates that improvement programs may include acquisition of instructional materials and equipment or technological hardware and software. Programs may operate in coordination with other agencies such as libraries. H.Rept. 98-6, Part 1, notes:

Examples of coordination with other agencies might include student use of computer terminals in public libraries, the loan of microcomputers by schools to public libraries for the summer months, cooperation by school and public or academic libraries in providing access to data bases, and identification of data bases in the public domain with an eye to their instructional application in the schools, as long as all the above activities are directly tied in to mathematics and science instruction.

The bill would also authorize for various postsecondary education programs including scholarships, summer institutes, and workshops for teachers; undergraduate math, science, and critical foreign language curriculum improvement; and teacher initiated projects to improve math, science and technology education (which could include purchase of specialized reference materials or equipment). Other elements include faculty development, upgrading of research and computer equipment, development and dissemination of instructional resources, extension of the Minority Institutions Science Improvement program, and research programs including research in the instructional uses of information technologies and on the effective use of community resources. The Science and Technology Committee report (H.Rept. 98-6, Part 2), states:

Universities must respond to the rapid technological changes in information science and technology in order to maintain the relevance and quality of education, to improve productivity, and to take advantage of instructional and research opportunities.

Some of these programs would be administered by the Education Department, others by the National Science Foundation. In the Senate, the Education, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee is in the midst of hearings on several related proposals.

Library of Congress Budget

Two librarians testified March 2 before Congress on the FY 1984 budget request of the Library of Congress-- Susan Brynteson, University of Delaware Library Director and Chair of ALA's Legislation Committee, and David Stam, Director of the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library, for the Association of Research Libraries. Both thanked the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations for past support of LC and urged support of the requested \$231,257,000, a four percent increase over the current year. Among the activities emphasized was the plan to spend \$2.5 million to apply the mass deacidification process LC has developed to preserve American imprints as they are acquired. David Stam gave a startling demonstration of the need by crumbling the pages of an LC volume which had been microfilmed because it was too brittle to use.

OLLT Elimination

The Office of Libraries and Learning Technologies (OLLT), established as part of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) when the Department of Education was created in 1980, will be abolished as part of a reorganization now underway. Because of loss of functions after enactment of the school block grant, library, technology, and dissemination programs are being combined in a new unit -- the Center for Education Improvement (CEI). The CEI will have three divisions: (1) Library Programs, (2) Technology, Resource Assessment, and Development, and (3) National Dissemination Programs. Loss of the term "library" in the title of the new unit is apparently due to the Administration's intent to eliminate library programs.

ED officials indicate Congress is being notified of the reorganization as required by Section 413(b) of the Department of Education Organization Act (PL 96-88). Sec. 413(b) provides that the Secretary may reorganize certain ED units, including the library unit, but such reorganization shall not take effect until 90 days after the House Education and Labor Committee and the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee have been notified.

Milton Goldberg, currently Director of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, will become CEI Director later this spring. Malcolm Davis will become Deputy Director of CEI; he has been Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for OLLT since Dick Hays was reassigned in September 1981. Ray Fry will continue as Library Programs Division Director. Milbrey Jones, formerly Chief of the School Media Resources Branch, became OLLT's Planning and Budget Officer when the media branch was abolished. She will become the Policy Coordinator for CEI.

The Library Programs Division is now located with the rest of OERI in the Brown Building at 1200 19th Street, N.W., Suite 707, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202/254-5680). The mailing address is Division of Library Programs, Department of Education, Brown Building, Mail Stop #30, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

ACTION NEEDED: The establishment of the Office of Libraries and Learning Technologies headed by a Deputy Assistant Secretary was a partial response to a recommendation of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Library supporters may wish to remind congressional education subcommittee members of this. Library programs would become the only major type-of-institution grant programs without a high level unit reflecting the generic name of the institution.

"New Federalism" Block Grants

Last year's "new federalism" proposal to transfer many federal programs to the states was not successful. This year's revised version, transmitted to Congress by President Reagan on February 25 (H. Doc. 98-22), consists of four megablock grants which would consolidate 34 programs. The block grant proposals were introduced in the Senate March 10 by four Republican committee chairmen (March 10 Congressional Record, pp. S2565-76).

ECIA Ch. 2. The State Fiscal Assistance Block Grant Act (S. 763), introduced by Labor and Human Resources Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), would consolidate 17 programs of which seven are themselves block grants. The school block grant (Education Consolidation and Improvement Act, Chapter 2), itself a consolidation of the former school library program with numerous other education programs, and just enacted in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, would be further consolidated in the new and larger block grant. Other programs would include adult education, vocational education, and various health, social and community services.

States, whose participation would be optional, could use funds for any of the consolidated program purposes. States must use 30 percent of the funds received for a particular program for the purposes of that program in FY 1984, 60 percent in '85, 40 percent in '86, and 20 percent in '87. States must pass through to local governments the same proportion as in FY 1981-83. Authorizations for each program would be capped at the amount appropriated in FY 1984. This block grant would be financed from taxes on alcohol, tobacco, and communications, and would be administered by the Treasury Department. Compliance determinations would be made by the department responsible for administering the program involved.

Revenue Sharing & CDBG. The Local Fiscal Assistance Block Grant Act (S. 762), introduced by Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS), would combine general revenue sharing with the entitlement portion of the Community Development Block Grant program. The third and fourth block grants would cover transportation and rural housing.

Contracting Out of Federal Activities

In his first public speech as a Member of Congress, Rep. Major Owens (D-NY) testified on March 3 at a public hearing at the Office of Management and Budget on the proposed revision of OMB Circular A-76 "Performance of Commercial Activities." Rep. Owens, who is a librarian, called on his experience monitoring contracts as Commissioner of the Community Development Agency in New York City to frame his concerns about the potential effects of the proposed revisions on library services in federal agencies. He said, "If the Circular is to work for the government and its contractors, as well as for the people who pay the government's bills, it must be refined and improved to provide: (1) full and equitable partnership between the public and private sectors... (2) retention of the government's core information capabilities... (3) free and open access...to government information."

Constituents may want to express their appreciation on behalf of the profession.

Resolution to Government Agencies on Access to Information

Continuing to express its concern about reductions in citizen access to government information, ALA Council passed a resolution (attached to this Newsletter) at the San Antonio Midwinter Meeting urging government agencies to follow accepted procedures in their publishing efforts and to consult with users of publications when evaluating possible curtailment.

In a February 18, 1983 speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference, President Reagan cited "...reducing publication of more than 70 million copies of wasteful or unnecessary government publications" as one of the ways that his Administration is attempting to make government more efficient.

Changes at GPO

Michael DiMario has been appointed Assistant Public Printer (Superintendent of Documents) to replace Raymond M. Taylor who served in the post for less than a year. Taylor, who will stay on at the Government Printing Office for several months as a Special Assistant to the Public Printer, spoke at a legislative update session at ALA Midwinter in San Antonio in January.

Public Printer Danford Sawyer presented GPO's budget request for FY 1984 to the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee on February 16. Of the total FY 1984 request of \$129,846,000, \$25,738,000 is designated for SuDocs programs. The FY 1983 funding for SuDocs was \$27,291,000. Reportedly, \$900,000 of this cut for the programs of the Superintendent of Documents is to be directed to the depository library program.

Last year's proposal to close all GPO bookstores outside of the Washington, D.C. area was postponed pending a study of the sales of publications program by the General Accounting Office (see March 12, 1982 ALA Washington Newsletter, p. 4). The GAO study is expected to be available by the end of March 1983. It is likely that the bookstore issue will be reexamined with the information then available.

Political Advocacy Regulations

After running into a barrage of public and congressional criticism, the Office of Management and Budget has withdrawn its controversial proposals to restrict political advocacy by nonprofit organizations which receive federal grants and contracts. The proposed revisions to OMB's Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Non-profit Organizations," were originally published in the January 24 Federal Register (see February 3 ALA Washington Newsletter, p. 2). Now OMB has announced that it will be several months before the revisions to the January 24 proposal will be issued.

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Opportunities

June 1 is the deadline for applications to the NEH Challenge Grants Program. Nonprofit institutions and organizations eligible include public libraries, research libraries, colleges, universities, museums, historical societies, advanced study centers, media organizations, university presses, professional societies, educational, cultural, or community groups.

Through a Challenge Grant, an institution or organization receives one federal dollar for every three non-federal dollars it raises from either new sources or from increased contributions by existing donors. For the first time, a previous Challenge Grant recipient may apply for a second grant. A new set of program Guidelines, which replaces all previously published Challenge Grant Guidelines, is available from Challenge Grant Guidelines, Mail Stop 351, NEH, Washington, D.C. 20506.

The Research Resources Program announces a June 1 deadline for applications on behalf of model conservation and preservation projects. In FY 1983, \$400,000 was available for projects promoting the conservation of library and archival collections in the humanities. Grants are made to research, state, and public libraries, archives, and other institutions or individuals for projects that contribute to a national effort to save endangered documentary resources for the use of humanistic scholars. Support is limited to projects with a multiplier effect which will benefit a number of users. For further information and application instructions, contact the Research Resources Program, NEH, Mail Stop 350, Washington, D.C. 20506 (202/724-0341).

National Institute of Education FY 1983 Funding Opportunities

A new brochure briefly describes current funding opportunities within the Institute's three program areas: Teaching and Learning, Educational Policy and Organization, and Dissemination and Improvement of Practice. The brochure, "Funding Opportunities at NIE: FY 1983," is available from The National Institute of Education, 1200 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208.

A "Teaching and Learning Research Grants Information Package" is also available from NIE at the above address. April 22 is the application deadline for the grants competitions in Literacy/Mathematics Learning and Teaching/Methodology which are described in the information package.

* * *

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS AT HOME DURING EASTER RECESS MARCH 26-APRIL 4

RESOLUTION TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- WHEREAS, a primary tenet of a free society is complete and ready access to government information and publications which are imperative for an informed society; and
- WHEREAS, under existing law, a strong and effective system of printing and bibliographic control to assure public awareness and facilitate distribution of government information to the public has been serving our society well; and
- WHEREAS, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget has targeted the publishing efforts of Federal agencies for extensive budget reductions; and
- WHEREAS, the laws and regulations of the United States are often being circumvented by Federal agencies through the production of publications as "in-house" items or by private-sector publishing without securing a waiver from the Joint Committee on Printing; and
- WHEREAS, this circumvention causes many publications not to be distributed through the Depository Library system of the Government Printing Office; and
- WHEREAS, user communities have not been widely consulted before publications are eliminated or curtailed; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge government agencies to follow accepted procedures in their publishing efforts; and, be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge government agencies to consult with users of publications when evaluating possible curtailment; and, be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington Office of the American Library Association forward a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, heads of executive agencies, and appropriate Congressional committees.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1983
(Council Document #11.3)

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98th Congress, 1st Session

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American Library Association
Washington Office
February 1983

(See over for Appropriations
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American Library Association
Washington Office
February 1983

(See over for Appropriations
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and Human Services, Education:
Legislative Branch; and Treasury,
Postal Service, General Govern-
ment.)

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98th Congress, 1st Session

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